

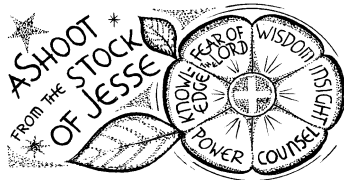
NEWSLETTER

Gospel Reflection

One of the most beloved Christmas stories outside the Bible is really a story about repentance. What is the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, if not that? His story is really one of a man who was made bitter by suffering, and who then repented. The visit from the ghost of Christmas past reminded him of the suffering that had led him to his bitterness. The ghosts of Christmas present and future showed him how his bitterness had hurt others. And Scrooge famously repents. Not to please the ghosts, or even God. But simply because he is reminded of the amazing love of God, the overwhelming beauty of this world, and the priceless gift of life, of our existence. And through his repentance, his heart is flooded with love and joy and peace. And it spills out of him in a way that blesses those around him.

As the story concludes, Scrooge “became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world ... And it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!”

It’s a wonderful illustration of today’s gospel reading, and of what can happen when we let our life, with all its turmoil and fitfulness, lead us closer to God, rather than make us bitter.



BAPTISM PREPARATION


If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon or see him at Mass at 10am on Sunday. 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 Chris Wells.

St Joseph’s RC Church
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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

<div></div> <div>7th DECEMBER 2025 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES</div> <div></div>		
Saturday 6th December	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 7th December	10:00am	Mass
Monday 8th December	10:00am	Mass
Tuesday 9th December	10:00am	Mass
Wednesday 10th December	10:00am	Mass
Thursday 11th December	10:00am	Mass
Friday 12th December		No Mass
Saturday 13th December	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 14th December	10:00am Noon	Mass Over 60’s Christmas lunch

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 Josephine Jones

WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

Over 60's Christmas Lunch

Over 60's Christmas lunch on Sunday 14th December at 12 noon.
Any donations on the day will be used to help young members of the parish on next years trip to Lourdes.

Christmas Cake Raffle

Maureen is going to raffle a Christmas cake over the next couple of weeks. If you would like to enter the draw to win the cake, please bring in some money over the next couple of weekends.

Chewing Gum Notice

We have found some chewing gum under the new chair covers.
Please put chewing gum in the bin as it is hard to get off the chairs.

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

Coffee morning

Our next coffee morning is in
January 2026.

Gospel

Matthew 3 1 – 12



Years later, John the Baptist started preaching in the
desert of Judea. He said,

“Turn back to God! The kingdom of heaven will soon be here.”

John was the one the prophet Isaiah was talking about, when he said, “In the
desert someone is shouting, ‘Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight
path for him.’”

John wore clothes made of camel’s hair. He had a leather strap around his
waist and ate grasshoppers and wild honey.

From Jerusalem and all Judea and from the Jordan River Valley crowds of
people went to John. They told how sorry they were for their sins, and he
baptized them in the river.

Many Pharisees and Sadducees also came to be baptized. But John said to
them:

You bunch of snakes! Who warned you to run from the coming judgment? Do
something to show that you have really given up your sins. And don’t start
telling yourselves that you belong to Abraham’s family. I tell you that God can
turn these stones into children for Abraham. An axe is ready to cut the trees
down at their roots. Any tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped
down and thrown into a fire.

I baptize you with water so that
you will give up your sins. But
someone more powerful is going
to come, and I am not good enough
even to carry his sandals. He will
baptize you with the Holy Spirit and
with fire. His threshing fork is in his
hand, and he is ready to separate the wheat from the husks. He will store the
wheat in a barn and burn the husks in a fire that never goes out.



“Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words”

St Francis of Assisi