



THE BEACON

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29TH NOVEMBER 2020

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligation is suspended until further notice. However, public celebrations of Mass will restart on Wednesday of this week.

Sun	29th	First Sunday of Advent November Dead List	St Patrick's
Mon	30th	Feast of St Andrew November Dead List	St Patrick's
Tue	1st	Ferial Fr Alban will celebrate a private Mass for all Parishioners	St Patrick's
Wed	2nd	Ferial 19:00 Kathleen Ryan	Our Lady's
Thur	3rd	St Francis Xavier, Priest and Religious 19:00 Tudor de Silva	St Patrick's
Fri	4th	Ferial 12:00 Michael & Suzanna Lauriello 18:00 Mass in Polish	St Patrick's St Patrick's
Sat	5th	Ferial	
Sat	5th	18:15 In Thanksgiving	St Patrick's
Sun	6th	09:00 Patricia Bamford	Our Lady's
	2nd Sunday of Advent	11:00 Frank Burns	St Patrick's
		17:00 Mass in Polish	St Patrick's

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS) By Appointment

Newsletter items: newsletter@stpatrickstelford.com
 Please send items by 5pm on Wednesday

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity (No.234025)

Data Protection Privacy Notice

Our two parishes sometimes collect personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice

CHURCHES CAN REOPEN

The end of the national lockdown this week, means that our churches can now reopen from Wednesday for the public celebration of Mass. We thank all those stewards and members of the Polish community for enabling St Patrick's church to be open for private prayer these last two weeks.

You will still need to book in advance to reserve a seat at St Patrick's or at Our Lady's. The safe limits on numbers mean that St Patrick's can accommodate a maximum of 68 people, and Our Lady's a maximum of 40 people. If you want to book a place at Mass for one of our Masses, please email ccontelford@gmail.com or phone 01952 242423 (leave a message if the answer-phone cuts in). See the front page of the Newsletter for our Mass times.

Both our churches will also be open for Masses over the Christmas season. Christmas Day falls on a Friday this year, and straight afterwards we are into the weekend. Fr Alban has consulted members of the Parish Council, and the **Christmas Season Mass timetable** will be:

Thursday, 24th December – Christmas Eve

18:00hr – Christmas Vigil Mass at St Patrick's

18:00hr – Christmas Vigil Mass at Our Lady's

20:00hr – Polish Christmas Vigil Mass at St Patrick's

Friday, 25th December – Christmas Day

09:00hr – Christmas Dawn Mass at Our Lady's

11:00hr – Christmas Daytime Mass at St Patrick's

17:00hr – Polish Christmas Daytime Mass at St Patrick's

Saturday, 26th December – Feast of St Stephen

12:00hr – Mass at St Patrick's

Saturday/Sunday 26th/27th December – Holy Family

Saturday, 26th December – 18:15hr Mass at St Patrick's

Sunday, 27th December – 09:00hr Mass at Our Lady's

11:00hr – Mass at St Patrick's

17:00hr – Polish Mass at St Patrick's

Christmas Week:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday – 12:00hr Mass at St Pat's

Wednesday – 19:00hr Mass at Our Lady's

Friday, 1st January 2021 – New Year's Day

12:00hr – Mass at St Patrick's

18:00hr – Mass in Polish

Usually great crowds attend our Christmas Day Masses and with reduced capacities this year, demand for places might be greatly increased – perhaps outstripping supply at our Christmas Day Masses. If this happens, preference will be given to those who couldn't get places on Christmas to get places at our Christmas weekend Masses. This may mean that some who want to attend both Christmas Day Masses and the Sunday Masses may have to step aside to ensure that everyone gets the opportunity to attend Mass over Christmas. The Sunday Mass obligation does not apply during the pandemic – and the Christmas Octave lasts for eight days (until New Year's Day we are still in the season of Christmas – we are still celebrating Christmas).

Again, if you want to book a place at one of the Masses over Christmas, please email ccontelford@gmail.com or phone 01952 242423 between 09:00hr and 11:00hr Mondays to Fridays. If the answerphone cuts in, leave a message and also your phone number so that we can contact you to confirm your booking.

PRAYER REMEMBRANCES

Your prayers are asked for the sick and the housebound and all those who are in hospital, the Hospice or local nursing homes. We remember especially the doctors, nurses and all medical staff at the Princess Royal and Royal Shrewsbury Hospitals; also all the staff at our local nursing and care homes during this time of pandemic.

We remember in prayer all who have died, especially those mentioned in our Book of Remembrance and our November List, and all who are mourning the death of a loved one, and all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

For December, Pope Francis asks us all to keep in our prayers the following intention:

"That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer."

LIVESTREAM MASSES

If you are shielding or otherwise can't get to church for Mass, you can livestream the Mass from the Cathedral in Shrewsbury.

At Shrewsbury Cathedral

<http://www.churchservices.tv/shrewsburycathedral>

Sunday Morning: Sunday, 08:00hrs & 11:00hrs

Weekday Mass: Daily at 07:30hrs.

If you prefer to livestream a more "homely" parish church celebration, then you can always log-on to <http://www.churchservices.tv>. In the "churches" section you will find where livestreaming is now available across the UK and Ireland, and also the schedule of service times.

RECEPTION CLASS SEPTEMBER 2021

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School and Nursery St Luke's Catholic Primary School

Are you looking for a family orientated, Ofsted-rated Good Catholic School for your child?

If your child was born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 please be aware that applications for reception class must be completed online with Telford and Wrekin before 15th January 2021. Each school will also require you to complete a School Supplementary Information Form (SIF) available from the office. If you would like to speak to a member of our Early Years Foundation Team or our Head of School then please phone the school on 01952 386160 (St Patrick's) or 01952 388222 (St Luke's) and we would be more than happy to talk to you.

