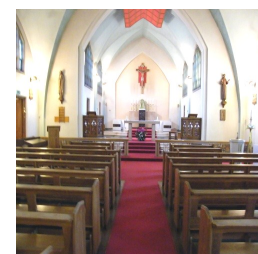


Date/Time	Feast/Colour	Readings	Offered For
Sat 01/12 CONFESSION 5.30pm Vigil MASS 6pm	<i>First Sunday of</i>	Jr 33: 14-16; Ps 24;	Alice Colder (KC)
Sun 02/12 <i>Exposition 8.30 am</i> <i>Rosary 9.00am, Benediction 9.15am</i> MASS 9.30am <i>Sung Latin MASS 11.15am</i> <i>Day of Special Prayer for Migrants & Refugees</i>	<i>Advent</i> <i>Purple</i>	1 Th 3: 12-4:2 Lk 21: 25-28,34*36	Marian Szczyglowski People of the Parish
Tue 04/12 <i>Exposition / Divine Mercy</i> Chaplet 3-4 pm Rosary 6.40 MASS 7 pm	<i>Ferial</i> <i>Purple</i>	Is 11: 1-10 Ps 71; Lk 10: 21-24	Lilla Bradburne
Wed 05/12 <i>Exposition 8.30am</i> Rosary 9am Benediction 9.15 am MASS 9.30am	<i>Ferial</i> <i>Purple</i>	Is 25: 6-10;Ps 22 Mt 15: 29-37	David Brown (SB)
Thu 06/12 <i>Exposition and Divine Mercy</i> Chaplet 3-4 pm Rosary 7.10pm MASS 7.30pm	<i>Ferial</i> <i>Purple</i>	Is 26: 1-6; Ps 117; Mt 7: 21.24-27	Eileen Green
Fri 07/12 <i>Rosary 9.10am</i> MASS 9.30am	<i>St Ambrose, B,D</i> <i>White</i>	Is 29:17-24; Ps 26 Mt 9: 27-31	Arnold Timmins
Sat 08/12 CONFESSION 5.30pm Vigil MASS 6pm	<i>Second Sunday of</i>	Ba 5: 1-9; Ps 125;	Kelli Fernando (RIP) (KC)
Sun 09/12 <i>Exposition 8.30 am</i> <i>Rosary 9.00am, Benediction 9.15am</i> MASS 9.30am <i>Sung Latin MASS 11.15am</i>	<i>Advent</i> <i>Purple</i>	Ph 1: 4-6,8-11; Lk 3: 1-6	Frank & Rita Whelan People of the Parish



St Clare of Assisi Catholic Church

DOWNSFIELD ROAD, CHESTER CH4 8HH



Priest: Fr Emeka Nwachukwu, mobile: 07404178816
Paris email st clares chester@sky.com Tel 01244 671015,
Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025.
Parish Website: www.stclares chester.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2ND DECEMBER 2018
Psalter Week I **Diocesan Year of The Eucharist 2018**

DEDICATION: December is dedicated to The Immaculate Conception

A SEASON OF HOPE AND EXPECTATION



Advent is a season of hope and expectation. We are invited to prepare joyfully for the coming of Christ. He comes in history (his conception and birth), in mystery (through the sacraments, and especially the Eucharist), and in majesty (at the Last Day). In the first weeks of Advent the stress is on this third coming in majesty. Hence today's gospel which we have already prayed with in recent days. The old liturgical year ended, and the new one has begun, with our calling to mind the Lord's final coming at the end of time. We look forward to it with happy anticipation, not with fear.

Advent is a time of expectation. We joyfully prepare for the great feast of Christ's birth. However, Advent is also a time of preparation for the second coming of Jesus. The end of the world may not come in my lifetime, but my death will bring the end of my engagement with it. Jesus' message bursts with hope and confidence because, unlike those who have reason to fear his coming, Jesus' followers will be able to hold their heads high because their liberation is at hand. Jesus urges me to be on guard so that my heart is not weighed down by the worries of life.

What are the worries and cares of life that weigh me down today? As I prepare for a conversation with Jesus, can I bring my worries and cares to him in prayer?

We do not know when the end of time will take place. What is certain is that our own lives will one day come to an end. If I were to be called from this life today, to stand before the Son of Man, would he be able to say to me, "well done, good and faithful servant"?

