

# OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## SHIRLEY

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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Parish Priest: *Fr. Gerardo Fabrizio*

Parish Deacon: *Rev. Sean Loone*

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11th December 2016

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*'Gaudete Sunday'*

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*My brothers and sisters in the Lord,*

*In the Gospel reading, John the Baptist heard about Jesus' preaching and healing. He sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the Christ, the Messiah. Jesus told John's disciples to look around. "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." What a scene those disciples of John reported back to the Baptist! It was a scene is full of excitement and joy. This is what the Messiah came to bring: healing, peace, hope, and joy. John would know that the prophecy of Isaiah recounted in our first reading was being fulfilled: "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." All John's disciples had to do was look around. The joy around them gave testimony to the presence of the Messiah.*

*The Kingdom of God is at hand! God loves us. He cares for us. We are His. His Son, Jesus is with us. His Spirit is our life-force. Our lives have meaning, and purpose. Our lives will have fulfilment. The New World of the Kingdom of God is so close. We must therefore rejoice!*

### MASSES DURING THE WEEK

#### THIRD 'GAUDETE' SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR A

<b>(Vigil Mass)</b> Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm 9.00am 11.00am	Eileen Doris Herraty R.I.P. Kenneth Parker R.I.P. People of the Parish
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer) <b>Eucharistic Service</b>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	<b>No Mass</b> Vigil for Valerie Griffiths R.I.P
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Requiem Mass for Valerie Griffiths R.I.P.
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	People of the Parish (with OLW School)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Donald Reason
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Antonio Fabrizio R.I.P <b>Confessions 11.00am – 11.30am</b>

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR A

<b>(Vigil Mass)</b> Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30pm 9.00am 11.00am	John James Tuite R.I.P Marie Anslow R.I.P For the family & friends of Margaret Doyle R.I.P
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**IN MEMORIAM:** Of your charity please pray for the repose of the soul, Valerie Griffiths R.I.P. May she rest in peace.

**POOR PARISHES FUND:** Many thanks for your kind generosity for last weekend's second collection which amounted to £752.50.

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

**PASTORAL LETTER:** A Pastoral Letter on the theme of Father Hudson's Care has been written by Archbishop Bernard and will be read this weekend.

**BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI:** 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 today and it will be blessed for you by Fr Gerardo

**MARMALADE SALE:** Festive marmalade will be on sale after all Masses this weekend. Delicious last minute gifts, or just breakfast treats. All proceeds to Fr. O'Mahony Trust.

**ADVENT LITURGY:** We welcome the children from Our Lady of the Wayside School who will be celebrating an Advent Liturgy in Church on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. All welcome.

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION LISTS:** Ministers of Communion, Readers, Servers and Wardens are asked to sign in the sacristy for Christmas Eve Celebrations asap.

Christmas Eve – Readers for 6pm Mass will be 5.30pm Mass Rota.

Christmas Day – Ministers of Communion will be Sunday Rota A. Servers Rota for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Readers and wardens as Sunday Rota. Please let us know of any changes that need to be made to these times. Ministers of Communion please collect your 2017 Rotas from sacristy. Urgently needed – Readers for 11.00am Mass on Sundays.

**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.

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

**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.

**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.

**COLLECTION:** 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016. Gift Aid: £375.29. Loose: £551.86. Standing Order: £656. **TOTAL: £1583.15.**

Father O'Mahony Trust: £121.

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**TODAY'S MASS:**

First Reading. Isaiah 35:1-6,10. God himself is coming to save you.

Responsorial Psalm: 145. **Come, Lord, and save us.**

Second Reading: St James 5:7-10. Do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!**

The Gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11. Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?

Communion Antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**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.