



Dome of Home

Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest Diocese of Shrewsbury

Shrine Church of Ss. Peter & Paul and St. Philomena

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

21st -28th December 2025



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Congratulations to our catechumens, Elizabeth, Clark, Adam and Emily, who were baptised yesterday after the Ember Saturday Mass, and our candidates, Alan and Robin, who made the profession of faith to enter the Holy Catholic Church. All six then received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Today, we celebrate another grace, the reception of first Holy Communion by our new Catholics. Please join us for a festive tea and coffee following the Mass and welcome our newest members!

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ is, of course, this Thursday. Please check carefully the service times as indicated on both page 2 and page 3. In the old Latin liturgy, "Vigil" means the day of preparation which comes before a feast. Thus, there is a Christmas Vigil Mass here on Wednesday morning at 8.30. This is the final Mass of Advent in violet. It is followed by a sung office called *Prime*, which is the morning prayer of the church.



During the martyrology, read at *Prime*, the feast of the next day is announced. Thus, *Prime* on the 24th includes a solemn proclamation of Our Lord's Nativity. We will also sing the offices of Vespers and Compline at 6.30pm. This is not a Mass, but rather the evening prayer of the Church. Note also the additional confession times in the morning and afternoon of the 24th.

The first Mass of Christmas will be at 11.15pm, preceded by carol singing. The second and third Mass of Christmas will be celebrated at the usual Sunday Mass times (8.30 and 10.30am respectively). **May God bless you all and grant you a very happy Christmas!**

Announcements

✠ **Choir Practices:** on **Monday at 7.15pm**. **Gregorian Chant Rehearsals:** Every 2 weeks. **Next practice, Monday 29th December.** **Polyphonic Choir Rehearsals:** Every 2 weeks. Please contact Clare Tucker: tuckerobertson@gmail.com or 0151 639 19 99 / 0771 471 02 75. **Next practice 5th January.**

✠ **Last Sunday Collection:** Loose Plate: £651.50 Boxes: £161.60 Bank transfers: £400.00 Shop £171.80 Heating: £582.20 **Total: £1967.10.** Thank you very much for your continued generosity! If you wish to donate via bank transfer, please use the following: Sort Code: 40-45-14 - Account number: 01805061 - For the credit of ICKSP / SSPPP.

✠ **Piety Shop:** Mass cards, scapulars, medals, rosaries, statues, prayer cards, mantillas, Catholic Bibles and books. New items for Christmas including presents and cards for your family and friends. All profits go to Ss. Peter & Paul and St. Philomena. You can also donate to the Wirral Foodbank and join the Ss PPP 200 Club.

✠ **Donations for refreshments after the 10.30 Mass:** During December we will collect for the Foodbank.

✠ **Apiculæ – Rosaries & Chaplets:** For beautiful handmade rosaries and chaplets, silver, copper, bronze & brass, see Elaine Gibbons. Commissions taken! Contact elaineapiculæ@gmail.com or 0151 924 11 78.

✠ **Refreshment after 10.30 Mass:** We are always looking for new volunteers to help set up, serve and clear up after 10.30 Mass refreshments. If you think you could be on a rota every 2/3 weeks, please contact one of the refreshment volunteers!

✠ **Christmas Toy Appeal:** Please support this year's Christmas Toy Appeal for local children in need. The Toy Donation Box is in the church shop.

✠ **Cookbook fundraiser for Saint Benedict's Preston:** The Sister Adorers and family and friends of Saint Benedict's Catholic Education Centre in Preston have made cookbooks to raise funds. Please take one from the back of the church. £10 donation requested. Canon Post is collecting the donations.

✠ **Church Cleaning.** **11-12am every Saturday morning after Mass.** Coffee and biscuits afterwards! Please contact Joyce at 07887 580547 if you would like to join us. *Thank you to all who generously give their time to the upkeep of the church.*

Forthcoming events

✠ **Craft Group:** knitting, patchwork, dressmaking, lace making and embroidery. Beginners welcome. Contact: Dorothy McCarthy 07 76 775 26 71. **Next meeting Saturday 7th February 11am – 1pm**

✠ **Adult Catechism:** A new program of adult catechism will be provided in the New Year. Look to upcoming editions of the newsletter for further information.

