

**EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION ON FRIDAYS IN ADVENT.**

After Mass on Friday morning the Blessed Sacrament will be Exposed on the Altar for adoration, prayer & reflection. Benediction at 11.15am 11th, 18th. December Take this time to prepare yourself to celebrate Christ's coming again to your heart.



**Mass each day continues to be shown live on my Facebook page—Paul Roy Lomas. It is also available to use after the Mass has ended in case you can't be on your computer, smart phone or lap-top at the exact time.**

**THIS WEEK THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE POOR PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE. ARCHBISHOP BERNARD ASKS US TO BE AS GENEROUS AS WE CAN IN SUPPORTING THIS FUND.**

**COVID 19 VIRUS IS STILL PREVALENT SO KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM EACH OTHER. TOUCH AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.**



The Advent Wreath or Advent crown, is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the West-

**Song as we light Advent Wreath candles (Tune—Away in a Manger)**

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright; a candle of hope in the darkness of night. We pray that the lamb with the lion shall lie, prepare ye the way, for God's Justice is nigh.

Chinthowa Development Trust

Last year many of our parishioners gave us their used Christmas Cards, they have been used to make new Christmas GIFT cards. We hope that you like what we have been able to do with them. For each card we ask a donation of a minimum of £5 and all the money will go towards one of our projects in the village.

- Secondary school student school fees.
- Soap, sanitisers, face masks to fight the Covid pandemic.
- The School Feeding Programme
- Training girls and women to use sewing machines.
- Cooperative Farming project.

A small certificate is given with each card for you to enclose when you send the card.

We have different types of card but each one is different. They are covered in cellophane.

1. Nativity cards
2. Angel cards.



3. Bethlehem cards
4. Shepherds and Kings.



LAST YEAR HERE AT ST. BENEDICT'S DUE TO THE COVID PANDEMIC, WE MISSED OUT ON THE CHILDREN'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS. THE PLAN IS TO DO THEM TOGETHER WITH THIS YEAR'S. IT HAS BEEN THE SAME ELSEWHERE IN OTHER PARISHES. MY GRAND DAUGHTER SOPHIA MISSED OUT AT HER PARISH CHURCH. Her parish priest has suggested that she might make her First Communion with me here at St. Benedict's and so she will next Saturday at the Vigil Mass.

**FINANCES AT ST. BENEDICT'S**

We hear all the time on the news how everyone is struggling financially because of the Pandemic. We here at St. Benedict's are no different. Currently after the recent building work on the church there is now £15,118.09 in the Restoration fund, leaving £1562.71 available to keep the parish running. Thank goodness that many of you have Standing Orders for your weekly gift and payment still is made, but we are missing the cash collections we receive each week. Please consider if you can make a contribution or increase your giving to help keep the church going in Atherstone.

**Mass for Christmas during the Pandemic in Tier 3 .**

**Dec 24th Christmas Eve**

Vigil Mass at 5 pm

(Midnight Mass) at 8 pm

*No specific children's mass because of number restrictions. So extra mass for all.*

**Dec 25th Christmas Day**

Early Mass 9.30 pm

Midday Mass 11.30 am

*An extra Mass at 11.30 am as an extra opportunity.*

**Dec 26th St. Stephen 10 am**

Holy Family Vigil Mass 4pm

**Dec 27th Holy Family Mass 9.30pm**

**MASS CHOICES WILL NEED TO BE BOOKED WITH FR. PAUL.**

## Reflection

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.



## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Yr B)

**VIGIL MASS** 5th December 2020 4.00 pm

**SUNDAY MASS** 6th December 2020 9.30 am

### MASS THIS WEEK

|           |      |  |                        |   |
|-----------|------|--|------------------------|---|
| Sunday    | 6th  | <b>2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>                              | Mass 9.30 am           | <i>Terence &amp; Gwen Mackie RIP</i>                      |
| Monday    | 7th  | St. Ambrose Bp, Dr.                                      | <b>NO MASS</b>         |   |
| Tuesday   | 8th  | <b>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM</b> | Mass 10am              | <i>Fr. Jack Kennedy RIP</i>                               |
| Wednesday | 9    | 2nd Wednesday of Advent                                  | Mass 10am              | The Christians of Mexico                                  |
| Thursday  | 10th | 2nd Thursday of Advent                                   | Mass 10 am             | <i>The staff &amp; children of St. Benedict's Academy</i> |
| Friday    | 11th | 2nd Friday of Advent                                     | Mass & Exposition 10am | <i>the work of the Chintowa charity</i>                   |
| Saturday  | 12th | <b>VIGIL MASS AT 4 PM</b>                                |                        |   |
|           |      | <b>3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT Vigil</b>                        | Mass 4 pm              | Parishioners  |



Next Week—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

VIGIL MASS (12th) 4.00 pm SUNDAY (13th December) MASS 9.30 am



**ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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