

BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

KNUTSFORD ROAD, WARRINGTON, WA4 1JE

SERVING: LATCHFORD, GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL
IN THE SOUTH WARRINGTON AND LYMM LPA



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9 DECEMBER 2018

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Weekly Bulletin

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. It is time, the prophet Baruch says, "to take off your robe of mourning and misery," for God is leading his people "with his mercy and justice for company." God's people "are wrapped in the cloak of justice from God," and they "will be named by God forever the peace of justice."

Paul, too, speaks of joyful anticipation, of waiting for "the day of Christ Jesus." He encourages the Philippians to grow in "love, understanding, wealth of experience, clear conscience, and blameless conduct," and he con-

cludes with a wish: "that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you."



The message of John the Baptist is to prepare the way for the coming of Christ, to make straight the windings and to make smooth the rough ways.

We need a "baptism of repentance," a cleansing from the old ways of "greed and darkness" and a commitment to a new way of living. We need to challenge the wisdom of the world in the way it was challenged by that prophet in the desert.

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***One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and
to inquire in his temple. ~ Psalm 27:4***

This beautiful verse from Psalm 27 floats into my mind's eye every Sunday when I arrive in church (less harried than I used to be, now that my children are grown!) and sink onto the kneeler for a moment of quiet prayer before Mass begins. There are few more beautiful depictions of the search for God: the image of the solitary worshiper, enveloped in quiet as she gazes on the loveliness of the Lord in the serenity of his house. Such worship is purposeful, however, not passive. In this brief verse, there are no fewer than three Hebrew words for "seek" or "search for," each one with a different shade of meaning, all of them collectively signifying that worship is nothing less than the quest for God. To situate ourselves in the space where God is, to contemplate not ourselves but God, to seek God's guidance for our lives, this is the very stuff of the life of faith. While we may find the Lord anywhere — on a yoga mat, atop a paddle board, even, I suppose, on the golf course — our relationship with God blossoms most fully in the context of the regular exercise of religion. Being "spiritual, not religious" is not sufficient for the long run. We are called to place ourselves intentionally within the physical and temporal structures in which God may speak to us: the liturgy, the scriptures, the space of the church itself. God's revelation does not appear "on demand," like a cable movie; it emerges unexpectedly amid rite and ritual that we share with a community. The solitary seeker portrayed in today's psalm is not giving a status update; he is issuing an invitation to all of us to join him.

***God of glory and majesty, grant that I may wholeheartedly
seek the joy of dwelling in your presence, now and forever.
Amen.***

Elizabeth Kirkland Cahill

THIS WEEK		
Sat 8 Dec	Teas & Mince Pies - Legion of Mary	After 5.30 Mass
Mon 10 Dec	Sacramental Preparation Session	5-6 pm
Tues 11 Dec	CLC	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Wed 12 Dec	SVP	7.00pm
Wed 12 Dec	Making Space for the Spirit	7.30-9.00 pm
COMING UP		
Mon 17 Dec	Church Cleaning	After 9.00 Mass
Mon 17 Dec	Our Lady's Primary School Carol Service	6.00 pm
Tues 18 Dec	Parish Carol Service with Lydian Singers	<u>7.30 pm</u>
Thurs 20 Dec	Advent Reconciliation Service	7.00 pm

Help provide vital support to the homeless and other struggling people in Warrington by buying Gift Card for the **Room at the Inn and Y Project** : **RED £1** for a warm meal - **Blue £2.50** a bed for the night - **BLACK £5** a warm meal and bed. Put your donations in the slot on our wall panel by the display cabinet.

St Joseph's Family

Centre request donations of Breakfast Cereals and Long Life Milk. If you bring them to church we will pass them on. Thankyou.



Thank you once again for all your generous donations to **CARE UK** (Aid to Refugees). With the help of other agencies, we are sending aid to the Greek Island of Lesbos, where overcrowded conditions are causing much distress. Keep up the good work. Warm clothing, towels, bedding, soap, toothpaste/brushes - women's hygiene etc. Pauline and Austin 01925 266542 or Pauline's number 07718974503.

MONEY MATTERS The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity No. 234025

Collection W/E 2.12.18 - £886.23 (Plus £334.13) in Standing Orders)

200 Club Winner 2/12/18 is No. 69 - M Mannion - wins £70

Please note that cheques for Mass Offerings, Donations etc should be made

payable to *Blessed John Henry Newman Parish*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY

TO THE PARISH, ITS CLERGY AND TO THE CHARITIES WE SUPPORT

Mass Times and other Services



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat 8 Dec	5.30 pm	A Phelim O'Neill RIP B Tom Lyskey RIP
Sunday 9 December	9.00 am 11.00 am	A. John Turner (Special Int) B. Joan Riley Int Dave & Deirdre Intentions
Monday 10 December	8.45 am 9.00 am	Morning Prayers Parishioners' Intentions
Tues 11 Dec		No Services Today
Wednesday 12 December	8.45 am 9.00 am	Morning Prayers Tessie and Pat Noone RIP
Thursday 13 December	6.30 pm 7.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Kenneth Reece RIP
Friday 14 December	8.45 am 9.00 am 12 Noon	Morning Prayers Ronnie Harding RIP Funeral Service for Joan Grant RIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat 15 Dec	5.30 pm	A Safe Delivery Intentions B Dec'd of McNicholas & Byron Families
Sunday 16 December	9.00 am 11.00 am	George Agdon RIP A. Dot, Terry & Mark Stacey RIP B. Thanksgiving

Kindly remember to pray for, all the faithful departed, those living with or recovering from illness or undergoing medical treatment including: Sister Catherine, Vera Allen, Marc Bailey, Mary Birks, Amanda Bradbury, Vera Bradbury, Kath Bradley, Dawn Brindle, Archie Brocklehurst, Barbara Carter, Jack Child, Ethan Connolly, Catherine Coyne, John Daintith, Monica Dixon, Jimmy Evans, Larry Finn, Claire Hogan, Philip Gater, Laurie Gilfedder, Maureen Gingell, Teresa Glover, Jamie Graham, Chris Haynes, Helen Holdbrook, Mary Howard, Graham Hutson, Joan Johnson, Lilly Kelly, Diana Kerr, Wendy Kirkpatrick, Bet Leigh, Esther Lloyd Jones, Maria Mahon, Renaldo Marcella, Lynda McCloud, Abigail McNicholas, Fred Mouldsdale, Eileen Moyse, James O'Hara, May O'Rourke, Charles Pendry, Margaret Pickup, Brian Porter, Tony Potter, Fionuala Price, David Prince, Margaret Quinn, Joan Riley, Christine Rowe, Shelley Scott, Darcie Sharp, Hazel Sudell, Michael Swift, Howard Tomlinson, Eileen Trantum, Coen & Zion Unruh, Pamela Verdon, Ken Wainwright, Ben Watson, Ann Weiss, John Williams & Colin Wright.