

The Catholic Church in Crewe
Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)
Saturday 16th to Sunday 24th December 2023



Fr. Nick writes:

The Countdown to Christmas. “Advent” means “Coming”. The season reflects on the Second Coming as well as the first Coming of Christ and I was determined that we wouldn’t rush into Christmas too quickly. Now, however, in church we have our Christmas tree - although no lights switched on yet! - and our Crib - but without a baby.

Our Scripture readings also help us to think about two important people who prepared the way for Jesus: John the Baptist this Sunday and, next Sunday, Mary. If you have the time, do get down for a midweek Mass this week. The Gospels are St. Luke’s account of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus with the Archangel Gabriel and St. Elizabeth also playing their role.

May each one of us play our role in making Christ’s love a reality in the world! This may be in family life, at school, in the workplace or as a volunteer. This may not mean doing anything extra in lives that are already busy, but let’s do things with patience, forbearance, and good humour, remembering Jesus the Joy of our lives.

MASS TIMES AT SAINT MARY’S CHURCH, CREWE	
CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS DAY
2:15pm Mass in Malayalam	10am Mass
4.30pm Children’s Nativity	12:45pm Mass in the Polish Language
5pm Nativity of the Lord Mass	FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN
9pm Nativity of the Lord Mass in the Polish Language	11am Mass in the Polish Language
11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass	7pm Mass

Readings for Sunday 17th December 2023

READING	EXTRACT	REFERENCE
1 st Reading	I exult for joy in the Lord	Is 61:1-2. 10-11
Psalm	My soul rejoices in my God.	Luke 1
2 nd Reading	May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.	1 Thess 5:16-24
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!	Is 61:1 (Luke 4:18)
Gospel	There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.	John 1:6-8. 19-28

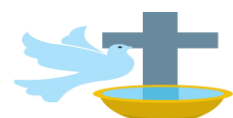
The work of Caritas will be supported through the offerings made at the Crib over Christmas.

Your donations will go to families in need within the Diocese, ensuring that they have a Christmas meal and gifts to celebrate Christ’s birth and create happy family memories.

Please contribute in whatever you can. Thank you.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our Parish family and pray for Jack William George Broadhurst who was baptised this weekend.



MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

Saturday 16th December

11-11:45am Sacrament of Reconciliation
12 noon Mass (John Burdin (LD); Maria Murray (LD))

The Third Sunday of Advent (B)

Gaudete Sunday

(Church opens at 5pm)
5:30pm Mass (Cecelia Baldwin (RIP Ann))
7pm Mass in the Polish Language

Sunday 17th December

The Third Sunday of Advent (B)

Gaudete Sunday

(Church opens at 8:15am)
9am Mass (Brendan Fay (LD))
11am Mass (Peggy, Violet and Derek France (RIP); Helen Ladley (RIP Anniversary))
12:45pm Mass in the Polish Language
4pm Mass in Malayalam

Monday 18th December

10.45am Funeral Service for John Dixon

Tuesday 19th December

6:30pm The Rosary
7pm Mass (Mary Fraser (RIP Anniversary))

Wednesday 20th December

12 noon Mass (Terrence and Lorraine Fernandes (Thanksgiving 51st Wedding Anniversary))

Thursday 21st December

12 noon Mass (Bridget Patricia Goode (RIP Ann))
6pm Polish Christmas Penance Service

Friday 22nd December

12 noon Mass (Thanksgiving for The Boczezs, Foleys and Hendries)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 4pm.

Saturday 23rd December

10am Baptisms
11-11:45am Sacrament of Reconciliation
12 noon Mass (Jose Rodrigues Da Silva Junior))

The Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

(Church opens at 5pm)
5:30pm Mass (Philomena Byrne (RIP Ann))
7pm Mass in the Polish Language

Sunday 24th December

The Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

(Church opens at 8:15am)
9am Mass James Todd (Thanksgiving for 2 years in remission)
11am Mass (John O'Malley (RIP); Evelyn O'Malley (RIP), Lillian Goodwin (RIP), Ann Hamilton (RIP) and Terence O'Malley)
12:45pm Mass in the Polish Language

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS, READERS & WELCOMERS ROTA

16th December 5:30pm

Maurice Fitzgerald	Word
Deacon Peter Lafferty	Eucharist
Peter Losa	Eucharist
Elaine Morrissey	Eucharist
Sheila Kane	Welcome
Gwen Tapley	Welcome

17th December 9am

Alex Kilkenny	Word
Ian Bravey	Eucharist
Maggie Schiavone-Young	Eucharist
Liz Smith	Eucharist
Anthony Binnie	Welcome
Anne Todd	Welcome
Anne Walker	Welcome

17th December 11am

Giovanna Baccelliere	Word
Deacon Peter Lafferty	Eucharist
Nick Lazenby	Eucharist
Catherine Smith	Eucharist
Pauline Kowalski	Welcome
Hilary Lees	Welcome
Mairead Walsh	Welcome