Lord, may your coming be a glorious and redemptive event. May I so live that, in the words of the hymn, "when you come, with shout of acclamation/And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!" -extract from 'Sacred Space'

WELCOME TO ST CLARE'S

Everyone is welcome . We would like you to feel very much at home with us whether you are Catholic or not, or if you have lost touch with the Church. This is God's house and his arms are always open. Forgive us if we fail to notice a new face, because we really do want to welcome each new face personally, and do please join us for coffee after Mass, or introduce yourself to father Emeka



St Clare's Catholic Primary School



This weekend we welcome pupils who are starting the preparation for the Sacraments of Forgiveness and Holy Communion. They have introduced themselves in the pieces included in our display at the side of the altar. Please remember them in your prayers as they begin the next step in their faith journey.



As Advent begins we have started the journey of our travelling nativities throughout school. This provides a wonderful opportunity for our pupils and their families to spend time reflecting on Advent and the real significance of Christmas. Children take home a small Nativity scene, an electric candle, a recount of the Birth of Jesus and a class book.

Their personal reflections are recorded in class book which provides a gorgeous record of what Christmas means to everyone.



This week children in Years Four and Five took part in the lantern procession which took place in Chester on the evening of Thursday 29th November. This year the event was the culmination of a project learning about the plight of refugees, which Matt Baker organised, called 'Walk my Journey'. It was a very special event to be part of and pupils were amazing!



A group of twelve very excited children took part in a special multi skills event for children who don't often participate in these types of sporting events. The children were delighted to be chosen to represent St Clare's and loved all the activities they competed in.

On Friday Year Five pupil visited Queens Park High for a Curriculum Challenge Day. This is part of our transition programme for pupils so that they become more familiar with being in a High School. The children had a wonderful day participating in lots of mini projects.

If you know any families who have school aged children due to start in September 2019, please encourage them to come and visit us. Last year we had some families who almost missed the opportunity to secure a place in St Clare's.

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 6pm
Sunday 9.30am

11.15 am (Latin)

Weekday Masses: Please see back page

Confessions

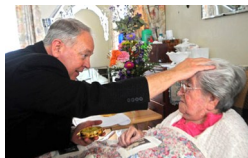
Saturday 5.30 -5.45pm
or on request

Children's Baptisms, Confirmation,-

Sundays 9.30am
In Sacristy

Weddings and Funerals

Please call or email Fr Emeka above



OUR SICK LIST

Our sick, elderly, housebound and those in care homes are important members of our parish community. New names are in Bold Type. Please remember to pray for them each day as they carry their cross ,

Dot Bell, Veronica Creaney, Kathy Craggs, , Mike Edwards, Mark Evans, Mary Frain, Stafford Hutchins, Michelle Gentile, Katie Gray, Eifon. W. Jenkins, Dorothy Jones, Ann Leach, Rosemary McCabe, Kevin McCarthy, Bob McConnell, Mary McDonough, Mrs Julie Reece, Alex Shone SR, Maureen Oliphant, Gwen Spurr, Eileen Wyatt.

ST CLARE'S SVP CONFERENCE

The week continues busy. Help was given to parishioners who kindly donated beds and mattresses to a deserving family and a small monetary grant was provided to a family without enough money for Gas and Electricity. The local foodbank, where SVP members assist fed 40 people.

Visiting continues and transport is provided where required. Preparations for the Music Night in Feb is ongoing and a social evening of SVP members across the Chester and Ellesmere Port District was a great success. This is necessary in order to bring the wider SVP family together to assist locally where necessary.

We are still collecting warm clothes for the homeless and are organising, through the generous support of parishioners, to provide a double bed and single mattresses to a family in need. . Your on-going generous support helps us to just "be there" for those in need in and around our parish. Thank you so much.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

The next collection for the Food Bank is this weekend, 29/30 December

COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

There will be a retiring Collection for Christmas flowers on the weekend of 15/16

CLEANING ROTA 2019

The new rota is now available in the porch. Will those involved please collect their copy

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

This week the duty falls on **Team 3**

SPONSORS NEEDED

Reta Assanand is doing a Sponsored Sleep-out in aid of Chester Aid to the Homeless (CATH) on Friday, 7th December, from 10.pm to 6.am on Saturday 8th December. Please sponsor her for this event. Sponsorship Forms are available et the back of the church; or see Reta.

HOSPITAL MASS

The regular "First Thursday" Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 6 December at 1215pm in the Countess hospital chapel. This is for patients, staff, families and friends, and the wellbeing of our hospitals including the Bowmere. All are welcome

CAFOD FUN RUN OR WALK 35th YEAR

Run or walk with family or friends, 6k/3k on Thursday 27th December at 12noon for registration, event starts at 1pm at the Wavertree Athletics Centre, Liverpool L15 4LE.