Graeme Hawes

Acting Executive Headteacher

Blessed Edward Champion School Federation

Louise Evans

Acting Headteacher, St Luke's Primary School

Link to Telford and Wrekin Admissions:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20026/school_admissions/3247/applying_for_a_place_in_school

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

It is now over eleven years since the SVP Conference at St Patrick's was re-established. The members undertake some vital apostolic work in the parish for which many parishioners will be grateful. In all that time Mrs Ann Doran has been the Conference President. She now feels that the time has come to step down from that role. On behalf of all of us Fr Alban wishes to thank Ann for the hard work and devoted service she has given as President. Ann will continue as a working member of the SVP. Two members will "job-share" as President – Mrs Sheila Torabi and Mrs Cath Evans. We wish them every success as they under this important role.

If you need to contact the SVP, please phone the parish office in the first instance.

NOVEMBER LIST MASSES

Apart from Funeral Masses, all the Masses that will be celebrated in November will be offered for those whose names are in the parish's Book of Remembrance and November Dead List.

YEAR OF PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

With all the problems surrounding COVID-19 and the need to keep others and ourselves safe, the Bishop asks us to keep a Year of Prayer to St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church.

The Prayer:

The Heavenly Father chose you, St Joseph, to be the husband of the Holy Mother of God, and to watch over His only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

In times of joy and trial, pray for us so that we too can recognise the loving plan of the Eternal Father, who always works for the good of those who love Him.

Teach us, Guardian of the Holy Family, to be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit; and to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in all the circumstances of our lives and, above all, in the mystery of the Holy Eucharist.

At the last, pray for us that we may happily join you, the just and faithful servant, to praise God forever in the company of Our Lady and all the saints.

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHURCHES CAN REOPEN

The churches remain in lockdown, meaning that we cannot open to celebrate Sunday or weekday Masses. The only exception being Requiem Masses and Funeral Services within the limitation of numbers provided in guidance for places of worship (*no more than thirty can be present*).

Happily, churches can open as places for personal prayer where appropriate with all necessary Covid safety measures, including stewarding. Thanks to our volunteer stewards and to members of the Polish community, **St Patrick's church will be able to open on Tuesdays for one hour from 12:00hrs to 13:00hrs and on Saturdays from 12:00hrs to 14:00hrs.**

For those who are self-isolating or otherwise are unable to come to church for Mass, we still hope to arrange for making Mass available on Zoom once we upgrade our internet connection in early December – and have mastered the technology!

ONLINE GIVING TO THE PARISH

For those Parishioners who normally give in the collection at Mass and wish to help the Parish at this time, an online donation page to allow you to donate to the Parish is available. We thank those who are doing so.

For Our Lady's parishioners:

<https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donator/page/OurLadyoftheRosary&StLukeTelford2196>

For St Patrick's parishioners:

<https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donator/page/stpatricktelforddioceseofshrewsbury2177>

Please be aware that a minimum donation of £5 is requested if giving in this way.

You can also Gift Aid your donation to help the Parish further.

If you want to Gift Aid your donation, please tick the box shown on the screen even if you have previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration form in favour of the Parish for regular giving made by Offertory Envelope or Standing Order.

Thank you for your support.

LET US KNOW YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

Fr Alban has begun using e-mail addresses to keep in touch with parishioners and to circulate the Newsletter. If you are not yet receiving parish updates let us know your email address and you too can be included. Send an email to ccntelford@gmail.com and we shall keep you abreast of the latest news and updates all in the comfort of your own home!

THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The Eucharistic Congress, scheduled to take place in Bucharest in 2020, has been deferred to September 2021. As part of the preparation for this event, the International Organising Committee is inviting all Catholics to mark the Feast of Christ the King by joining in a time of adoration and prayer on Saturday, 21st November 2020. All the information needed to do so can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.iec2020.hu/en/news-press/7th-worldwide-adoration-and-prayer-21st-november>

WHAT IS THE ADVENT WREATH?



The Advent Wreath is one of the most popular symbols used by Christians during the Season of Advent. These wreaths, consisting of a circle of evergreen branches set around four candles, are used in both churches and homes. The evergreen circle stands for the eternal life that Christ has won for all believers. The burning candles represent the coming of Christ as the light of the world (John 1:4-9). The colours of the candles vary. Traditionally three purple candles and one pink candle are used. The purple signifies that Advent is a season of repentance as well as expectation. One candle is lit of the first Sunday of Advent, with another lit each succeeding Sunday. The joyfully coloured pink candle is reserved for the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete which means "rejoice" in Latin.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING *(Isaiah 63:16-17. 64:1.3-8)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalm 79*

Response: **God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us
and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might.
O Lord, come to our help. **R/**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R/**
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R/**

SECOND READING *(1 Corinthians 1:3-9)*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the

witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God**

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.**

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL *(Mark 13:33-37)*

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the door-keeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

A NEW LITURGICAL YEAR

The start of our season of Advent, also heralds the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. For much of the year St Mark's Gospel will be our guide through the teachings and events of the life of Jesus.

For those of you who use Missals, the readings are now taken from Sunday Cycle B readings. For those who use weekday Missals at Mass, the readings are now taken from Cycle 1 readings.

MAKING A PLACE FOR CHRIST

Twinkling lights are shining in windows belonging to the flats just opposite the Presbytery – people beginning to get ready for Christmas. Lots of you will be decorating your homes for the coming season – trees, lights and perhaps even a crib.

The diocese has produced a leaflet which families and individuals can use to help them reflect on the various figures in the crib. Copies will be circulated with this week's Newsletter. It might help us prepare.

This year we will be using new figures in the crib at both our churches, and new stables as well. They will be blessed at the start of each of our Christmas Vigil Masses.