

Beck Sian There are posters at the back of church if you know of any place that would display one. I am hoping that Beck will be here this week to visit and see the church before her concert on Friday 14th December, starting at 7.30pm. She will be singing a variety of songs, some she has written herself and other of a more traditional nature. Christmas will be the theme and I hope it will be a quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of preparations. Please tell your friends all about it.

My Day by Day there are still a few copies at the back of church. They have already been paid for so if you have not made any plans yet as to how to make Advent a special time this year, why not take one and spend a little time each day reading and reflecting upon the Scripture readings of this tremendous season.

Traidcraft A last chance to stock up on fairly traded goods before Christmas. This week after the Sunday masses in the hall. There will be a raffle for a fair-traded pudding as well as mince pies made from ethical goods. Don't forget your purses!

Catholic Voice The current issue of the Diocesan newspaper is available at the back of church. It is mainly given over to the meeting of those involved in the Local Pastoral Areas and contains, in full, the Bishop's address. Please take a copy and have a read.

Diocese Year Book The year books have finally arrived! They contain all the details of parishes of the diocese, mass times and clergy details, the various organisations that work in the diocese and articles about things that happened last year. £2.50 each.

Gift Aid Our annual collection has been increased by the magnificent amount of £3579.84 and all this is FREE! Thanks to those who are part of the Gift Aid scheme. If you pay tax and are a regular contributor to the parish and have not as yet signed up for this free cash, please think about it and contact either Michael Hartley or me.

Rome re-union For those who went to Rome this year (and those who would like to come along as see what we did) we are having a little social after the 6.30pm mass on Saturday 26th January in the school hall. There will be photos and food and stories.

Calling all singers! If you enjoy singing and think you might enjoy joining a choir then why not contact the **Pradoe Singers**. They are looking for new members. Call John on 610541 or Simon on 831172 and join in the music making.

It's Official!! Didn't have the courage to climb on the scales this morning! Think last week will go down as non-week.

At Your Word Lord. Sr. Jo is leading this time of prayer and reflection in the convent every Friday starting at 7.30pm.

Biblical misspellings The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.

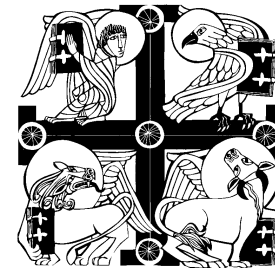
OUR LADY HELP of CHRISTIANS & St OSWALD

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Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways, so that we might walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem. Isaiah 2:2-3



St. John of the Cross compares our pre-Advent selves to green logs that have been thrown into the fire, the fire of love. Green logs do not immediately burst into flames. Rather, being young and full of moisture, they sizzle for a long time before they reach kindling temperature and take themselves to the fire that is all around them. So, too, the rhythm of love; only the really mature can burst into flame within the community. The rest of us are still too green, too selfish, too damp.

What helps change this is precisely the tension in our lives. In carrying properly our unfulfilled desires, we sizzle and slowly let go of the dampness of selfishness. In carrying the tension we come to kindling temperature and are made ready for love.

Advent should not be confused with Lent. The crimson-purple of Advent is not the black-purple of Lent. The former symbolises yearning and longing, the latter repentance. The spirituality of Advent is about carrying tension without prematurely resolving it so that we do not short-circuit the fullness that comes from respecting love's rhythms. Only when there is enough heat will there be unity. To give birth to what is divine requires the slow patience of gestation.

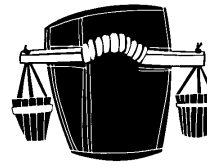
Mothers know this. They are our examples for this Advent Season. We look to them to help us understand what patient care is all about. We see in them a love that is growing within. We look to Mary and Elizabeth as they await the months of pregnancy in order to give birth to their children; gifts from the God of love who desired to become one like us.