23rd December 5:30pm

Sheila Kane	Word
Deacon Peter Lafferty	Eucharist
Peter Losa	Eucharist
Elina Davis	Eucharist
Joan Walton	Welcome
Anthony Binnie	Welcome

24th December 9am

John/Tom Kilkenny	Word
Deacon Peter Lafferty	Eucharist
Anne Walker	Eucharist
Maria Woolley	Eucharist
Ruth O'Brien	Welcome
Liz Smith	Welcome
Maggie Schiavone-Young	Welcome

24th December 11am

Janet Baccelliere	Word
Deacon Peter Lafferty	Eucharist
Cyndy Jackson	Eucharist
Mairead Walsh	Eucharist
Diana Backs	Welcome
Joseph Backs	Welcome
Stephanie Fitzgibbon	Welcome

CHRISTMAS DUTIES WILL BE EMAILED OUT TO YOU.

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CREWE,
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023-2024**

Please do keep an eye on our Newsletter for further details at

<https://www.stmaryscrewe.org.uk/newsletters>

The next children's sessions will be on Sunday 14th January at the Caritas Centre from 10 – 10.45am. Please ensure your children arrive at 9:45am and are collected promptly at 10.45am. Thank you.

Full details of the programme can be found on our website at www.stmarys@stmaryscrewe.org.uk and are also listed below.

Mass attendance is COMPULSORY during the preparation period

24 December 2023 Christmas Eve Mass arrive at church for 4.00pm ~ Nativity Presentation ~ 4.30 pm start ~ Mass at 5.00pm

6 March 2024 Reconciliation Service arrive at church for 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start.

IMPORTANT DATES for Sunday Sessions 2022 - 2023

Sunday ~ 14 January 2024

10.00am – 10.50am

Chapter 2 Lord, have mercy (Penitential Rites)

Sunday ~ 28 January 2024

10.00am – 10.50am

Chapter 3 Celebrating our rescue (Reconciliation)

Sunday ~ 4 February 2024

10.00am – 10.50am

Chapter 4 God helps me get it right (Reconciliation)

Sunday ~ 11 February 2024

10.00am – 10.50am

Prep and complete First Forgiveness Booklets

Sunday 3 March 2024

10.00am – 10.50am

Chapter 7 Bread to offer (Liturgy of the Eucharist)
(Practise receiving unconsecrated hosts)

Sunday ~ 17 March 2024

10.00am – 10.50am

Chapter 8 Fruit of the Vine

Sunday ~ 24 March 2024

10.00am – 10.50am

Chapter 9 Do this in Memory of Me

Sunday ~ 21 April 2024

10.00am – 10.50am

Chapter 10 Body of Christ (Practise receiving unconsecrated hosts)

Sunday ~ 28 April 2024

10.00am – 10.50am

Chapter 11 To love and to serve (concluding Rites)
(Practise receiving unconsecrated hosts)

CARITAS SHREWSBURY IMPACT REPORT 2022-2023

Parishioners may be interested in seeing the current Impact Report on the Caritas website at

<https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/about/impact-reports/>

The report details the work of Caritas in the Diocese.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AT ST. MARYS.

Children in Year 9 or above, will have the opportunity to begin their preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Confirmation programme will take place in St Mary's Presbytery, 13 Gatefield Street, Crewe, CW1 2JP with the Diocesan SYMT commencing on Monday 15th January 2024 at 7:00pm finishing at 8.30pm. There will be a total of 8 sessions altogether. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be given by Bishop Mark on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7pm.

If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation please register online at: www.stmarycrewe.org.uk (blue button on the home screen) or follow the link to complete the form <https://contacts.stmaryscrewe.org.uk/form/#/show/10>
Any enquiries please contact the office.

Wishing all the congregation at St Mary's a blessed and happy Christmas from Caritas Shrewsbury

And many thanks for all your generous and encouraging support throughout 2023. It is a delight to see the many groups and organisations making use of the centre each week and I'm sure you will all be pleased to see the developments outside, including the installation of a beautifully decorated bench, sponsored by the COOP and designed by a local school pupil, the new raised beds and shed to grow our Incredible Edible project.

We have also just received funding to install a Community Fridge at the centre. We have run some successful activity sessions for families, and we are looking to run a monthly family fun session on a Saturday afternoon in the New Year as well as a weekly coffee shop/café. To do this we need volunteers, if you are interested in volunteering please contact me at: becky.hurst@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk, 07394 568 255 or if I'm in the office when your passing do pop in to say hello.

With every best wish for a joyful Christmas and hopeful 2024 Becky Community Builder – Caritas Shrewsbury

LIGHT UP!