Please see notice in porch. Sponsorship forms available in porch if you would like to take part

USED POPPIES

Please put used poppies in box at back of the church for flower arrangers to use next year

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS—December

Evangelization:

In the Service of The transmission of faith:

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

REGULAR PARISH EVENTS

PRAYER GROUP. Meets after Wednesday 9.30 am Mass, in the Parish Room. All welcome.

CHOIR Thursdays after the 7 pm Mass, in the Parish Room . New members needed.

CAFOD. Meets in the Parish Room on the first Tuesday of the month, after the evening Mass.

SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul). Meets fortnightly in the Parish Room on Monday evenings usually at 6.30pm. New members welcome. contact Steve on 01244 671817 and e-mail stevebonsall@outlook.com

CHESTER SPUC GROUP next meeting contact 01244 681816 for details

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EXPLORE ADVENT Weds 5th December at 7.30pm St Columba's -see Youth Zone below

RETA'S SPONSORED SLEEP OUT 7th December for CATH

ADOREMUS REVISITED 8th December and 19th January 2019

CAFOD FUN RUN Thursday 27th December at 12noon see over

SVP YULETIDE CELEBRATIONS Friday 7th December Our Lady Star of the Sea; Ellesmere Port

SVP Music Night St Columba's Church Hall Friday 8th Feb.

OUR CALL TO HOLINESS

Bishop Mark's Advent pastoral letter will be read at all Masses this Sunday in which some key points he says:

"As the Diocesan Year of the Eucharist comes to its close, **it is this universal call to holiness which I wish all of us clergy and people, to focus upon anew.....** Amid the dark shadows of scandal and the challenge of a new evangelisation of western societies, it is urgent to recall this one goal of every Christian life, for it is in the saints that the true face of the Church shines out....In a recent letter to the Church, Pope Francis repeats a striking phrase: "the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint"

He continues ".....In the year ahead, I want each one of us in Pope Francis 'words to re-discover that "In the Church, holy yet made up of sinners, you will find everything you need to grow towards holiness". **In daily prayer, frequent Confession and, above all, in the Holy Eucharist,** we are given the Divine means, the grace to reach this goal" **"....For it is only by being holy that we can be truly happy"**

(Our emphasis)



Please take a copy of the full text letter as you leave the church

Youth Zone

WATCH YOURSELVES

So it's the beginning of the Church's new year! At the turning of a new year it is natural to think ahead to the future. And so the Church has given us some beautiful readings to reflect on.

In the First Reading we see the prophet Jeremiah looking ahead to Jesus...it is Jesus who is "The Lord our integrity".

Maybe at the beginning of this Advent you are looking ahead to Christmas **BUT** it's super important to stop and actually experience Advent first. Advent is a season of opportunity! Like we hear in the Second Reading today, Advent can be the time where we "make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants". Jesus tells us in the Gospel to "**Watch yourselves**".

What do you need to watch of yourself this Advent? Maybe it's to stop yourself from getting caught up in the chaos that can surround us in the run up to Christmas. Maybe it's to really reflect on who you are and make the choice to go to Confession. Jesus urges us to "Stay awake and pray at all times". Let's take His advice as we begin our Advent. Let's be awake to God's call in our lives and to always lean on Him in prayer. *Catherine SYMT*

EXPLORE ADVENT

Join the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team in St Columba's on Wednesday 5th December at 7.30pm for our Explore evenings. For young people in Secondary School and above. **Nights of games, teaching, music, prayer and free doughnuts.** Young people (Secondary school and above) will be required to sign in at the beginning of the event.



ARE YOU A CATHOLIC TEACHER NOT TEACHING IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL? YOUR DIOCESE NEEDS YOU !!!

The Department for Education wants to recruit as many Catholic teachers to its schools as possible, and is aware that across the Diocese there are a number of Catholic teachers who are not currently or have never worked in a Catholic school. Sometimes making the transition back to Catholic education can be perceived as being difficult and therefore we would like to offer support to those teachers who are considering returning to the Catholic sector or would like more information on the appointment process in our schools. We are holding an informal session on **Tuesday 15th January at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School**, Capenhurst Lane, Ellesmere Port, CH65 7AQ from 6 – 7.30 pm.

If you would like to attend or want further information about returning to Catholic education, please e-mail Sue Jenkinson on sue.jenkinson@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

We are holding an informal session on **Tuesday 15th January at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School**, Capenhurst Lane, Ellesmere Port, CH65 7AQ from 6 – 7.30 pm.