

St Thomas Aquinas and St Stephen Harding Catholic Church
Diocese of Shrewsbury Shropshire Deanery
53 Great Hales Street Market Drayton TF9 1JL
Email: ssthomasandstephen@gmail.com
Website www.ss-thomas-stephen.org.uk
Priest Fr Lee Bennett ☎01952 811299
Email frlee.bennett@gmail.com
Deacon David Hill ☎07407 407606
Deacon Wilf McSherry ☎07983 981931

Newsletter 28 November – 6 December

1st Sunday of Advent

Sundays Year B Weekdays Year 1

	Market Drayton	Intention	Newport
Saturday 28 November *Feria*	**Mass 9:30am**	**Priest's Intentions**	Mass 5:30pm
Sunday 29 November 1st Sunday of Advent	**Mass 11:00am**	**John & Mary McLoughlin RIP**	Mass 9:15am
Monday 30 November ST ANDREW			
Tuesday 1 December *Feria*			Mass 10:00am
Wednesday 2 December *Feria*	**Mass 10:00am A & B** **Zoom Evening Prayer 7:00pm**	**Cecilia Dwyer**	Mass 10:00am
Thursday 3 December St Francis Xavier			7:00pm (Latin)
Friday 4 December *St John Damascus*	**Rosary 7:00pm**		Mass 10:00am Adoration & Benediction
Saturday 5 December *Feria*	**Mass 9:30am**	**Priest's Intentions**	Mass 5:30pm
Sunday 6 December 2nd Sunday of Advent	**Mass 11:00am**	**People of the Parish**	Mass 9:15am

Sacrament of Reconciliation 30 minutes before Wednesday, or after Saturday Mass, or by appointment

Readings for the 1st Sunday of Advent *year **B*** *Psalter week **1** volume 1 required*

Ent antiphon To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

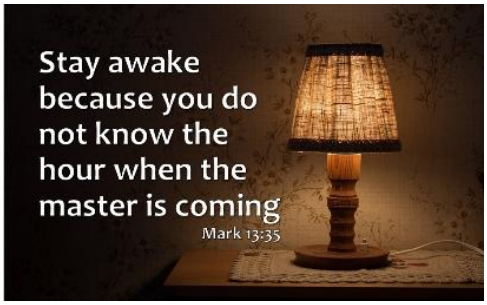
1st reading Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64:1, 3-8. *O that you would rend the heavens and come down.*

Response **Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth and we shall be saved.** x3

2nd reading 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9. *We are waiting for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Acclamation **Alleluia, alleluia! Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.**

Gospel Mark 13: 33-37. *Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house will come.*



Comm ant **The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.**

Advent Priests and Deacons wear violet (purple) during Advent to symbolize penance, prayer, spiritual preparation, and the royalty of Christ as the faithful await Christmas. Advent prepares us to remember Christ's birth at Christmas and look forward to his Second Coming. For the 1st Sunday of Advent, the theme is **Hope** and focuses on waiting in expectation and on God's promises through the prophets.



Evening Prayer of the Church Join us during Advent to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Would you like to (learn to) pray part of the Divine Office? Our friendly Zoom group meets on Wednesday this week at 7:00pm and lasts about 20 minutes on your PC, tablet or phone. No need for previous knowledge or your own book, all texts will be on the screen. Contact Deacon Wilf for further information or to sign up. Email: ssthomasandstephen@gmail.com



Thursday 3 December is a Day of Special Prayer for all Migrants & Refugees. Each year the World Day of Migrants and Refugees invites us to turn our attention to different aspects of the complex phenomenon of migration. In his message, 'Even just one of these children,' Pope Leo XIV draws our attention to the minors directly involved in the experience of migration and flight, to the care owed to them, and to the Lord's promise that "whoever receives one such child in my name receives me" *Mk* 9:37

RCIA Next Catechesis for All this Tuesday 1 December at 7:00pm at Mkt Drayton and Friday 4 December 10:30am at Newport. You can attend either venue. All are welcome.

Please keep the following parishioners in your prayers: Pat MacGregor**,** Glynis Kirton, Clarice Clack, Freya Jackson, Fr Anthony Wild, John O'Rourke, David Smith, Niall Gallivan, Faye Hargreaves, Mary Goodwin, Julian & Dawn Huxley, Shane McGroggan, and all the sick and housebound of the parish.



Please continue to pray for peace in our troubled world. Lord Jesus Christ you are the true King of peace. In You alone is found freedom. Please free our world from conflict. Bring unity to troubled nations. Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart.

The Pope's Prayer Intention for November is for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Missio It's time again to hand in your Missio (Red Box) for counting. Please leave on the shelf at the back of the church or hand to Veronica or David Milburn. Thank you to those who have responded so quickly, and to all donors.



Christmas is Coming! Please note Christmas Mass times this year. See poster in the porch.



Thursday 24 December Newport Carols 5:00pm with Vigil Mass of Christmas 5:30pm
Friday 25 December Market Drayton Mass 10:00am Newport Mass 10:00am
There will be no weekday masses Monday 28 December – Saturday morning 2 January

Stamps Don't forget to save your used Christmas stamps for the Jesuit Refugee service. All stamps, not just the Christmas ones! British or foreign, special or ordinary. Please cut from the envelope with scissors and leave a good margin of paper around the stamps. Please leave in the box on the table in the porch. We send them up at the end of January. Thank you.

CAFOD A catalogue of actual and virtual gifts is available on the table in the porch, Please take one. Visit the CAFOD website for online Advent Calendar and meditations, and plenty of suggestions and prayers for Advent. cafod.org.uk

Together@Christmas Community Lunch returns: An initiative to combat the loneliness of facing Christmas alone, a Christmas Day lunch at the British Legion. If you or someone you know would benefit from joining us, or if you would like to volunteer to set up, host, or serve please contact ☎07301 429412, Limited places, book soon to avoid disappointment. See the poster in the porch for fuller details.



Collections for flowers for the Church at Christmas and beyond will be taken today and also next Sunday. Thank you for your help.



Market Drayton Foodbank Christmas Appeal
Reverse Advent Calendars & Shopping Lists are available in the Church Porch. Donations can be placed in the green bin in the porch. Thank you!

Offertory	**22.11.2026**	Loose Plate £78.26	Envelopes £61.00	Stand Orders £169.67	Total £308.93	**Thank you**



Refreshments after Mass next Sunday 6 December: as well as tea or coffee there will be mulled wine and mince pies etc. **Come and enjoy!**



Our parish safeguarding representative is Kevin Read-Jones ☎07974412617

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity no 234025 Please take this newsletter home and share it with others