



**Ss Joseph & Teresa Parish, Wells,**  
*(Also serves St Michael, Shepton Mallet)*  
 16 Chamberlain Street, Wells BA5 2PF Tel. 01749 673183  
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 Parish Priest: Fr Philip Thomas

**ADVENT III**  
**Third Sunday of Advent 2009**

<b>Sunday and Weekday Worship in Wells</b>	
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	6.00pm Vigil Mass (Joseph Burke RIP)
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.00am Solemn Mass <b>4.00pm Vespers &amp; Benediction</b>
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>St John of the Crossn</u> 9.30am Mass ( )
Tue 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>Advent Feria</u> 9.30am Mass ( )
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>Advent Feria</u> 9.30am Mass ( )
Thu 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>Late Advent Feria - O Sapientia</u> 9.30am Mass ( ) <b>11.00am End of Term Mass in school</b>
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>Late Advent Feria – O Adonai</u> 9.30am Mass (Sheila Neary RIP) <b>7.00pm Candle-lit “Rorate” Mass of Our Lady in the Extra-ordinary Form</b>
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>Late Advent Feria – O Radix Jesse</u> 9.30am Mass
<b>Next Week: ADVENT IV</b>	
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	6.00pm Vigil Mass ( )
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.00am Solemn Mass <b>4.00pm Vespers &amp; Benediction</b>
<b>Confessions</b> Normally, the holy Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturdays, Noon to 12.30pm in Shepton and from 5.00pm to 5.30pm in Wells. Do ring and check	

Last weekend’s collection for our Christmas Flowers raised £185.39

**This weekend there is a second collection for REACHING THE UNREACHED**

**ANNIVERSARIES AT THIS TIME** Giovanni Porfiro (1991), Frederick Speed (2000), George Smith (2000), Ena MacMahon (1993), Gertrude Worley (2000), Joseph Adang (2005), Anthony Trenchard (2003) *Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.* May the Lord grant them eternal rest and light.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Choir meets in the church this Thursday at 7pm. Please speak to Fr Philip or Ruth Hudson if you would like to have a go

**NEW TO THE PARISH?** You are very welcome. Please make yourself known, and, if you are attending the 9am Mass, do please join us for coffee afterwards. It would be helpful to us if you would fill in one of the yellow registration forms in the porch

**Worship in Shepton**

Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> <b>11.00am Mass ( ) followed by ‘Paint it in Pink’</b> 6.30pm Mass at All Hallows’ Prep School, ( )
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>St John of the Cross</u> 9.15am Liturgy of the Word and HC
Tue 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>Advent Feria</u> 9.15am Mass
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>Advent Feria</u> 9.15 am Liturgy of the Word and HC
Thu 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>Late Advent Feria</u> 9.15am Mass
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>Late Advent Feria</u> 9.15am Liturgy of the Word and HC
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<u>Late Advent Feria</u> Confessions
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Advent IV</b> 11.00am Mass ( ) 6.30pm Mass at All Hallows’ Prep School, ( )

**PRACTICAL MINISTRIES - ROTAS FOR NEXT WEEK**

<b>CLEANING</b>	<b>COFFEE</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>WELCOMING</b>
<b>BIG CLEAN</b>	Barbara Duncan & Bernadette Green	No flowers during Advent	6pm Chris Wherton 9am The Johns family

**PARISH POCKET DIARIES** have arrived! Please put a donation of £1 in the marked box by the front door. A few Liturgical Yearbooks remain to be sold, price £5.99.

**Hymns**

<b>Opening hymn</b>	<b>575</b>
<b>Presentation</b>	<b>804</b>
<b>Communion</b>	<b>535</b>
<b>Recessional</b>	<b>831</b>

**Mass setting: see separate sheet**

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia. Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life. Alleluia. Open our hearts to your word.*

**TO PONDER OVER DURING THE WEEK – Luke 3:10-18**



And the multitudes asked John, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than is appointed you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?"

