



St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Stephen Harding Catholic Church

Diocese of Shrewsbury Deanery of Telford and East Shropshire

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Newsletter 19 November – 26 November 2023

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time A Weekdays Year 1 Psalter Week 1

Date	Market Drayton	Intention	Newport
Saturday 18 November			Vigil Mass 5.30pm
Sunday 19 November 33 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass 11am	Beryl Dutton RIP	Mass 9.15am
Monday 20 November <i>Feria</i>	Mass 10am	DRF Heffernan Family	
Tuesday 21 November Presentation of BV Mary	Eve Prayer Zoom 7pm		Mass 10am
Wednesday 22 November St Cecilia	Mass 10am Exposition & Benediction	Monica Allcroft RIP	Mass 10am
Thursday 23 November <i>Feria</i>			
Friday 24 November <i>SS Andrew Dun-Lac & Companions</i>	Rosary in Church 7pm		Mass 10am Exposition & Benediction
Saturday 25 November			Vigil Mass 5.30pm
Sunday 26 November Our Lord Jesus Christ King	Mass 11am	Eugene McGroggan RIP	Mass 9.15am

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before each weekday Mass, or by appointment with Fr Lee
World Day of Prayer for the Poor

Readings for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time year A Psalter week 1

1st reading Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31. *A perfect wife – who can find her?*

Response **O blessed are those who fear the Lord.** x3

2nd reading 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6. *Let not the day of the Lord overtake you like a thief.*

Acclamation **Alleluia, alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!**

Gospel Matthew 25: 14-30. *You have been faithful in small things; come and join in your master's happiness.*

Comm ant **To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord. Amen I say to you: Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive, and it shall be given to you, says the Lord.**



†Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Sylvia Stanworth**, who has died recently, and for her family and friends. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 28 November at **12 noon**, followed by interment at Market Drayton cemetery. Eternal rest grant unto her, O lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.

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.

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

"O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" (1 Cor. 15:55) The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that: "Death is the end of earthly life. Our lives are measured by time, in the course of which we change, grow old and, as with all living beings on earth, death seems like the normal end of life. That aspect of death lends urgency to our lives: remembering our mortality helps us realize that we have only a limited time in which to bring our lives to fulfilment" (CCC 1007).

Reflecting on our own death helps us live with the end in mind. St. Paul taught "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 6:23). Jesus transformed death in His obedience to the Father. When a soul is separated from the body, death is no longer the end, but it is transformed into a blessing of eternal life.

It is good to be reminded that the Church can aid people in preparing for their own deaths. In the Litany of the Saints we ask the Lord to deliver us from a sudden and unprovided death. In the *Hail Mary* we ask Our Lady to pray for us at the hour of our death. We also can ask St. Joseph to intercede for us as he is the Patron of a Happy Death.

We are all of us going to die, it is always timely to think about our death and plan how we are going to face it. Can I encourage every Catholic Christian to inform their family or carers to call for a priest to come and celebrate the final sacraments when they are approaching the end of life. *Viaticum* is the term used for the reception of Holy Communion by a sick person on their deathbed. The word is derived from an ancient Mediterranean tradition of a meal shared by those setting out on a journey. For this reason, viaticum is often referred to as "food for the journey," in reference to the spiritual food of the Eucharist and the journey into Everlasting Life. The essential rite of "viaticum" is distributing Holy Communion to an individual in danger of death, but is often preceded by the sacraments of Anointing of the Sick and Confession, usually accompanied with the Apostolic Blessing. The word has a rich and beautiful history and illustrates in a poetic way the passage from this life to the next, taking with us the spiritual food we need. Please make it clear to your family, friends, and neighbours this is what you expect to happen when you fall dangerously ill or come towards the end of your life. Please don't leave it too late to call the Priest.

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.

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.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation We are offering the Sacraments of **1st Holy Communion** for children in Year 3 and above – Catechesis will start in the New Year, could parents wishing to enrol their children please email their details to ssthomasandstephen@gmail.com for the parish of Market Drayton and 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 that will be held in January. If your child is not baptised, please speak to Fr Lee. Applications will close on Monday 11th December 2023. 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 close on Monday 11th December 2023

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Journey in Faith. We will be running the RCIA course in the New Year for any adult who wishes to come into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. Applications as above.

SS Peter & Paul Primary School, Newport Governors The Governors of SS Peter & Paul Primary School intend to seek academy conversion from 1st September 2024; we plan to join Our Lady Help of Christians Multi Academy Trust. If you have any questions or comments, please either write to the school (SSPP RC Primary School, Coppice Drive, Newport, TF10 7HU) or email a3352@telford.gov.uk by Friday 24 November.

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, Sanitary towels, Shampoo, Shower gel and Dry Dog Food. **THANK YOU.**

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.

Offertory	12.11.2023	Loose plate £124.30	Envelopes £56.00	Standing Orders £190.85	Total £371.15	Thank You
Clergy Education & Training Fund			£83.10	Thank You		

For Christmas Mass times see notices in porch

Please take this newsletter home with you