



**Ss Joseph & Teresa Parish,
Wells,
(Also serves St Michael,
Shepton Mallet)**

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Parish Priest: Fr Philip Thomas

ADVENT IV (Year A) – O Radix Jesse

Sunday and Weekday Worship in Wells & Shepton

Sat 18 th Dec	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 19 th Dec	9.00am Solemn Mass (<i>Pro Populo</i>) 11.00am Sung Mass in Shepton 4.30 Advent Vespers 6.30pm Mass at All Hallows School, East Cranmore (Alkington Intention)
Mon 20 th Dec	Late Advent Feria – O Clavis David 9.30 Mass
Tue 21 st Dec	Late Advent Feria – O Oriens 9.15am Mass in Shepton 9.30am Mass
Wed 22 nd Dec	Late Advent Feria – O Rex Gentium 9.15am Liturgy of the Word and Communion in Shepton 9.30am Mass ()
Thu 23 rd Dec	Late Advent Feria – O Emmanuel 9.15am Mass n Shepton 9.30am Mass ()
Fri 24 th Dec	Late Advent Feria – Christmass Eve 9.15am Liturgy of the Word and Communion in Shepton 9.30am Last Mass of Advent

FOR CHRISTMASS SERVICES SEE ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Next Week: Christmass I – The Holy Family (YEAR A)

Confessions Normally, the holy Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturdays, Noon to 12.30pm in Shepton & from 5.00pm to 5.30pm in Wells.

The collection for Christmas Flowers raised **£195.00**.

“CHALICERS” A new rota is now in pigeonholes. Please note that there is a sign-up sheet for Christmas and the Feast of the Holy Family

CANDLES AND PRAYER CARDS FOR ADVENT If you have not received the purple candle for use at home (one per family and people who live alone are a family!) please collect one and the final verse of the Advent prayer.



ANNIVERSARIES AT THIS WEEK Joseph Adang (2005), Anthony Trenchard (2003), Lloyd Moylan (2003), Claire Reville (1996), Patrick Seeney (2010), Alan Beck (2010), *Requiam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.* O Lord, grant them eternal rest and may perpetual light shine upon them

PRACTICAL MINISTRIES - ROTAS FOR MON 20TH – SUN 26TH DEC

CLEANING	COFFEE	FLOWERS	WELCOMING
No clean this week	Frankie Lambert & Andy Boothroyd *Fr Philip will be providing mulled wine!	Christmas flowers	6pm No Mass 9am Moira Haines

9.00AM SUNDAY MASS MUSIC:

Hymns- <i>Opening 522</i> <i>Offertory 138</i> <i>Communion 686</i> <i>Final 375</i>	Mass Setting Missa Emmanuel <i>Gospel acclamation Folk alleluia</i>
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1st CONFESSION & H.C. 2011 The cut off for enrolment will be 25th December. The Preparation Course for parents and children will begin in the New Year. The date for First Holy Communion will be **Saturday 9th July**. Fr. Philip will lead the team of catechists, Bea May, Peggy McDonald and Deirdre McGuire.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO USE THE CANDLE STAND AS USUAL, WHILST IT IS ON THE SANCTUARY

LITURGICAL DIARIES AND DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES Copies of these attractive and useful publications are still available in the porch. The diaries are £5.99 and the directories £5. Please put money in the box. Pocket parish diaries should be available soon (we hope!).

WANTED We are still anxious to recruit more servers for our new rotas. This invitation includes everyone, men and women, boys and girls. So long as you have made your First Holy Communion, you are welcome. Formation will be provided.



TO REFLECT ON DURING THE WEEK - MATTHEW 18-24

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy

Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel"(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife to his home.

Question of the week: How can we be more like St Joseph: honourable in our dealings with others and always ready to say yes to God?

***Celebrating the Solemnity of St Joseph
Our Patron, Saturday 19th March 2011***

To celebrate our Parish Feast Day we will be holding a day of celebration. There will be a late morning Mass followed by a bring-and-share lunch and an afternoon barn dance (in Croscombe Village Hall) so that all the family can come! Put the date in your diary and look out for tickets on sale in the New Year.

RUNNING OUT OF WRAPPING PAPER? Have a look at the Doorway display where there are sheets of a very pretty design.

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 12 th Jan	10.00am Church	Coffee & cakes morning
Sat 15 th Jan	7.00pm onwards, Shepton	"Shepton Races"
Sat 5 th Feb. 2011	10.15am Church	Parish Assembly and AGM

**Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ - Holy Day of Obligation -
START OF THE CHRISTMASS SEASON**

Christmass Eve Evening - Friday 24th December

4.00pm Crib Service for children and families in Wells

6.00pm Vigil Mass in Wells

9.30pm *Mass of Christmass Night in Shepton (9.00pm Carols)*

Christmass Day - Thursday 25th December

Midnight Solemn Mass of Midnight in Wells

8.00am Mass of the Dawn [Extra-ordinary Form - Traditional Latin Mass]

10.00am Family Mass of Christmass Day

10.00am *Mass of Christmass Day in Shepton*

No Vigil Mass of Sunday

Sunday - Feast of the Holy Family - Christmass I 26th December 2010

10.00am Family Mass with Blessing of Christmass Presents

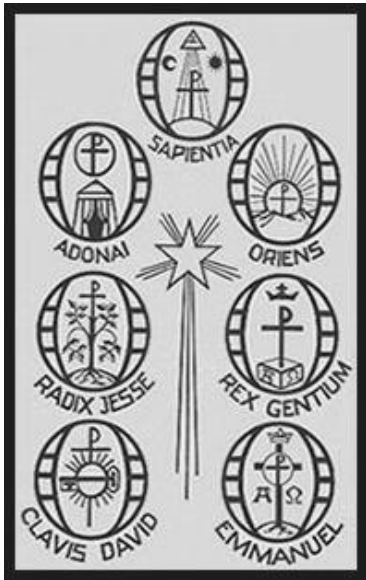
11.00am *Mass in Shepton*

6.30pm *Mass in the chapel of All Hallows School, East Cranmore*

ADVENT VESPERS This Sunday afternoon at 4.30pm: a quiet service in preparation for Advent: readings, psalms and prayers. ***An Advent vesper service calls us to embrace the new beginning that is symbolised by Jesus, who is the Light of the World. It is a special liturgy that centres on our expectation of Jesus' coming into the midst of humankind. It is usually celebrated at dusk, as day is turning into night, and proclaims that the darkness of night will never conquer the light of Jesus.***



CALLING ALL OUR MUSICIANS!! In response to demand, we would like to start up a new music group. We are looking for all willing musicians, young, old and in-between. Our first service will be the Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm. We will rehearse on Christmas Eve from 3pm. If you would like to support this new venture please see or phone Lucy on 01749 676153 and come along!!



FINAL NEWLETTER FOR 2010 OF THE MENDIP BRANCH OF THE "ADVENT PRESERVATION SOCIETY" THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF EVENING PRAYER (Vespers) THIS SUNDAY, ADVENT IV @ 4.30pm IN WELLS.

The Great O Antiphons are in full swing this week, as this important season draws to its close. These 7 brief prayers are chanted or sung on successive evenings and began on 17th December. They are also the Alleluia verses at Mass. By the 8th and 9th centuries, the Church in Rome and monastic communities throughout Western Europe were using them at evening worship. These ancient supplications beautifully express the Christian church's profound yearning for her long

expected Saviour. The Great O Antiphons form the basis of the popular Advent hymn, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel by English hymnographer John Neale.

Each antiphon begins with the acclamation "O,". It addresses Christ by one of His messianic titles from the Old Testament, and ends with a heartfelt plea for His coming. The sequence of the antiphons is theologically precise, progressing from before the creation of the universe, through the messianic prophecies of Israel, and culminating with the Incarnation and birth of Christ in Bethlehem. The initials of each Latin title -- Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavis, Oriens, Rex, and Emmanuel -- combine to form SARCORE. When this is arranged backwards, it spells ERO CRAS, which means "Tomorrow, I will be." This wonderful coincidence has fascinated Christians since the Middle Ages because Christ seems to answer the pleas of the Great O Antiphons by promising to come to His people on Christmas Eve (December 24), the day after the singing of the final antiphon.

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, Who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai: Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

O Root of Jesse, Who stands for an ensign before the people, before Whom kings are mute and to Whom the nations will do homage: Come quickly to deliver us.

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can open: Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O Dayspring, Splendour of light everlasting: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the Corner Stone uniting all people: Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.

O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the Anointed One for the nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS Many thanks for the wonderful flower collection we had last weekend - we will certainly be able to help the church look beautiful for Christmas thanks to your generosity.

Will all flower arrangers and would-be flower arrangers please note that we will be arranging the flowers at 10 a.m. on Christmas Eve. As usual, there will be refreshments provided! Please come along - this is always a really joyful and enjoyable occasion

and as the saying goes many hands make light work.

The rotas for next year are now in pigeonholes.

Gill Baxter - tel. 674234

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS HELPED TO CLEAN THE CHURCH! We would ask everyone now to try and keep the church as clean and tidy as possible. Please remember to put your hymn books and music sheets back and please don't leave newsletters lying on the pews (**you should of course be taking them home to read!**) It isn't really the sacristan's job to tidy up the whole church after Mass: it's something we all take responsibility for.

"SHEPTON RACES" This is a race night quiz with fun for all ages. It will be held in the Parish Room of St Michael's in Shepton on Saturday 15th January. Runners and riders assemble from 7.00pm. Try dressing up as if going to the Gold Cup at Cheltenham or Ladies' Day at Ascot. There will be refreshments and prizes. All proceeds will benefit St Michael's parish.



A horse costs £2. These are on sale now and on the night if there are any still unsold. To reserve a horse, please ring David Holden on 01749 34711 or 07999546319 or e-mail on thedavidholden@tiscali.co.uk. **There will be 5 races on the card including the St Michael's Cup.**