And he said to them, "Rob no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." As the people were in expectation, and all men questioned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he were the Christ, John answered them all, "I baptise you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he preached good news to the people.

***Question of the week:*** Have you ever felt or experienced the power of the Holy Spirit?

***Question for the children:*** What is it that makes Jesus so special and different from anyone else we know of?

**ADVENT GOSPEL ENQUIRY** As part of your spiritual preparation for celebrating the birth of Christ, please join a friendly group of parishioners who are meeting this **THURSDAY at 8pm** at the back of the transept/side chapel to discuss the Gospel for next Sunday – Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth after the Annunciation. We hope to see you there!

**BIG CLEAN OF THE CHURCH Saturday 19th December** - Do pop this date in your diary as we hope to see many of you for the Big Clean of the church, starting at 10 o'clock. Please come and help make your church sparkle. Reward a mince-pie, or even two!

**LAST WEEK'S CAKE STALL for the VICTIMS of the LAKE DISTRICT FLOODS** We raised £106. We will send this to The Wainwright Society, which has established a fund for the specific relief of flood victims.

**ATTENTION TRADCRAFT FANS** Our regular December Traidcraft stall is on this weekend – another chance to stock up on all those essentials!

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY		
Thurs 17 Dec	11am School	End of term Mass
Thurs 17 Dec	7.30pm Church	Advent Gospel Enquiry
<b>Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>10.00am Church</b>	<b>THE BIG CLEAN OF THE CHURCH</b>
<b>Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	<b>7.00pm Church</b>	<b>Reconciliation and Confession Service, our spiritual big clean.</b>
Wed 23 Dec	9am – noon Seager Hall	Ecumenical morning of prayer
Thurs 21 Jan	8pm Church	Pastoral Council meeting
Sat 6 Feb	10.15am Church	Parish AGM
Tue 18 <sup>th</sup> May	7pm St Mary's Glastonbury	Deanery Confirmation Mass

**FROM THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY TEAM** We have decided to support a local group which works with local homeless young people. They have asked for CHOCOLATE give to these youngsters. There will be a box in the vestibule until Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Please help us to fill it !!

**PARISH LAY VICE-CHAIRMAN** Nominations are invited for this important role in the parish. The lay vice-chairman assists the Chairman i.e. the Parish Priest. He or she chairs meetings of the Parish Assembly (3 or 4 a year), the Pastoral Council (8 or 9 a year) and quarterly meetings of the Finance & Fabric Committee. The period of office is 3 years from next February. The person elected must be resident within the parish boundary. Peter Baxter has said that he is willing to stand for re-election but other nominations are welcome. The election will take place at the AGM on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Nominations, with the names of proposer and seconder and the consent of the nominee, should be submitted in writing to the Secretary, Barbara Lewis, by 31<sup>st</sup> January.



**CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER** There will be a grown-up Nativity in the Market Place with carol singing and free mince pies from 10am to noon, next Saturday 19 December. Please bring your donations of mince pies to Sue Peel in the market place on the day. On Wednesday 23 December there will be an ecumenical morning of prayer at the Seager Hall from 9am to 12 noon. Come for 15 minutes or longer if you can.

**CHRISTIAN AID** Would anyone wish to take over responsibility for the annual House-to-House collection? Christian Aid week runs from Sunday 9 May to Saturday 15 May 2010. Please contact Florinda Hansom (677061)

### **NOAH'S ARK PRE-SCHOOL: URGENT APPEAL FOR HELP**

There will be a Special General Meeting at the pre-school in Lovers Walk this Friday 18 December at 12.30pm. All parents, committee members and friends of Noah's Ark are urged to attend. At present the pre-school committee does not have a Chairperson or Secretary and is in breach of Charity Regulations. The future of the pre-school is at stake. Noah's Ark would especially welcome members of the parish who may have spare time to help with the running of the pre-school. PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING!

**PRIMARY SCHOOL** Fr Philip will be celebrating an end of term Mass in the School Hall this Thursday 17 December at **11.00am**. All parishioners are most warmly invited to attend.

