



**St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Stephen Harding Catholic Church**

Diocese of Shrewsbury Deanery of Telford and East Shropshire

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**Newsletter 12 November – 19 November 2023**

**32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time A** Weekdays Year 1 Psalter Week 4

Date	Market Drayton	Intention	Newport
<b>Saturday 11 November</b>			Vigil Mass 5.30pm
<b>Sunday 12 November</b> 32 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass 11am	DRF McLoughlin	Mass 9.15am
<b>Monday 13 November</b> <i>Feria</i>	Mass 10am	David Pritchard RIP	
<b>Tuesday 14 November</b> <i>Feria</i>	Eve Prayer Zoom 7pm		Mass 10am
<b>Wednesday 15 November</b> <i>St Albert the Great</i>	Mass 10am Exposition & Benediction	John McGrath RIP	Mass 10am
<b>Thursday 16 November</b> <i>S Edmund St Margaret, St Gertrude</i>			
<b>Friday 17 November</b> <i>St Hilda, St Hugh of Lincoln, St Elizabeth of Hungary</i>	Requiem Mass 11am Rosary in Church 7pm	RIP Doreen Warrilow	Mass 10am Exposition & Benediction
<b>Saturday 18 November</b> <i>St Martin of Tours</i>			Vigil Mass 5.30pm
<b>Sunday 19 November</b> 33 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass 11am	Beryl Dutton RIP	Mass 9.15am

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before each weekday Mass, or by appointment with Fr Lee**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection today for the Clergy Education and Training Fund**

**Readings for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time year A Psalter week 4**

**1st reading** Wisdom 6: 12-16. *Wisdom is found by those who look for her.*

**Response** For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God. x4

**2nd reading** 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18. *God will bring with him those who die in Jesus.*

**Acclamation** Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake, and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

**Gospel** Matthew 25: 1-13. *The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.*

**Comm ant** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.



†Please pray for the repose of the soul of Doreen Warrilow, who has died recently, and for her family and friends. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Friday 17 November at 1.30pm, followed by interment at Hinstock cemetery.

†Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sylvia Stanway, who has died recently, and for her family and friends. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 28 November at 11am, followed by interment at Market Drayton cemetery. (provisional date)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

The month of **November** is dedicated to the **Souls in Purgatory**. **The Pope's Intentions for Prayer: November: For the Pope** We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

**Shrewsbury Diocese 2023 – LOUDfence:** A Mass will be celebrated by Vicar General Canon Philip Moor on Tuesday 14 November 2023 at Holy Apostles & Martyr’s Church, St Georges Road, Wallasey, Wirral CH45 6TU at 6.45pm. For details of LOUDfence safeguarding, see posters in the church porch.

**Please keep the following parishioners in your prayers ...** Eddie Hickey, Freya Jackson, Fr Anthony Wild, John O’Rourke, David Smith, Niall Gallivan, Doreen Dodd, Faye Hargreaves, Mary Goodwin, Julian & Dawn Huxley, Shane McGroggan and all sick and housebound of the parish.

**Please pray** for the people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Morocco, Libya, Sudan, Nigeria, Uganda and all those in countries affected by natural disaster, war, unrest and conflict; pray for an end to war, and for peace to prevail.

**First Holy Communion and Confirmation** We are offering the Sacraments of **1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion** for children in Year 3 and above – Catechesis will start in the New Year, parents wishing to enrol their children please email their details to [ssthomasandstephen@gmail.com](mailto:ssthomasandstephen@gmail.com) for the parish of Mkt Drayton and [frlee.bennett@gmail.com](mailto:frlee.bennett@gmail.com) for the parish of Newport. **For any child attending SS Peter and Paul School in Newport, please apply through the school using the method in the latest mailing from the school.** Could parents also have their children’s Baptism Certificates ready for the Initial Parents meeting to be held in January. If your child is not baptised, please speak to Fr Lee. Applications will close on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

We are hoping to offer the Sacrament of **Confirmation** to any young people and adults in Year 8 and above in 2024. Please contact as above. Applications will close on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**In preparation for Advent and Christmas Fr Lee writes ✍ **The Four Last Things****

During the last few weeks of the liturgical year, it has been the custom of the Catholic Church to focus on what is known as the “Four Last Things”: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell.

We have to acknowledge from the start that it is not an easy set of topics to discuss, as it reminds us of our own mortality. Yet, it is important that we do meditate upon them, as the reality of our future can help us make better choices in the present moment. With death and an afterlife in the picture, our lives have the chance to change, forcing us to consider the eternal consequences of our actions. Meditating on these four topics helps us orient our lives to what truly matters in this world. It covers the following:

**Death** as the separation of an individual’s mortal body and immortal soul. It comes to all people as a result of original sin. It is a temporary state, for at the end of the world, all people shall rise again to be judged by Christ. Thus, the whole person, body and soul, will be rewarded for the good or evil that they have done, body and soul, in this life. At the moment of death, each human person is **judged** by God based on their conduct in this life and goes immediately to their reward or punishment. Moreover, at the end of the world, Jesus Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. At that time, God’s whole plan for the world shall be revealed, and his mercy and justice demonstrated.

**Heaven** is the eternal state of perfect happiness resulting from the face-to-face vision of God, which is the reward of those who have served Him in this life. **Hell** is the eternal state of torment and despair which awaits those who, in this life, have freely rejected God and the happiness which He offers.

Before the end of the world, there will be an intermediate state called **purgatory**. There, those who are bound for heaven, but whose love for God is still marred by some imperfection, undergo a temporary period of purifying suffering. When this purification is complete, they are fit to enter God’s presence and are admitted to the joys of heaven.

Over the next few weeks, we will explore the concept of each of these four last things in a little more detail. If you have any questions or worries about the things discussed do, please speak to Fr Lee.

**Market Drayton Foodbank** If you are able to donate we are low on Cartons of long life fruit juice, Packets of mashed potato, Sponge puddings/Slab cake and Dry Dog Food. **THANK YOU.**

<b>Offertory</b>	05.10.2023	Loose plate £71.87	Envelopes £66.00	Standing Orders £190.85	Total £328.72	<b>Thank You</b>
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**Missio boxes** It’s time again to bring in your red Missio boxes for counting. Please leave named boxes on the windowsill shelf at back of church. Thank you.

*Christmas Mass times in the porch      Please take this newsletter home with you and share it with others.*