

OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

SHIRLEY

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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4th December 2016

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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My brothers and sisters in the Lord,

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we hear once again the impatient voice of John the Baptist urging us to change so that we may be worthy to receive the Lord as he continues to come into our world. Crooked ways must be made straight; bad habits need to be corrected; conversion must continue. This message comes straight from God and that is why John proclaims it in the desert—a place that has always been associated with divine mystery and freedom. Human control has no place in the symbolic wilderness of divine freedom. John wears the garments that identify him with the great prophet Elijah. Just as Elijah challenged the sinful King Ahab, so does John demand a break with a past of sinful human control to make room for a future where God's will is honoured and obeyed. This will not be easy. And so John uses very strong language to scold those who are not interested in change that goes deeper than appearances. True conversion and true readiness for the coming of Jesus requires a conversion that touches our hearts and our deepest values. Life Implications: God very much wants to come to us.

We also want to receive him. However, it is usually only on our own terms. We wish to remain attached to habits and attitudes, which are unworthy of us and hurtful to others. Like Saint Augustine, we are inclined to say, "Change me, Lord...but not yet." Such hesitation is most unfortunate because an unqualified reception of the Lord can provide far more happiness and peace than all the objects of our sinful attachments. What is called for is repentance and we must be careful not to confuse that with remorse. Remorse is simply a temporary regret about our unworthy behaviour. It usually lasts a very short time and then we return to our old habits. By contrast, repentance means that we have found something better and more promising than our sinfulness.

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR A

(Vigil Mass) Sunday 4 th	5.30pm 9.00am 11.00am	Patrick McManus R.I.P. People of the Parish Mrs Theresa Greene R.I.P.
Monday 5 th	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer) Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 6 th		No Mass
Wednesday 7 th	11.00am	Requiem Mass for Phyllis Bowater R.I.P.
Thursday 8 th	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer) Bridget Battersby R.I.P.
Friday 9 th	7.30pm	Molly Smith R.I.P.
Saturday 10 th	9.00am	Tony Dillane Confessions 11.00am – 11.30am

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR A

(Vigil Mass) Sunday 11 th December	5.30pm 9.00am 11.00am	Eileen Doris Herraty R.I.P. Kenneth Parker R.I.P. People of the Parish
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IN MEMORIAM: Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of Phyllis Bowater R.I.P, Valerie Griffiths R.I.P and Peter Mowbray R.I.P who died recently. May they rest in peace.

NEW PARISH WEBSITE: We are glad to announce a new parish website – ourladyofthewaysidechurchshirley.co.uk. We would like the website to become a living part of the parish so please have a look. If you would be interested in volunteering to help develop and improve the site please email the parish office.

ADVENT GREETING CARD CAMPAIGN: Please will you help? So many people suffer terrible injustices and persecutions await your card to give them hope and to let them know they are not forgotten. On the display table at the back of the church there are two lists (green & yellow sheets), with different people on each list. Please take one or both lists and follow the instructions carefully and **DO NOT** send religious cards except to those indicated, otherwise you will worsen their conditions. Please support this campaign remembering that Our Lord was once a Prisoner of Conscience.

ST CHAD'S SANCTUARY APPEAL: In previous years, parishioners have kindly donated items of food. However, we would be very grateful this year, if parishioners can donate items of clothing instead. These would include warm hats, scarves and especially gloves, please. We would also welcome trainers, please, in sizes 41-43/ 8, 9 & 10. Thank you for your continued support.

SECOND COLLECTION: A Second Collection will be taken this weekend for the Poor Parishes of the Archdiocese.

ADVENT TALK: Deacon Sean will be giving a talk on the Infancy Narratives of St Matthew's Gospel on Thursday 8th December at 7.00pm in the Studio Hall of Our Lady of the Wayside School. All welcome.

GAUDETE SUNDAY: Following a tradition that has been inaugurated on Gaudete Sunday by recent Roman Pontiffs, there will be the blessing of the 'Bambino' crib figure. If you have a Bambino for the crib, then please bring it along to Mass next Sunday and it will be blessed for you by Fr Gerardo.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S, SOLIHULL: On Saturday, 10th December, there will be a Christmas Fair (proceeds to go to CAFOD and Aid to the Church in Need) between 1pm and 3pm in the Parish Hall at the side of the Church. There will be tombola, home made cakes, books, Father Christmas, lunches, treats for children and lots more. Entrance is free and all are welcome.

FATHER HUDSON'S CARE: On 10-11 December the second collection will be for Father Hudson's Care. Father Hudson's is the social care agency of the Archdiocese, reaching out to support vulnerable people young and old. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE: A Service of Reconciliation will be celebrated at St Augustine's Church, Solihull on Tuesday 20th December at 7.00pm. Please do come and try and come along to this event. There will be priests from the Deanery who will be present to hear confessions.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: If there are young people in the parish who attend non Catholic schools and are in Year 6 and would like to be prepared for receiving Confirmation, then please see Fr Gerardo as soon as possible for further details. Thank you.

MARMALADE SALE: Festive marmalade will be on sale after all Masses on 10/11th December. Delicious last minute gifts, or just breakfast treats. All proceeds to Fr. O'Mahony Trust.

PARISH HEALTH & SAFETY AUDITS: Help is needed with the audits. No prior experience on audits is required, just a willingness on a regular basis to walk around the Church site with a critical eye and fill in paperwork with recommendations. Guidance and support will be offered. Please see Father Gerardo if you are interested.

COLLECTION: 27th November 2016. Gift Aid: £344.87. Loose: £5096.37. Standing Order: £656. **TOTAL: £1502.24.** Father O'Mahony Trust: £95.00.

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TODAY'S MASS:

First Reading. Isaiah 11:1-10 He judges the wretched with integrity.

Responsorial Psalm: 71. **In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.**

Second Reading: St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9 Christ is the saviour of all men.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, Alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!**

The Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12. Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Gathering Song:

Come into our lives, Light of the Nations; come into our lives, Hope of the Poor
Come into our hearts, fill us with gladness; come into our hearts, bring us your peace.

Dismissal for Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Lord, send your blessing down, down upon your children, that they may hear your word, hear your word with gladness.
Lord, send your blessing down, down upon your people, that we may hear your word, hear your word with gladness.