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD** Copies of the the new rota (on green paper) are now available in pigeonholes. The rota takes us up to the beginning of Lent. We have a good number of readers but there is a particular shortage of men, both at 6pm and 9am. If anyone would like to join this ministry please contact Barbara Lewis (676963 or via parish email address)

**ROBIN WALKER** This will be Robin's first Christmas away from home, and he may not receive many Christmas cards because of address difficulties. If anyone would like to send him a card Peter Baxter and Barbara Lewis have ready addressed sticky labels. Robin is teaching children in six schools in Omagari, in the north of the main island of Japan. He is doing well, and says hi to everyone. He should get the day off on Christmas day, even though Christmas is not generally celebrated in Japan

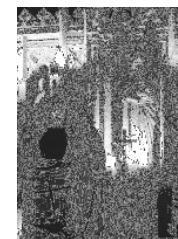
**THANK YOU!** The women of the parish would like to thank the men of the parish for the wonderful celebration on Wednesday evening. Special thanks to Peter Baxter for organising it and to Connie Lane for the liturgy.

**SWEDISH CHRISTMAS** Swedish Christmas starts early. Not only do we have "glögg feasts" (gluwine parties) starting on December 1 and lasting until Christmas but our true celebration begins on December 13 with the Lucia day. It is a celebration of light and the hope that light will soon shine in the darkness. There are thousands of Lucia processions, all throughout Sweden. Every school, every place of work is visited by such a procession. It comprises always of a Lucia (often the most beautiful, and blond girl) that is wearing a white gown and has a crown of candles on her head. Around her waist she



wears a red ribbon. In the procession there are also her maids and "starboys", young men, dressed in white robes with a white cone on their heads. Every Advent Sunday is celebrated in Sweden. For that we have a special candlestick. It is flat with place for 4 candles and each Advent Sunday we light another candle. Christmas Eve is the highlight of the Christmas celebrations. On our tables we have many meat produce; Meatballs, small sausages, Christmas ham, different kinds of pickled herrings, "lutfisk" which is dried fish, cooked and eaten with an egg sauce (it is an acquired taste!) Christmas is really magical in Sweden. Not only the snow, but also the darkness (in Stockholm we have about 1 hour of full daylight at Christmas) and the Swedish custom of putting lights and big, lit paper stars in the windows. Sweden is also where Santa Claus lives, although there are imposters living in both Finland and Norway! *Veronika Borzymowski* ***Recipe for meatballs available from Fr. P***

**SAINT OF THE WEEK** Saint John of the Cross (24 June 1542 — 14 December 1591), born Juan de Yepes Alvarez, was a major figure of the Catholic Reformation, a Spanish mystic, and Carmelite priest, born at Hontoveros, Old Castile. He was a reformer of the Carmelite Order and is considered, along with St Teresa of Avila, as a founder of the Discalced Carmelites. He is also known for his poetry and his studies on the growth of the soul. He was canonized as a saint in 1726 by Pope Benedict XIII. He is one of the thirty-three Doctors of the Church.



**WHAT'S A "RORATE" MASS?** On Friday evening next at 7.00pm Fr. Philip will offer a Rorate Mass of Our Lady by candlelight. This tradition comes from the Catholics of Germany and Austria where it is normally celebrated before dawn! However, since evening Masses have been allowed since WWII, we shall have ours in the evening. The candlelight is an essential part of the exercise. It reminds us that we are in the dark until Mary's childbearing. We are the people who walked in darkness, until the great light shines on us at Midnight Mass. The title comes from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon. The Common of Our Lady in Advent starts with the words of Isaiah, beseeching God to drop down a Saviour from the heavens and to let Him fall from the clouds. With Our Lady's Immaculate Conception a glimmer begins to shine which will attain a glorious blaze in the birth of Blessed Saviour.

If you have not attended Mass in the Extraordinary or More Ancient Use of the Roman Rite, this could be a delightful introduction. [The Ordinary Form or More Recent Use of the Roman Rite is the form we use almost every day]