

NEWSLETTER

Gospel Reflection

There is something very reassuring about Luke's Holy Family. For him, the most important element was not the 'holy' but the 'family'. What made Jesus the man he grew to be was not an environment of closeted privilege but the sacramental ordinariness of peasant life. The lineage back to David that includes so many 'black sheep' that few would admit to it; the young woman - perhaps a second wife; a home in the Galilee surrounded by extended family; a life of habit and tradition - the presentation in the Temple; the pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

But as the saying goes; everyone is ordinary until you get to know them. Thanks to the time Luke spent with Mary, we have these anecdotes that may have suggested something more. The meeting between Elizabeth and Mary; the Presentation in the Temple and then this memory of 'the first time we thought we had lost him'. Moments any mother would hold in her heart and that time would lend meaning to.

How many of us have shared similar stories over the past few days in family get-togethers? Stories of signs and adventures; dares and disasters that all feed into the people that we become - the ones most likely to... and the ones who never did...And the parents and family who love us unwaveringly despite it all. We should not look at Mary, Joseph and Jesus with envy or a sense of inferiority - black sheep or otherwise we have been adopted - we are all family - we are all holy.

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
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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

	29th DECEMBER 2024 THE HOLY FAMILY (CYCLE C) MASS & SERVICE TIMES	
Saturday 28th December	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 29th December	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 30th December	10:00am	Mass
Tuesday 31st December New Years Eve	10:00am	Mass
Wednesday 1st January 2025 New Years Day	11:00am	Mass
Thursday 2nd January		No Mass
Friday 3rd January		No Mass
Saturday 4th January	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 5th January	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)

If Fr Simon is unobtainable please leave a message and send an email to stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mrs Kathryn Williams

WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS

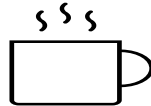
Please continue to bring in your unwanted spectacles and cases

Prisoner Outreach

Do you – like me – find carrying round small coins a waste of time? The Prisoner Outreach Organisation is a Christian network of volunteers who have been voluntarily working in HM Prisons and supplies copies of the BIBLE ALIVE booklets to prisoners. Drop your loose change into the bottle on the table in the porch and help to support this good cause. We've just sent another £32 raised from the small change that has been given in the Bottle in the porch. Thank you to everyone who has donated.

Coffee morning

The next coffee morning is on
14th 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 2 41 - 52

Every year Jesus' parents travelled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up as they always did for the Feast. When it was over and they left for home, the child Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn't know it. Thinking he was somewhere in the company of pilgrims, they journeyed for a whole day and then began looking for him among relatives and neighbours. When they didn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for him.

The next day they found him in the Temple seated among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. The teachers were all quite taken with him, impressed with the sharpness of his answers. But his parents were not impressed; they were upset and hurt.

His mother said, "*Young man, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been half out of our minds looking for you.*"

He said, "*Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I had to be here, dealing with the things of my Father?*" But they had no idea what he was talking about.

So he went back to Nazareth with them, and lived obediently with them. His mother held these things dearly, deep within herself. And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi