



Ss Joseph & Teresa Parish, Wells,
(Also serves St Michael, Shepton Mallet)
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 Parish Priest: Fr Philip Thomas

ADVENT IV

Sunday and Weekday Worship in Wells

Sat 19th Dec 6.00pm Vigil Mass (*Tina van Eyken RIP*)
 Sun 20th Dec 9.00am Solemn Mass (*Lloyd Moylan RIP*)
4.00pm Vespers & Benediction
 Mon 21st Dec Late Advent FERIA – O Oriens
 9.30am Mass (*Mary Worley RIP*)
 Tue 22nd Dec Late Advent FERIA – O Rex Gentium
 9.30am Mass ()
 Wed 23rd Dec Late Advent FERIA – O Emmanuel
 9.30am Mass (*Kurtiss Elliott RIP*)
 Thu 24th Dec Late Advent FERIA - Christmass Eve
 9.30am Mass
SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
3.30pm Crib Service
6pm Family Vigil Mass
 Fri 25th Dec **12 Midnight Mass**
8.00am Mass in the Extra-ordinary Form
10.30am Family Mass
 Sat 26th Dec **Feast of St Stephen**
10.00am Mass

Next Week: CHRISTMASS I – Feast of the Holy Family

Sat 26th Dec 6.00pm Vigil Mass ()
 Sun 27th Dec 9.00am Solemn Mass

Confessions 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 REACHING THE UNREACHED raised £167.151

The Collection at all Christmass Masses forms part of the annual income of the Parish Priest.

ANNIVERSARIES AT THIS TIME Anthony Trenchard (2003), Lloyd Moylan (2003), Claire Reville (1996), Lilian Macklin (1985), Teresa Fear (1997), Betty Folley (2006) *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, in the organ gallery, this Thursday at 10.10am. Please speak to Fr Philip or Ruth Hudson if you would like to have a go

Worship in Shepton

Advent IV

Sun 20th Dec 11.00am Mass ()
 6.30pm Mass at All Hallows’ Prep School, ()
 Mon 21st Dec **Late Advent FERIA**
 9.15am Liturgy of the Word and HC
 Tue 22nd Dec **Late Advent FERIA**
 9.15am Mass
 Wed 23rd Dec **Late Advent FERIA**
 9.15 am Liturgy of the Word and HC
 Thu 24th Dec **Late Advent FERIA**
9.00am Mass
Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
6pm Family Vigil Mass at All Hallows School
10.00pm ‘Midnight’ Mass’
 Fri 25th Dec **10.00am Mass**
 Sun 27th Dec **Christmas I**
 11.00am Mass ()
 6.30pm Mass at All Hallows’ Prep School, ()

PRACTICAL MINISTRIES - ROTAS FOR NEXT WEEK

CLEANING	COFFEE	FLOWERS	WELCOMING
Peter & Margaret Lloyd & John Mulvey	Charlotte Lythaby & Maria Mena	Christmas Flowers team	6pm Jenny O’Callaghan 9am The Doyle family

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 20th December. Please help us to fill it !!

Hymns

Opening hymn 29
Presentation 522
Communion 133
Recessional 591

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 1:39-45



Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leapt in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Question of the week: Are we courageous enough to say 'Yes' to God as Mary did?

Question for the children: Are you excited about Christmas coming? Who is more special, God our Father or Father Christmas?

CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER On Wednesday 23rd December there will be a morning of ecumenical prayer at the Seager Hall from 9.00am to Noon. Come for 15 minutes or longer if you can.

CHEDDAR PARISH Fr Philip has received a letter from Fr Tibor and the Pastoral Council of Cheddar, welcoming the Diocesan proposal to link our two parishes. Fr Tibor writes: 'It seems to us a sensible proposal as well and we agree with you that we should start forging contacts without delay.' Damien Clark, of the Cheddar parish, is organising a pilgrimage to Medjugorje departing Bristol Tuesday 25th May 2010 and returning Tuesday 1st June. The cost is £485 per person; that includes flights, transfers from Split and half board at the house at which we stay. There is a £98 single supplement. Damien has a party of 14 confirmed, but the tour operator has reserved more places should anyone else want to join at this favourable price. To contact Damien phone 01934 298243

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)

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 6th 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 31st January

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be on 21st January. We shall be discussing ideas for action in the three areas which we have decided to give special attention to next year: Liturgy, RCIA and Youth. If parishioners have any suggestions to make please contact Fr Philip or Peter Baxter or the secretary, Barbara Lewis, or any of the Pastoral Council members: Danielle Allan, Nell Atkin, Lucy Boulton Smith, Richard Elsom, Francis Floyd, Ruth Hudson, Connie Lane, Jim McDonald, John Mulvey.

PARISH FINANCES

October 09	<i>Offertory</i>	<i>Fabric Fund</i>
Plate etc	823.80	168.64
Standing orders	1,561.00	886.40
Tax refunds	<u>437.68</u>	<u>235.89</u>
Totals	2,822.48	1,291.03

RECONCILIATION SERVICE This Tuesday there will be an opportunity as a community to express our sorrow for sin and our joy at being forgiven. In the context of a Service of the Word, we shall celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Confession. 4 Priests will be available for Confession, our 2 resident clergy, plus Fr. Tony Trafford and the Dean, Fr. Kevin Knox-Leckie.



LA NAVIDAD EN

ESPAÑA Los Belenes: Nativity displays in every town hall, church, market square, shop window and home. These are impressive and can cover massive areas. Some are animated and illuminated and draw huge crowds.

Villancicos: Carols, folk music

style – loud and very lively! Instruments used are the *zambomba* (a rustic drum), *pandereta* (tambourine) and *tambor* (drum).

La Noche Buena: Christmas Eve. The family Christmas Eve meal is the most important of the year and includes seafood, bream, roast lamb, suckling pig, and Cava. Important sweets are *turroí* (almond nougat which has been eaten in Spain for five centuries), *marzipán* and *polvorones* (sweet almond bread).

This enormous dinner is followed by going to Christmas Mass, *la misa del Gallo* which takes place *ad galli cantis* (when the cockerel sings) at 12 midnight – the rooster being the first to announce the birth of Christ.

Navidad: Christmas Day. Continuing the day before, people spend time with their families and eat another large meal. In many families, children enjoy gifts received from Papa Noel. However, the custom of giving gifts on this day is not as popular as in other countries: Spaniards traditionally wait until the Epiphany for this (see below).

Day of the Innocents: (28th December) The anniversary of the murder of the innocents by King Herod of Judea is (ironically) celebrated in a similar way to April Fools' Day.

Nochevieja (Old Night) – New Year's Eve. When the clock (*La Puerta del Sol* in Madrid)) strikes twelve, all Spaniards eat twelve grapes – one for each toll of the bell- to ensure twelve months prosperity for the New Year!

Los Reyes Magos (The Three Kings- Epiphany, 6th January) On 5th January, the eve of Los Reyes Magos, the three wise men (Melchor, Gaspar and Baltasar) arrive from the Orient at Barajas Airport and to parade down the streets of every town in Spain. The event is broadcast on television and the atmosphere is electric! All children leave a clean shoe on the balcony of their home to receive presents, each child having been assigned to one of the three Kings, according to his or place in the family. (Melchor is often the eldest child's designated King and so on). On Los Reyes day itself, everyone eats *Rosca de Reyes*, a huge ring-shaped pastry which tastes like a hot cross bun. This is covered with fruit flavoured jellies, symbolizing the King's jewels. *Beatriz Wade*

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY		
Tue 22 nd Dec	7.00pm Church	Reconciliation and Confession Service, our spiritual big clean.
Wed 23 Dec	9.00am – noon Seager Hall	Morning of Ecumenical Prayer
Wed 6 Jan	7.30pm Church	Epiphany Carol Service
Thurs 21 Jan	8.00pm Church	Pastoral Council meeting
Sat 6 Feb	10.15am Church	Parish AGM
Tue 18 th May	7.00pm St Mary's Glastonbury	Deanery Confirmation Mass

SAINTS OF THE WEEK On the 21st we remember St Peter Canisius, a Jesuit doctor of the Church from the time of the Reformation. He was Dutch and died in 1597. He was a preacher and author of an important catechism as well as a reconciler of many to the Church.

On the 23rd December we remember St John of Kenty (in Poland, near Crakow) or John Cantius. He was a canon regular, one of a number of such saints in the General Calendar of the Church. As a movement in the Church, they predate the Friars, and grew as a response to the Hildebrandine reforms. England produced a saint who founded an order of canons, St Gilbert of Sempringham. John died in 1473. He is the patron of a new order of canons regular in Chicago.



St. Anastasia

Christmass Day is the feast day of St Anastasia of Rome, a virgin martyr. She is remembered at the Dawn Mass in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite. Fr. Philip remembers his sister at that Mass, because Anastasia was her Confirmation name.

On Saturday 26th the Church keeps the feast of St Stephen the First Martyr. Because in England the poor boxes were opened that day to allow the disadvantaged a chance to go on celebrating, we call it Boxing Day. He was stoned to death, and those rocks became his emblem. He is the patron of this country's Catholic altar servers' guild and we shall present his medal to altar servers at Mass that morning.