Saint Thomas More Choir have been busy recording their very own Christmas Song. It was released at 8am Wednesday 13th December. The song is called 'Light Up' and Miss Stubbs wrote it especially for the school choir. The song will be available on all music platforms including Spotify, Amazon Music, iTunes, YouTube, TikTok and many more! They would love to get their Christmas song on the charts, and even better to Christmas Number 1 - we got to dream big right?! But, they can't do that without your help!

Please listen to their song, share it amongst friends and family and on your social media. The song will be played on The Cat Radio throughout the run up to Christmas. Miss Stubbs will also try and get it promoted in the Crewe Chronicle and maybe on the local news channel too. If you are part of any business, radio or know anyone in the music or TV industry who can help them to promote their song, please get in touch with Miss Stubbs on miss.l.stubbs@st-thomasmore.cheshire.sch.uk
You can listen here: [Light Up \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LightUp)

CHRISTMAS FOR ASYLUM SEEKER CHILDREN

Thank you for all your support over the last months in helping the asylum seekers feel welcome in our country. In particular, at this time of the year, many thanks to all of you who have donated for the Christmas appeal, and will thus ensure that the children will have a present for Christmas this year, and they will also have some warm clothing. Please keep all the families in your prayers as for some of them it will be a difficult time and they will be thinking of loved ones they left behind in their home countries. Once again, many thanks for your kind support, and have a Blessed and peaceful Christmas.

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS



We are now accepting donations for this year's Christmas Flowers. Please write the person's name (IN CAPITALS PLEASE) for whom you wish to dedicate the flowers to and put them in an envelope. Please return the envelope to the Parish Office (9am - 2pm Monday to Friday) or in the Offertory

Collections by **1pm on Friday 22nd December** at the latest please. A maximum of two names may be offered for each envelope. The names will be read out during the Eucharistic Prayer at Christmas Midnight Mass.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

NEXT MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 17TH JANUARY 2024 AT 2PM in the Caritas Centre.

A presentation will be given by Maxine Hopkins on the work carried out by Marriage Care. All ladies are welcome to join us.

LATH NEWS

The LATH drop-in centre is open every Tuesday and Thursday in the Caritas Centre, from 10 am to 1pm, providing a wide range of facilities to help homeless and needy people, including morning coffee and teas, and a light lunch. You could help by becoming a Friend of LATH.

LOURDES HOSPITALITY UPDATE

Further to the recent AGM, the officers have been meeting monthly to discuss the issues raised and future plans. A face-to-face meeting for all members will be held on Saturday 20th January 2024 (venue and time to be confirmed). In the meantime, if you have any questions for us, please send an email to : secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

MOTHERS PRAYERS

Mothers Prayers meetings take place on the first Thursday of each month after 12 noon Mass and will finish at approximately 1.30pm. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 4th January**. All mothers in the parish are most welcome. For any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact Anne Walker on 07961 461186.

SAINT MARY'S PRAYER GROUP

Will be taking a break now and will return in the New Year on Sunday 7th January 2024.

RCIA PROGRAMME

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD?

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th December 2023 in the Parish Rooms, the topic will be 'Advent and Christmas. Reflect and Celebrate'. The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Sacrament of the Sick. For further information contact the Parish Administrator on 01270 212533.

SCRIPTURE GROUP

The Scripture Group will be taking a break now for Christmas and will next meet on Thursday 4th January 2024 in the 'Blue Room' from 10:45am.



TWELFTH NIGHT Social Evening
Friday 5th January 2024 7pm – 9:30pm

Caritas Centre
Light refreshments, BYO drinks
£10 per ticket or on the door
Quiz and Grand Raffle – donate your unwanted pressies for prizes!
Proceeds for Fr George in Kenya



ST MARY'S SVP

The SVP will next meet in the Caritas centre on Wednesday 3rd January at 10:30am.

SVP ADVENT APPEAL

The SVP 's Advent Appeal this year will be for St Paul's Foodbank.

There is an urgent need for food donations as an ever-increasing number of families in Crewe are struggling. All donations must be long life food and items before their best before date. Some suggested items are tinned soups, tinned vegetables, tinned puddings, tea bags, jars of coffee, tinned fish, meats and cereals. There will be a donation box in the porch starting this weekend. Thank you in anticipation.

Privacy Notice: The parish of St Mary's sometimes collects 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/aboutus/privacy-notice.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The total for last weekends Offertory was £1536.67 approx. This total includes standing orders. Thank you for all you do to support the mission of Saint Mary's Parish.

Parish Priest: Father Nicholas Kern, Saint Mary's Presbytery, 13 Gatefield Street, Crewe, CW1 2JP **Telephone:** 01270 212533

Email: stmarys@stmaryscrewe.org.uk  [@stmaryscrewe](https://twitter.com/stmaryscrewe)

 St. Mary's RC Church, Crewe

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Sue Sarson can be contacted via the Presbytery Office.

RC Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity No. 234025. Please remember the Parish in your will!