

Welcome to baby Daniel Hodgson who was baptised here on Saturday. We pray for his parents, family and friends and hope he lives up to his name, Daniel, "God is my strength!"

Retired Priest's Collection There will be a retiring collection to support the priests of our diocese who have toiled in the vineyard and now resting in the shade of retirement. Please be as generous as you can. The parish has never been without a priest and a priest has only been available because a man has chosen to serve God's people in this particular way. And if you are a tax-payer then Gift Aid will boost your contribution. We will take the collection during the weekend of 12th/13th January. There will be envelopes at the back of the church next week.

Churches Together in Oswestry this weekend we will be part of the congregation that will welcome the community of St. Michael's, Llanyblodwel. We will remember them in our prayers at all masses this weekend. Epiphany is the season of the year when Christ was made known to all people. A great day for a great ecumenical celebration.

A Celebration of Married Life The Bishop will celebrate a mass on Saturday 9th February at St. Columba's in Chester at 2pm. This will be a mass of thanksgiving for all married couples and there will be an opportunity for the renewal of marriage vows.

Christian Unity Week starts on Sunday 20th January with special prayers at all masses as well as all the other churches in Oswestry praying for that day when there will be but one Church. We are the hosts for the final service on **Fri. 26th** Jan at 12 noon. I would like as many as possible to join us that day. Also if a small team could make provision for light refreshments after the service I would be grateful. Next week I will advertise the times and venues for all the other unity services. We do not have the option to opt out of praying and working for Church Unity. Please make every effort to attend at least on service.

Lent 2008! We have not yet finished the Christmas season yet still we have to make ourselves aware that Easter is about as early as it can be this year (23rd March!). This means that Ash Wednesday is 6th February. I am planning on a series of short services/prayer evenings and music for these six weeks as we prepare for Easter. In order for as many people to attend they will be on different days and at different times. As soon as it is finalised I will print details in the newsletter.

Rome re-union The bill has finally arrived from Owens' for the coach to the airport. Would the pilgrims leave me £14 each to cover the cost. Thank you. And don't forget 26th Jan for the reunion

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

Love is When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth. Billy 4yrs.
.. What makes you smile when you are tired. Terri 4yrs.

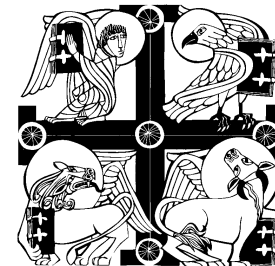
OUR LADY HELP of CHRISTIANS & St OSWALD

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God our Father, you are the guardian and guide of our lives. Your word is joy, your will is life, your commands bring peace. Watch over and guide us as you did your Son's earthly family. Through our celebration help us respond to your will.

The Wicked Fairy at the Manger

My gift for the child?

No wife, kids, home;
No money sense. Unemployable.
Friends, yes. But the wrong sort.
The work-shy, women, wogs,
Petty infringers of the Law persons
With notifiable diseases,
Poll tax collectors, tarts,
The bottom rung.

His end?

I think we will make it
Public, prolonged, painful.

*Right, said the baby. That was roughly
What we had in mind.*

U.A. Fanthorpe.



Newsletter for Sunday 30th December 2007
Feast of the Holy Family

Mass Times and Intentions of Holy Mass

Sundays Year A: Psalter Week One

Sat	29th	6.30pm	Private Intention (P.D.)	
Sun	30th	9am	Parishioners	Feast of the Holy Family
		11am	Celeste van Langenberg	
Mon	31st	9.30am	John Poland	
Tue	1st	12noon	Janet Mary Meredith	Mary, Mother of God
Wed	2nd	9.30am	Maura Quinn	St. Basil the Great
Thu	3rd	9.30am	Alan & Arthur Greene	
Fri	4th	12noon	Barna Chilaka	
Sat	5th	6.30pm	Parishioners	
Sun	6th	9am	Brendan Halley	Epiphany of the Lord
		11am	Betty Rowe	



Many thanks again to all those who helped make Christmas such a great celebration. When I wrote last week's newsletter, the church had yet to be decorated. May I take this opportunity to repeat my thanks to Linda and June for the many hours work spent decorating the church. It raised everybody's spirits and gave a beautiful setting to the Christmas liturgies.

Thanks to Philip Kynaston who came and supported the singing by his organ playing. It was good to hear the organ again and if you know of anyone who could volunteer to play, even on an occasional basis, then please let me know.

Thanks to those who were able to come to the morning masses during the octave of Christmas. There are so many important feast days in that time and much for us to reflect upon.

Thanks to those who came to the Reconciliation Service. It was an uplifting evening and gave many people the chance to spend time preparing for the Birth of Christ.

Thanks to those who supported the various musical events during Advent. I would like to see more of such evenings in church.

Thanks to Bridie and the team of cleaners who always leave the church looking and smelling so clean and fresh.

Thanks for the cards, presents and Christmas collection. Be assured they will all be appreciated (and enjoyed over the next few months!!)

Advent Shoe boxes Many thanks again for all those who left boxes for the Children's Society. Those who left boxes for Christmas will be pleased to know that they will be taken to the Society office when the tree comes down (after mass next week!). By that time I will also have a figure for the amount raised with the Crib Collection.

Justice & Peace The final figure that was raised for CAFOD and the other Advent projects was £590.95. Thank you for your generosity. We also received a donation for £500 to add to the parish collection. I will be sending off cheques to CAFOD and the other two charities and am sure that our offerings will be used for the good of many people.

Stamps and Christmas cards. Please remember to save your stamps and religious cards when you dismantle the decorations and we will send them the Poor Clares in Ellesmere. They all help to raise money.

Mass Times Many apologies for the slight mix up in times of masses last week. My only excuse was that they were right in one of the books but I forgot to change the times on the newsletter. Please note that the mass for 1st January will be at mid-day. This will give a chance to have a good New Year's Eve party and still be here to celebrate the feast of Mary Mother of God. I have decided that for a six month period I will change the time of the monthly "children's" mass from 9am to 11am. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, many parents find it very difficult to get the family up and ready for the early mass. And secondly there is a possibility that we could have musicians to help support the music at this mass. Please let me know how you feel about this and we will review the situation in July. I feel that we must do everything we can to encourage the parents of the school pupils to make Sunday mass a priority in their week.

CHRISTMASTIME

Next Week

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 71
Ephesians 3:2-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
Psalm Psalm 83
2nd Reading 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Gospel Luke 2:41-52

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

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

Anniversaries in January William Owen, Leonard Hand, Theresa Charles, Catherine Wilson, Vera hands, John Murray, Gerald Smith, Mary Challinor, Mary Kemp, Brendan Halley, Beatrix Alves, Kathleen Williams, David Evans, Elizabeth Tomley, Margaret Jones, Catherine Sullivan, Thomas Powell, Nora Wilcox, John Joy, Francis Murray, Celia Roscoe, Peter Morrissey, Dorothy Hartley, Mary Donovan, John King, Kathleen Jones, Mary Gadd, Eileen O'Connor, Albert Saunders, Susan Rowe, Maria Ingram, Margaret Evans, Michael McDade, Kathleen Harris, Carl Walker, Kathleen Griffiths, Roy Winterbottom, Thomas Marshall, Joyce Price, Leonard Challenor, Evelyn Dobson, Winifred Jones, Thomas Jordan, Lucy Grant, Dorothy Price, Barbara Vidal.

Offertory Collection £569.63. Thank you for your generosity.