✠ **First Communion Classes for Children:** The next classes will be held on **3rd January and 10th January.** First communions will take place on **Sunday, 11th January,** the Feast of the Holy Family.

Information

✠ **For life matters and helplines:** see <https://lifecharity.org.uk>; for prolife helpline <https://www.goodcounselnet.co.uk> and for abortion recovery see <https://www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk>

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE AT THE DOME

Wednesday, 24th December: 8.30am Vigil Mass of Christmas; 9.15am Solemn Office of Prime
Confessions 10.30-11.30am & 2pm-5pm; 6.30pm Solemn Vespers and Compline.
10.30pm Christmas Carols; 11.15pm Sung Mass of Midnight.

Thursday, 25th December: 8.30am Low Mass (2nd Mass of Christmas Dawn)

10.30am Sung Mass (3rd Mass of Christmas Day); 6.30pm Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.



Prayers for the Sick: Please keep in your prayers Lottie, Michael, Roisin, Dermot, Eamonn, Sandra, Anne, Patricia, Joan, Vera, Lesley, Chris, Andrew, Madeleine, Sarah, John, Kathleen, Olivia, Lynne, Angela, Helen, Stuart, Jacqueline, Lindsey, Edward, Tracy, Mary, Peter Joseph, Janet, Elizabeth, Michael and Donna.

| Ordo | Mass | Mass intentions | | Devotions | Confessions |
|--|---|---|--|--|----------------------|
| | | Canon Montjean | Canon Post | | |
| Offer a Mass for your intentions using the Mass Offering envelope (narthex). Write name (living or deceased) or intention. Enclose donation. Place envelope in collection box or give to a Canon. The earliest available date for a Mass at the moment is: 28 th April. | | | | Confessions can also be arranged privately by texting a Canon (see front page) | |
| Sunday 21 st December Fourth Sunday of Advent Violet | 8.30am Low Mass 10.30am Sung Mass | Sister Marie Clune RIP | Moiria Kearns RIP Mary Ann O'Connell | 4.30pm Vespers, Rosary & Benediction, followed by Compline | 9.40am- 10.15am |
| Monday 22 nd December Feria of Advent Violet | 6.30 pm Low Mass | Sister Marie Clune RIP | Jane, Tim and family | 5.00 Vespers 5.30pm Adoration 6.10pm Benediction | 5.30pm- 6pm |
| Tuesday 23 rd December Feria of Advent Violet | 6.30 pm Low Mass | Sister Marie Clune RIP | Canon V Poucin de Wouilt | 5.00 Vespers 5.30pm Adoration 6.10pm Benediction | 5.30pm- 6pm |
| Wednesday 24 th December Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Violet | 8.30am Low Mass 11.15pm Sung Mass of Midnight | Sister Marie Clune RIP | Frances Kelly RIP | 9.15am Office of Prime 6.30pm Vespers & Compline 10.30 Carols | 10.30-11.30 2-5pm |
| Thursday 25 th December Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ White | 8.30am Low Mass 10.30am Sung Mass | Sister Marie Clune RIP Marie Theresa Robinson RIP Victoria Bentil | Poor souls in Purgatory Cardinal Burke Canon Montjean | 6.30pm Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament | 9.40- 10.15am |
| Friday 26 th December St. Stephen Red | 6.30 pm Low Mass | Sister Marie Clune RIP | Mgr Wach | No Adoration | No Confessions |
| Saturday 27 th December St. John the Evangelist White | 10am Low Mass | Sister Marie Clune RIP | Diane Doran | 9am Adoration Blessing of wine after the 10am Mass | 9.00am- 9.30am |
| Sunday 28 th December Sunday within the Octave of Christmas White | 8.30am Low Mass 10.30am Sung Mass | Sister Marie Clune RIP | Margaret Rushton Margaret Simpson | 4.30pm Vespers, Rosary & Benediction, followed by Compline | 9.40am- 10.15am |

THE PENNY CATECHISM

167. How is the Blessed Virgin Mother of God?

The Blessed Virgin is Mother of God because Jesus Christ, her son, who was born of her as man, is not only man, but is also truly God.

