



Whitnash and Bishops Tachbrook

## St. Joseph's Parish

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Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Robert Devaney



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## Newsletter

**20th December 2015**

**4th Sunday of Advent : Year C**

I'm sure most of us have heard the phrase 'thinking outside the box'. It can soon develop into an over-used cliché, applied to many situations. But for those of us with faith in the Incarnation and its full implications, such a way of thinking has its deepest meaning. This Sunday's readings bear this out as they both invite us to approach and to enter into a gateway to mystery; but a mystery that grounds all others. Out of the mouth of the prophet Micah we hear of a 'backwater' that will produce a future leader of Israel; a leader who will draw all the remnant of God's people together and bring a lasting peace. But this is not all because we are given the hint of this leader's origins; going back to the distant past, to the days of old. And this surely points to the Messiah's divine foundation which transcends and reaches back beyond our common human history. It is in this way of thinking that we should find our true comfort; where the cruelty, fear, pain and injustice of our human lives on earth is shown



in its passing contingency. Everything on earth will pass but the promised one is rooted in the eternal and will give life to his sisters and brothers—the children of Israel. Luke's Gospel also invites us to ponder that ineffable divine communication between the Word and His earthly 'cousin'. Like the Annunciation and the Incarnation itself, through the Visitation God draws His creatures into the mystery that defies 'normal' logic and analysis. Mary's evangelical visit to her cousin sets the scene for the unfolding of the greatest story humanity would ever hear.

Services	This Week	Events
<p>6.30pm <i>Vigil Mass: May McCullough</i> <b>December Maintenance Collection</b></p> <p>10.00am <i>Mass: People of the Parish</i></p> <p>5.00pm <i>Mass: Joe and Rose McGreevy</i></p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> 20th December <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Psalter Week 4</i></p> 	<p>10.05am Children's Liturgy (Sundays outside school holidays) Coffee and Tea after 10.00am Mass</p>  <p>No Youth Group <b>Last weekend for parcels under the tree.</b></p>
<p><b>9.30am</b> <i>Mass: William and Kathleen O'Shea</i> No School Mass <b>7.00pm Penitential Service</b> No Novena to Our Lady</p>	<p><b>Monday</b> 21st December Advent Feria</p>	<p>No Dancing until 4th Jan</p>
<p>9.10am <i>Rosary</i> 9.30am <i>Mass: Arthur Devanney RIP</i></p> <p>7.00pm <i>Penitential Service, St. Mary Immaculate</i></p>	<p><b>Tuesday</b> 22nd December Advent Feria</p>	<p>No Tuesday Club until 5th Jan</p>
<p>No Service</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b> 23rd December Advent Feria</p>	<p><b>Church Cleaning - Both Teams</b> 4.00-7.00pm Slimming World No Art until 6th Jan</p>
<p>5.00pm <i>Early Christmas Mass: John and Teresa Skinner</i></p> <p>10.30pm <i>Readings and Carols</i> 11.00pm <i>Late Christmas Eve Mass</i> People of the Parish</p> 	<p><b>Thursday</b> 24th December Advent Feria Christmas Eve</p>	<p>No Music until 14th Jan 2016 No Weight Watchers until 7th Jan)</p>
<p>10.00am <i>Family Mass: Heather Long RIP</i></p>	<p><b>Friday</b> 25th December <b>The Nativity of the Lord</b></p> 	<p>No Karate until 8th Jan</p>
<p>11.00am <i>Mass: Private Intention</i></p> <p>6.30pm <i>Vigil Mass: Mary McGarvy and the McGarvey family</i></p>	<p><b>Saturday</b> 26th December St. Stephen Feast</p>	<p>No Slimming World until 2nd Jan)</p>
<p>10.00am <i>Mass: Ian Wilshire RIP</i></p> <p>5.00pm <i>Mass: James, Mary and Betty Gilvarry</i></p>	<p><b>Sunday</b> 27th December <b>The Holy Family</b> <i>Psalter Week 1</i></p>	<p>10.05am Children's Liturgy (Sundays outside school holidays) Coffee and Tea after 10.00am Mass Choir Group</p> 
<p>Collections £406.07 Banker's Orders (weekly average) £112</p> <p>Many thanks for your donations</p>	<p><b>Last Week</b> 13th December</p>	<p>Attendance: 216</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

Betty Curham, John Murray, Heather Long, Patricia Devshi, John Toye, Patrick Murphy, Cornelius Griffin, James and Elizabeth Falvey, Mary Waters, Willy Buttigieg

*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.

**Next Baptism Preparation Meeting: Monday 25th January at 7.45pm in the Holy Family Room.**

## RECENTLY DECEASED

**Bernie Burns**, long time and very active parishioner of St. Joseph's, latterly living in the Royal Leamington Spa Nursing Home, died on Wednesday 16th December. Our sympathies and prayers go out to her husband Robbie and the family.

## Last Chance for the Christmas Quiz!

Your last chance to buy a Quiz Sheet! They will be available after the Masses this weekend for £1. Then you have until the 3rd January to put your entry in the box in the narthex. 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

There will be two more opportunities to attend a **Service of Reconciliation** locally:

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

## 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 [youth-group.st.josephs@gmail.com](mailto:youth-group.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

## USED STAMPS

At this time when we receive more post than usual, please think of leaving your used stamps in the basket in the narthex. They are prepared by David and Myrna Harwar and sent to the Leprosy Mission to raise valuable funds for their important work.

## Next Week—27th December

### Eucharistic Ministers:

6.30pm Vigil Jill Sheard, Josephine Whittington  
10.00am John Ireson, Pauline Mills, David Harwar  
5.00pm Sr. Angela, Paddy Close

### Readers:

Marian Dwyer  
Kate & Ella Graham  
Anne Kirby

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.

### 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

### Christmas Offering

The Diocesan schedule reminds us that it is customary for the Christmas Day collections to be an offering to the clergy. This is one of only two opportunities in the year for us to support our priests in this way.

## Parish Centre



### Weekly Events (during normal time)

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

### 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.



### Ministers' and Readers' Rota

The rotas for January, February and March are ready for collection, individually named, from the white folder in the Sacristy.

### Christmas Wishes

**I wish all of you a very happy and blessed Christmas and thank you for all your support and kindness throughout the year. I hope that the new year, 2016, will be one of happiness and fulfilment for each one of you.**