**Newsletter for Sunday 2nd December 2007
First Sunday in Advent**

Mass Times and Intentions of Holy Mass

Sundays Year A: Psalter Week One

Sat	1st	6.30pm	Jack Conde	
Sun	2nd	9am	Anna Lumby	1st Sunday of Advent (Year A)
		11am	Parishioners	
Mon	3rd	9.30am	Word & Communion	
Tue	4th	7pm	Word & Communion	
Wed	5th	9.30am	Word & Communion	
Thu	6th	9.30am	In Thanksgiving (C.N.)	
Fri	7th	10am	Funeral David Jones	
Sat	8th	10am	Ian Kent	The Immaculate Conception
		6.30pm	Parishioners	
Sun	9th	9am	James Cranage	
		11am	Bob Lorenzo	



Justice & Peace In the porch I have put a ladder to show how we are progressing towards our £1000 target for the Advent charities. If you wish to leave a donation then put it in an envelope and add it to the mass collection.

Many requests are made of us in this time of Christmas. We are constantly reminded about those for whom Christmas is a time of hunger and homelessness, a time that highlights the plight of the exile and the refugee. The Christmas story is our constant reminder that the Holy Family were themselves exiles and refugees. Please be as generous as you can. If we all give £1 extra each week then our target is well within our grasp.

Advent Shoe boxes If you are able to make up a shoebox of little goodies for the under fives I can assure you it will be much appreciated in the home of one of the families that our Children's Society support all through the year. We have so much and each box will help us to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas. If we collect these during the four weeks of Advent, one of the Society members will come and collect them. I suggest we try to get as many boxes into church by the 3rd week of Advent, 16th December. This will leave time to have them delivered ready for Christmas Day.



Advent & Christmas dates.

12th Dec.	"School Carols by Candlelight"
13th Dec	First Forgiveness for the children.
14th Dec	Concert. Beck Sian
19th Dec	Parish Advent Reconciliation Service
20th Dec	Weston Rhyn Christmas Carol Concert
24th Dec	Christmas Eve masses. 6pm & 8pm
25th Dec	Christmas Day masses. 9am & 11am

Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading	Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm	Psalm 121
2nd Reading	Romans 13:11-14
Gospel	Matthew 24:37-44

Next Week

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 71
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

Sacrament of Reconciliation By appointment. Please contact Fr. Philip.

Those who are sick: Barbara Williams, George Lee, Evelyn Lloyd-Williams, Barbara McDougal, Matthew Walton, Irene Cranage, Fr. Adrian Tate, Fr. Frank McManus, Sr. Patricia, Joyce Williams, Liam Lynch, Annie Bough, Hughie Crawford, Bob Davies, James Tomley, James McDougall, Richard Burman, Gerald Jones, Joanna Gidge, Kathleen Bebb, Rev John Warnock,

Anniversaries in December. Martin Kilbane, Rose Rogers, Catherine Shepherd, Samuel Morrison, Raymond McCurrach, Victor Walker, John Pryce, Winifred Sauer, Agnes Pratley, Thomas Evans, George Baures, Margaret McGovern, Mary Rogers, Edward Ryan, Annie Duddlestone, Joseph Cassie Albert Tincello, Hgnat Barna, Marie Cabe, Mary Lee, Mary Longueville, William Tincello, Patrick Sullivan, Kathleen Thomas, Mary Anderson, Veronica Clowes, Helen Pitts, Francis Tedesch, Anthony Attah, Anne Jones, Mary Nyland, Brian O'Brien, Mary Goddard, Matthew McConville, James Kelly, Harold Mitchell, Richard Challinor, Kenneth Whale, Gertrude Singer, Alice Barton, Jeffrey Grant, John Davies, Mary Howell



Offertory Collection £519.39. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Christmas Cards! Many apologies. I was hoping that I could overprint a Christmas message onto last year's blank cards. However the card is too thick to go through the photocopier and the ink is too shiny to be able to fix the printing. So please be as creative as you were last year. Cards and envelopes will be available next week in packs of ten. We have cleared the printing costs and now we can make a small profit.

Weston Rhyn will be leading us in a Carol Concert on 19th December starting at 7.30pm. Please come along and join in the music. There will be no admission charge but we will have a collection that will go to support the work of Homeless in Oswestry Action Partnership, the local charity that supports those without a roof over their heads. How very appropriate for the Christmas Season!

Christmas Stamps. The new stamps this year are small, beautiful and, for the first time in a long time, of a religious nature. No robins, snowflakes or jolly Father Xmas! However there has been a suggestion that, in order not to offend the non-religious in the community, the stamps are not being promoted as much as they have been in the past. Rumour has it that they are being kept "under the counter"! So when you buy your stamps please be brave and ask the staff for Christmas stamps.

