



Whitnash and Bishops Tachbrook

St. Joseph's Parish

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Newsletter

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2nd Sunday

Year C

Not long ago there was a time when people used to dress 'low-key' - when the label was definitely on the INSIDE. Everything was more subtly expressed. I suppose it all reflected a time when we didn't want others to know how much we were worth. Today it's probably more 'if you've got it, flaunt it' and if you haven't got it, 'flaunt someone else's'. Now, it's 'show the label, the piercing, and the body art. After all, we are only putting our individuality onto nature's gift. The prophet Baruch has some advice for us on decorating ourselves: "put on the beauty of the glory of God, the cloak of integrity, the diadem of the glory of the eternal." [Try telling that to folk in Harvey Nicks!] They are extraordinary phrases but they show God wants His people to demonstrate His splendour and beauty to every nation. Using the idea of clothing for the way we live is an interesting analogy but Baruch is really saying that we ARE what we are in the fullest sense. Of course the focus of our Gospel today is rather on 'holding our heads high in preparation'. A message of hope reminding us of God's promise to bring everyone back home, but not home to the 'hills and valleys' we once knew. They represent obstacles of all kinds, so the Lord will make the ground level for us, enabling us to walk in safety. The Baptist's words invite us all to repent since the whole 'nation' needs purifying. The 'mountains' and the



ning us from seeing clearly. When we walk won't need to hide from each other—no certainly no hang-ups with our clothing. We integrity.

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

Mary O'Driscoll, David Scannell, Patty Desay, James Andrew Curtin, Michael Daly, Betty Ward, Cornelius Cullinane, Eric Craig, Stephen Rogerson, Stephen Mason

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 will be held weekly through Advent in the hall: remaining dates are 11th and 18th December. Everyone is welcome to this gentle reflection on the coming Sunday's gospel reading.

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 racked your brains and finished it, there's a box in the porch for your completed form. There's a wonderful prize!

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[Keep che Page Title up to date]

Work that we medium term i the near of the church, external part of replacement of church clerestory window area. It is proposed that we hold a collection monthly specifically aimed at sustaining our maintenance fund. I hope you will understand the need for this, considering the ongoing demand for upkeep of the fabric and keeping our wonderful 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

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

The School of Joy (Bethlehem)

A Fr. Mamdouh from Bethlehem visited us last week for a concelebrated Mass. He is part of the team running a school for 'slow learners' in Bethlehem and made an appeal for donations towards this worthy enterprise. As well as their academic studies, the pupils also learn to make craft items from olive wood and embroidery. You will find examples of their work in the repository shop, so do take a look and think about purchasing some small items. Funds go towards helping the school.

Next Week—13th December

6.30pm Vigil
 10.00am
 5.00pm

Eucharistic Ministers:

Jan Ireson, Jill Sheard
Pauline Mills, Myrna Harwar, David Harwar
 Shelagh Price, Mary Hendry

Readers:

Carol Bowler
 Kate & Ella Graham
 Amy Cawood

11th Dec	6.15pm Bingo at School
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

Christmas Services at St. Joseph's

As usual, our Christmas services will be detailed in a parish 'Christmas Card' giving you a list of all the different events over the Christmas period. These will be available next week. Please do take one home.

Our Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree is being prepared, and our beautiful crib has been installed in the narthex. Thanks to everyone who has helped with this. 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



Christmas Fair

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair, held at the school, on Friday. It was a wonderful event, full of interesting and new entertainment with lots of stalls for Christmas shopping. It was a good turn-out and it was all very lively, so thanks to everyone for their hard work. As usual the proceeds will be split between the school and the church and we will publish the figure when it is available.

200 Club

The team will be collecting the December subscriptions at all the Masses this weekend might be a good time to join in for 2016!



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

Parish Centre



Weekly Events (during normal time)

Monday:	Dancing
Tuesday:	Tuesday Club
Wednesday:	Bulletin 6th December
Thursday:watchers
Friday:	Page Title
Saturday:	Page Title
Sunday:	Page Title

CATHOLIC FAITH (in Faith)

This Tuesday at **7.30pm** is the last session of our 'faith exploration' programme here at St. Joseph's and has been an opportunity to learn more about our faith. Through the ten-week course, we have learned *what* Catholics believe and *why*, through the art, architecture, literature, beliefs and practices of the Catholic tradition. The programme presenter is also founder of (WORD ON FIRE) Catholic Ministries.

[Volunteers to help set out tables/make tea/coffee would be VERY welcome.] Thanks Fr. Bob

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.

Bingo at School

Next event is bingo on Friday, 11th December. There will be the usual refreshments, plus great prizes to be won. Doors open at 6.15 with the first game to be played at 6.30. Prices are £1 a book (5 games) or 6 books for £5. There are also 2 free children's games for great prizes .

Christmas Bazaar

Many thanks to all who helped make our Christmas Bazaar a success on Friday. It was very enjoyable and we made approx. £1500.

Year of Mercy

The Church's "Year of Mercy" begins 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.

