



Whitnash and Bishops Tachbrook

St. Joseph's Parish

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Newsletter

13th December 2015

3rd Sunday of Advent : Year C

We have all heard of the phrase “tough love”. It can best be described as the attitude we need to take towards, maybe, someone close to us who we love greatly but whose lifestyle is profoundly self-destructive. By simply indulging the person and showering ‘sweet sentiments’ on them we pretend that all is OK and we really do love them whatever they do. The last part of the previous statement is undoubtedly true, but in our hearts we just know that a tough and uncompromising stance needs to be taken against the behaviour and direction of the one we care about, whether son, daughter, sister, brother, parent, close friend. The Lord, in His dealing with us knows us so well. He knows that we, as His chosen ones, need “tough love”. When we are surrounded by dangers of all kinds, whether self-inflicted or otherwise, we need that ‘jolt’ of honesty to hit us where and when it has greatest effect. And the prophesy of Zephaniah doesn't mince its words as to the fate awaiting the people. Today's reading shows joy in the near presence of God who is mindful of the people's needs, but Zephaniah was written at a time when Israel was surrounded by hostile nations and today's reading should be seen against

Zephaniah's main message. This proclaims the coming day of universal judgement: a day of wrath, distress and agony, of ruin and devastation and darkness and gloom. Although this is hardly brimming over with joy, the prophet does say that there is cause for rejoicing because, through all the pain, and hurt, God is in their midst like a loving ‘parent’ who will always be there for them.



Services	This Week	Events
<p>6.30pm <i>Vigil Mass</i>: Ritchie Maher</p> <p>10.00am <i>Mass</i>: Noel Wynne (M&D)</p> <p>5.00pm <i>Mass</i>: Castro-Filippo family & Friends</p>	<p>Sunday 13th December Third Sunday of Advent <i>Psalter Week 3</i></p> 	<p>10.05am Children's Liturgy <i>(Sundays outside school holidays)</i> Coffee and Tea after 10.00am Mass Children's Liturgy Group</p>  <p>7.30pm Carol Service St. Peter's</p>
<p>9.30am <i>Mass</i>: Bob and Stephen Rogerson</p> <p><i>No School Mass</i></p> <p>6.30pm <i>School Carol Concert in church</i></p> <p><i>No Novena to Our Lady</i></p>	<p>Monday 14th December St. John of the Cross Memoria</p>	<p>8.00-9.00pm Dancing <i>(Last until 4th Jan)</i></p> <p>5.30-9.00pm Hall in use</p>
<p>9.10am <i>Rosary</i></p> <p>9.30am <i>Mass</i>: M & Family</p>	<p>Tuesday 15th December Advent Feria</p>	<p><i>No Tuesday Club until 5th Jan</i></p>
<p><i>No Service</i></p>	<p>Wednesday 16th December Advent Feria</p>	<p>9.30-11.30am Art Group <i>(Last until 6th Jan)</i></p>
<p>9.30am <i>School Mass</i>: Persecuted Christians</p> <p>7.00pm <i>Mass</i>: May Dorgan (MH)</p>	<p>Thursday 17th December Advent Feria</p>	<p><i>No Music until 14th Jan 2016</i></p> <p>7-8.00pm Weight Watchers <i>(Last until 7th Jan)</i></p>
<p>9.10am <i>Rosary</i></p> <p>9.30am <i>Mass</i>: M & Family</p> <p>7.00pm <i>Novena to the Sacred Heart</i></p> <p>7.00pm <i>Penitential Service, St. Peter's</i></p>	<p>Friday 18th December Advent Feria</p>	<p>10.00am Lectio Divina, Hall <i>(Last Advent session)</i></p> <p><i>No Karate until 8th Jan</i></p>
<p>9.15am <i>Morning Prayer</i></p> <p>9.30am <i>Mass</i>: Michael Taylor RIP</p> <p>10-10.45 <i>Exposition and Adoration</i> <i>Sacrament of Confession</i></p> <p>6.30pm <i>Vigil Mass</i>: May McCullough</p> <p>December Maintenance Collection</p>	<p>Saturday 19th December Advent Feria</p>	<p>8.30am Slimming World</p> <p>10.30am Slimming World <i>(Then next Wed. which is last until 2nd Jan)</i></p>
<p>10.00am <i>Mass</i>: People of the Parish</p> <p>5.00pm <i>Mass</i>: Joe and Rose McGreevy</p>	<p>Sunday 20th December Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>Psalter Week 4</i></p>	<p>10.05am Children's Liturgy <i>(Sundays outside school holidays)</i> Coffee and Tea after 10.00am Mass</p> <p><i>No Youth Group</i></p> 
<p>Collections £487.97</p> <p>Banker's Orders (weekly average) £112</p> <p>Collection for the Poor Parishes £133.83</p> <p><i>Many thanks for your donations</i></p>	<p>Last Week 6th December</p>	<p>Attendance: 224</p> 