168. Is the Blessed Virgin our Mother also?

The Blessed Virgin is our Mother also because, being the brethren of Jesus, we are the children of Mary.

168a. What do we mean by the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin?

By the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin we mean that by the power of God, Mary, at the completion of her life, was taken body and soul into everlasting glory to reign as Queen of heaven and earth.

168b. Is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin an article of Faith?

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is an article of Faith because it has been solemnly defined by the infallible authority of the Church.

169. What is Charity?

Charity is a supernatural gift of God by which we love God above all things, and our neighbour as ourselves for God's sake.

170. Why must we love God?

We must love God because he is infinitely good in himself and infinitely good to us.

171. How do we show that we love God?

We show that we love God by keeping his commandments: for Christ says: 'If you love me keep my commandments'. (John 14:15: Matt. 19:16-19.. Rom. 13..9-10)

PROPER of the MASS - Fourth Sunday of Advent

INTROIT *Isaias 45: 8, Psalm 18: 2*

Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be opened and bud forth a Saviour. Ps. The heavens show forth the glory of God: and the firmament declareth the work of His hands. Glory be to the Father.

COLLECT

Stir up Thy power and come, we pray Thee, O Lord, and with great might succour us; that our deliverance, which our sins impede, may be hastened by the help of Thy grace and the forgiveness of Thy mercy: Who livest and reigneth.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 4: 1-5*

Brethren, let a man so account of us as of the ministers of Christ and the dispensers of the mysteries of God. Here now it is required among the dispensers that a man be found faithful. But to me it is a very small thing to be judged by you or by man's day: but neither do I judge my own self. For I am not conscious to myself of anything: yet am I not hereby justified, but He that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge not before the time, until the Lord come; who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise from God.

GRADUAL *Psalm 144: 18, 21*

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him: to all that call upon Him in truth. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless His holy name.

ALLELUIA Alleluia, alleluia. Come, O Lord, and tarry not: forgive the sins of Thy people Israel. Alleluia.

GOSPEL *Luke 3: 1-6*

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and Philip his brother tetrarch of Iturea and the country of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilina, under the high-priests Annas and Caiphas: the word of the Lord was made unto John, the son of Zachary, in the desert. And he came into all the country about the Jordan, preaching the baptism of penance for the remission of sins, as it was written in the book of the sayings of Isaias the prophet: A voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord: make straight His paths: every valley shall be filled: and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways plain: and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Music for Sunday, 21st December

Mass setting: Kyriale XVII

Communion:

Recessional: O come, o come, Emmanuel (384)

OFFERTORY *Luke 1: 28, 42*

Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.



SECRET

Look down favourably upon these sacrifices, O Lord, we beseech Thee: that they may be profitable to our devotion and salvation. Through our Lord.

PREFACE OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, ever-lasting God: Who, together with Thine only-begotten Son, and the Holy Ghost, are one God, one Lord: not in the oneness of a single Person, but in the Trinity of one substance. For what we believe by Thy revelation of Thy glory, the same do we believe of Thy Son, the same of the Holy Ghost, without difference or separation; so that in confessing the true and eternal Godhead, in It we should adore distinction in persons, unity in Essence, and equality in Majesty: in praise of which the Angels and Archangels, the Cherubim also and Seraphim, day by day exclaim, without end and with one voice saying:

COMMUNION *Isaias 7: 14*

Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son: and His name shall be called Emmanuel.

POSTCOMMUNION

Having received Thy gifts, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that with the frequentation of the mystery, the work of our salvation may increase. Through our Lord.