

Beck Sian There are posters at the back of church if you know of any place that would display one. Beck will be singing here 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.

Flowers This year we are hoping to decorate the church with poinsettias. If you are able to buy one or two then please leave them in the church on Fri. 21st Dec. this will give time for the arrangers to arrange them! If you want to make a contribution to the Christmas flowers then please use the small box on the back table.

Traidcraft There will be another chance to buy raffle tickets for the Various Traidcraft Christmas gifts. They will be on sale at the back of the church after all masses.

Diocesan Finance Report. There are two copies of the Diocese Accounts for year ending March 2007. If you would like to see them then either read them in church or take a copy home for a few days.

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.

Christian Unity Week starts on Sunday 20th January with a joint service at Oswestry Baptist Church (Cornerstone) at 6.30pm. We will be the hosts of the service on Sat. 26th January at 12 noon. This will be followed by light refreshments in the school hall. Would some folk like to volunteer to help organise the food?

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!! Another pound! I wonder what the weight will be on Jan 1st!!!! Will have to start all over again?

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

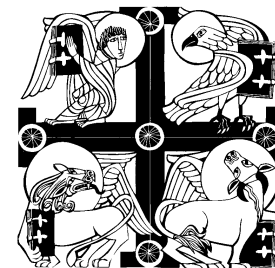
OUR LADY HELP of CHRISTIANS & St OSWALD

Cae Nef, Upper Brook St. Oswestry. SY11 2TG
01691 652248

Parish Priest: Fr. Philip McGovern
philip.mcgovern2@btinternet.com

Deacons: Rev Stephen McKenna. 01691 654983
Rev Joseph Stefanazzi

Website oswestry-catholics.org.uk



A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrust from his roots; on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord and he does not judge by appearances. Isaiah 11:1

All four Gospels testify to an important truth. John the Baptist stands at the beginning of the Gospel. He is the one who marks the end of the time of waiting and the beginning of the new age in Jesus. He is the last of the great prophets. His voice proclaims the message that the generations had longed and waited for.

John calls the whole of Israel, without exception, to a change of heart. If the people do not change, says John, they will be overtaken by a catastrophe that will destroy Israel. The judgement of the people will not be carried out by John himself; he only speaks for the one who was to come and judge. John calls to mind the infidelity of the people of Israel. We recognise the one John spoke of as Jesus, the one who will come without warning and calls all to a change of heart, a *metanoia*, a re-alignment of the direction of life and love.

That same call is addressed to us. We hear it especially during the season of Advent when we too are called to change our selfish ways. There are no exceptions. We are all aware of those areas of our lives that need the healing touch of forgiveness; the touch that will melt our cold hard hearts and allow the blood to flow the veins again. We all need to be forgiven. We all need to be reminded of how good we can be. We all need to be given the courage to live out the promises made when we were baptised.

Unlike the Baptist, we need not trek into the wilderness to hear the Word of God. We hear it every time we gather as a community. We hear it in *this* place with those who are our brothers and sisters. We hear it here and are called to act upon it. We are all called to change!



**Newsletter for Sunday 9th December 2007
Second Sunday in Advent**

Mass Times and Intentions of Holy Mass

Sundays Year A: Psalter Week Two

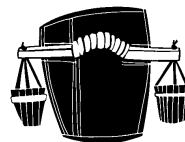
Sat	8th	6.30pm	Parishioners	
Sun	9th	9am	James Cranage	2nd Sunday of Advent (Year A)
		11am	Bob Lorenzo	
Mon	10th	9.30am	In thanks (H.M.)	
Tue	11th	7pm	John Blaylock	
Wed	12th	9.30am	Sheila Gadd	
Thu	13th	9.30am	Special Intention	St. Lucy
Fri	14th	12noon	Sick, Poor & Lonely	St. John of the Cross
Sat	15th	6.30pm	Patrick & Mary Lee	
Sun	16th	9am	Parishioners	3rd Sunday of Advent
		11am	Edith Bertha Mallett	



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

Advent Shoe boxes If there are any boxes made up and wrapped for the Children's Society Christmas appeal then please bring them along and we will stack them by the lectern. Boxes are to be designed for the under fives and I can assure you it will be much appreciated in the homes 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. 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.



Justice & Peace Thank you too all those who got our Advent collection off to a great start last week. There was £157.25 in the glass jar. If you want to organise a coffee-morning or similar in order to raise a few more pounds then let me know the details and I will promote it in the newsletter.

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.

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!

School Christmas Party for Senior Citizens The children of the school will be hosting an afternoon of refreshments and entertainment from 2-3pm on Thur. 20th Dec. If you know of anyone who is normally housebound and would like an couple of hours with the children then please let the school know. If you can arrange transport for them as well, even better!

Christmas Cards! The cards are going well so don't leave it too late! Cards and envelopes are available at £3 for a pack of ten. We have cleared the printing costs and now we can make a small profit. If we do something similar next year I will make sure that there is a Christmas message and details of the chosen image.

Christmas Stamps. Thank you for the positive feedback about the "under-the-counter" religious stamps! It seems that some of the Post Office staff are promoting the stamps and asking if they are wanted. I was offered them two weeks ago and there was nothing subversive about it. Let's hope many people use the "little angels" to take their cards all over the world this Christmas



Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm Psalm 71
2nd Reading Romans 15:4-9
Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Next Week

Isaiah 35:1-6
 Psalm 145
 James 5:7-10
 Matthew 11:2-11

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 Bauress, 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 Chalinor, Kenneth Whale, Gertrude Singer, Alice Barton, Jeffrey Grant, John Davies, Mary Howell



Offertory Collection £581.79 Thank you for your continued generosity.