Announcements

OUR SICK

David Harwar, Roy Stanford, Enda McSharry, Eileen Hiorns, Patricia Robinson, Brian McCann, Rory and Peggy O'Rourke, Edna Hales, Sue Cleary, Shelagh Price, Jenny Bamber, Sue Day, Michael Gallagher, Miceal Murphy, Maureen Cowell, Hollie Sauvage.

Coventry Hospital Angele Handford
Heathcote Elizabeth Gaston
Kenilworth Grange Margaret Handy
The Lawns Bridget Hunt John L'Estrange
Ellen Quinn, Kathleen
Hammond

Clarence House Winifred Galvin
Eversleigh N. H. Mollie Benson
Clarendon Manor Marie Kelly, Mary Craig
Stratford Monty Jenkinson
RLS Nursing Home Bernie & Robbie Burns
Craighaven Rory O'Rourke
Galanos House Phil Lane

ANNIVERSARIES

Kathleen Geraghty, Brian Crowley, Peter Delia,
Arthur Devanney, Mary Daniels

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord

BAPTISM

Jessica Naomi Bevan

14th February, 2016 at 12 Noon

Baptism Preparation: In the first instance an application form should be collected from and returned to the parish priest at the presbytery. Once a date has been agreed the parents will be invited to a Preparation Meeting usually held on the last Monday of the month at 7.45pm in the Holy Family Room. Please note that the child's Catholic parent/s should take first responsibility for bringing them up in the faith.

.Lectio Divina During Advent

Our Scripture Reflection Hour has been held weekly through Advent in the hall: the session on the 18th December will be the last. Everyone is welcome to this gentle reflection on the coming Sunday's gospel reading.

We will then return to the usual pattern of meeting on the third Friday of each month at 10.00am in the Holy Family Room. January's session will be on the 15th, and all will be very welcome.

Justice & Peace Christmas Quiz

This is a brain teaser running until the 3rd January. Quiz sheets will be available after the weekend Masses or on request and entry costs £1. When you've finished it, there's a box in the porch for your completed form. There's a wonderful prize!

Church Maintenance Fund

[Keep checking this box and keep up to date]

Work that we plan to make headway with in the near to medium term include redecoration of the external part of the church, repairs to the parish centre roof and replacement of the upper facias of the church clerestory window area. Our monthly collection is aimed at sustaining the maintenance fund. I hope you will understand the need for this, considering the ongoing demand for upkeep of the fabric and keeping our facilities in serviceable condition. Very many thanks for your understanding in this regard. Fr. Bob

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Apart from the scheduled times for Confession, there will be three opportunities to attend a Service of Reconciliation locally:

Fri. 18th December	St. Peter's	7.00pm
Mon 21st December	St. Joseph's	7.00pm
Tues 22nd December	St. Mary Immaculate	7.00pm

Carol Service

Today, Sunday 13th December, at 7.30pm there will be a Carol Service at St. Peter's. Entrance is free and all are welcome.

Youth Group Future

The group leaders have regretfully decided that the youth group in its current format cannot be sustained. So, rather than have nothing for young parishioners, we would like to propose something a little less formal. Through deeper contact with the Diocesan Youth Service we would like to take groups to Soli House for a fun retreat, or maybe Alton Castle to join with other groups, or interesting activities further afield. If you would like to be involved now or in the future, please let Amy Cawood know or email youthgroup.st.josephs@gmail.com. Young people in Yr. 5 and upwards are most welcome. We have all really enjoyed working with so many wonderful young people and their families over the last 6 years, and wish everyone of you joy and success for the future.

