

# NEWSLETTER

## Gospel Reflection

For all the austerity of his life, John spoke to people in words they could grasp. It was his austerity that drew people's respect and trust. Here was a man who cared nothing for comfort, money or fame, who could not be bought, and who could speak the truth without fear.

Preparing the way for the Messiah is not simply a matter of belonging to the Jewish nation, John insists, but comes about through repentance, through changing the way one thinks and changing one's lifestyle. John gives some practical examples. People should share clothing and food with those who have none as basic expressions of faith. To tax collectors he says, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also ask him, "And we, what should we do?" John replies, "Do not extort money from anyone with threats or false accusations, and be satisfied with your wages."

What does my lifestyle say about my faith in Christ? Do I hoard or share what I have with others, especially those who are poor and on the margins of society?



### **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon.

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

**St Joseph's RC Church**  
**Woodford Lane**  
**Winsford**  
**CW7 2JS**

Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor  
 Tel: 01606 543877  
 Website; www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk  
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 General Queries – ring the Parish Number  
 and/or send an email to the Parish  
 Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025



"United in conviction and united in love, with a common purpose and a common mind"  
 Philippians 2:2

 <b>15th DECEMBER 2024</b> <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CYCLE C)</b> <b>MASS &amp; SERVICE TIMES</b> 		
Saturday 14th December	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 15th December	10:00am 12:00pm	Mass (Livestreamed) Pensioners meal
Monday 16th December	10:00am	Mass
Tuesday 17th December	10:00am	Mass
Wednesday 18th December	10:00am	Mass
Thursday 19th December	10:00am	Mass
Friday 20th December		<b>No Mass</b>
Saturday 21st December	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 22nd December	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)

If Fr Simon is unobtainable please leave a message and send an email to [stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk)

**200 CLUB DRAW**

Winner: £40 Prize  
This week – Mr Alex Zoka

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB  
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

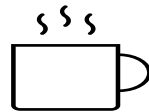
**Spectacles For Missions**

Please continue to bring in your unwanted spectacles and cases. Before the spectacles are sent out to the Missions they are checked and repaired as required by a group of prisoners providing them with valuable work.



**Coffee morning**

The next coffee morning will be 15th January 2025 at 10:30am, everyone is welcome.



**PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES**

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

**Prayer for our Parish:**

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish  
and grant us a new vision of your glory,  
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word  
and a new consecration to your service,  
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,  
through Christ our Lord.

.....  
St Joseph pray for us

**Gospel** Luke 3: 10-18



When crowds of people came out for baptism because it was the popular thing to do, John exploded: “Brood of snakes! What do you think you’re doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snakeskins is going to deflect God’s judgment? It’s your life that must change, not your skin. And don’t think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as ‘father.’ Being a child of Abraham is neither here nor there—children of Abraham are a dime a dozen. God can make children from stones if he wants. What counts is your life. Is it green and blossoming? Because if it’s deadwood, it goes on the fire.”

The crowd asked him, “Then what are we supposed to do?”  
“If you have two coats, give one away,” he said. “Do the same with your food.”

Tax men also came to be baptised and said, “Teacher, what should we do?”  
He told them, “No more extortion—collect only what is required by law.”  
Soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”  
He told them, “No shakedowns, no blackmail—and be content with your rations.”



The interest of the people by now was building. They were all beginning to wonder, “Could this John be the Messiah?”  
But John intervened: “I’m baptising you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I’m a mere stagehand, will ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He’s going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He’ll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he’ll put out with the trash to be burned.”

“Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words”

St Francis of Assisi