Amy, Helen, Michelle, Salv and Kim
St. Joseph's Youth Group Leaders

Next Week—20th December

Eucharistic Ministers:

6.30pm Vigil	May Murphy, Josephine Whittington
10.00am	David Harwar , John Ireson, Pauline Mills
5.00pm	Kim Kearns, Tony Harris

Readers:

Alison & Cameron McCleary
Salvatore Monastero
Helen & Jake Monastero

14th Dec	School Concert/Carols in church
19/20th Dec	December Maintenance Collection
21st Dec	7.00pm Advent Penitential Service
17th Jan	Parish Council Meeting
24th January	10.00am next Children's Mass
30/31st Jan	January Maintenance Collection

Christmas Services at St. Joseph's

All our Christmas services are detailed in the little, yellow parish Christmas Leaflets available at the back of the church. Please take one, and a couple for whoever you might think would welcome the information. Leave them around wherever you feel they might be appreciated, with good wishes to you all.

Our Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree is looking lovely, thanks to the Youth Group, and our beautiful crib has been installed in the narthex. Thanks to everyone who has helped. Our gifts under the tree this year will go to children in need in Whitnash, as will the Crib offering. Suggested: chocolates, selection box's, mince pies, crackers, toiletries, gift sets, sweets and anything Christmas, also Christmas cakes and biscuits.

They need to have a shelf life of up to Christmas day.

The presents will be collected after the 10.00am Mass on Sunday 20th December. If you would rather give a donation, please see Fr. Bob.

200 Club

Congratulations to Andy Brown who won both 1st and 2nd prizes for December, a grand total of £80! Andy is one of the parishioners who holds more than one number which means he can win more than one prize in any month. If you would like to increase the numbers you hold please speak to Anne Buttrum or Fr Bob. Don't forget it only costs £1 per number per month. 3rd prize this month was won by Dawn Sauvage.

Flowers for the Church

We are always grateful for contributions towards decorating the church fittingly for the celebration of Christmas. If you would like to contribute, please put your donations in the flower box beside the main inner door. Thank you

HELP: Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

Although the regular Sat. Eve./ Sun rota is complete, we do rely upon volunteers to read and administer Holy Communion at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. If you can help out at the following Masses then please sign the sheet in the narthex.

Thursday 24th Dec	5.00pm Mass
	11.00pm Mass
Friday 25th Dec	10.00am Mass

Parish Centre



Weekly Events (during normal time)

Monday:	Dancing
Tuesday:	Tuesday Club
Wednesday:	Art /Choir
Thursday:	Music Group / Weightwatchers
Friday:	Karate
Saturday:	Slimming World
Sunday:	Youth Club

CATHOLICISM (Our Journey in Faith)

Our Faith Exploration programme has now come to an end and was obviously an interesting, worthwhile and informative exercise, judging by the large numbers who attended throughout the ten weeks. The DVDs were excellent and the discussions which were generated were lively. The Holy Spirit was working hard! Also working hard were all those who helped with the setting up and the refreshments—thank you all very much.

Repository

Please remember our Repository store at the back of church. There is a good stock of seasonal religious items, books, statues, rosaries, cards, etc. (We also have cribs for sale ready for our coming season). It is open after all weekend Masses. During the week, money can be placed in the box.

Year of Mercy

The Church's 'Year of Mercy' began on 8th December this year and ends on 20th November 2016. There will be various resources including a small "Pilgrim Companion For the Year of Mercy" available in the Narthex. St. Peter's Leamington is our nearest Jubilee Church (there are 16 in the diocese) and further detail about how we may make use of such resource will come in due course.



Taking Carols to the Pubs!

St. Margaret's and Warwick Gates Community Church have arranged for carols to be sung in three of the local pubs and would appreciate support in this venture. The first is the Plough and Harrow on Tuesday 15th Dec at 7.30pm (children welcome here, kitchen open until 9.00pm and some handbell ringing), second is the Hod-carrier on Wed 16th Dec at 7.30pm and the third is The Whitnash Tavern on Thurs 17th Dec at 7.00pm. Do come and enjoy sharing the celebration of Christmas - the beer is optional!