

IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOMEONE TO BE PRAYED FOR BY THE PARISH PLEASE LET

FATHER DAVID, A PARISH SISTER OR A CHURCH WARDEN KNOW

**Funerals:** Evelyn Rushton Funeral Service Fri 22nd 11:15am Dec then burial at Field Rd

**Please pray for those who have died:** Elizabeth Brown, Stuart Thompson, Anna Ivko, Doris Nardo, Evelyn Margaret Rushton

**Please keep in your prayers:** Baby Layla, Melanie McDonagh Keenan, Len Prothero, Pat O'Loan, Mary McCrank, Tom Butler, Bernard Turner, Dennis Jordan, Zofia Przybylko, Margaret David, Cyril Nugent, Sid Marson, Peter Partridge, Sister Frances Sculley, Patricia Southwell, Christine Watson, Veronica Raybould, Fr. Tim Burke, Philip Hathaway, Margaret Keogh, Tricia Smith, Richard Fowler, Fr. Sean Turley, Edna Penman, Sarah Smith, Jim Malachy

**Baptism:** Finley Walker (Sun 11:45am), Manuela Rubina Varga (Sun 12:45pm)

**Marriage:** Sat 16th December 12:30pm —**Alexandra Tonks & Philip Jennett**



### Advent Reflection

In the Bible the desert is a place to encounter God. In the desert the people of Israel met God and learnt the ways of God. Jesus, before beginning his public ministry, spent 40 days and nights in the desert. It was a time of discovering and deepening His personal relationship with the Father. By calling the people into the desert John the Baptist was calling them to let go of their false hopes in material things and learn to hope and trust in God. He showed this by his simple lifestyle, his dressing and eating habits, he showed that the meaning of life is not to be found in material possessions but in relationship with God. To go into the desert is the first step in true repentance or turning away from false hopes. In Advent the Church extends to us the call of John the Baptist to repent, confess our sins and turn to God.

**THANK YOU**—*The parishioners of St. Peter's are very generous in your giving—both resources and effort. So many contribute to helping make sure the Church and Parish Centre are in good order and that services take place. There are many 2nd collections and appeals and you are always wonderful in your response. Recently Fr. David received some 'thank you' letters. The collection of £195.53 (Missio—red boxes) went to help Bishop Paride bring some peace to South Sudan and the CAFOD Harvest Fast Day raised £243.88 which will go to help Edelmira, a farmer in El Salvador. Edelmira said: "With God's help, your support and efforts, we will be able to improve our crops. I thank you from the bottom of my heart". God bless you all for your Christian love.*

## St. Peter's Catholic Church, Bloxwich

Parish Priest: Father David Doran Twitter: @frdaviddorran

Website: [www.stpetersbloxwich.org.uk](http://www.stpetersbloxwich.org.uk)

Email: [stpetersbloxwich@btinternet.com](mailto:stpetersbloxwich@btinternet.com)

208 High Street., Bloxwich, WS3 3LA 01922 476765

Religious in the Parish: Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters

24 Wolverhampton Road, Bloxwich, WS3 2HB 01922 510497

Part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Registered Charity No. 234216



### Message for St. Peter's parishioners from Father David

Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham has formally confirmed my appointment as Parish Priest of Saint Peter's. My induction as Parish Priest will take place in the new year. Ever since I have arrived at Saint Peter's the parishioners have made me feel like this is my home, and it has been very humbling to see your faith and love of Our Lord. I hope I can serve you faithfully. The Archbishop's letter states that the Parish Priest should take special care of the sick. If you know of anyone who is sick, housebound and unable to come to Mass please let me know so that they can receive Communion or perhaps have Mass in their home during this Christmastide.

### CHRISTMAS APPEAL—FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND (FHL)

This Christmas can you help us give hope to the most vulnerable Christians living in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan? Each year FHL



distributes grants to the Holy land enabling Christians to have medicine and operations, which otherwise is beyond their means. To find out more please visit <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/> See also see our own page: <http://www.stpetersbloxwich.org.uk/friends-of-the-holy-land.html> where there is a beautiful picture of some children as Mary and Joseph. It is possible to donate online. There is a donation box at the back of Church (near the statue of St. Martin).

**CONFESSIONS:** Sat 10.15 to 10.45am

**ADORATION:** Sat 9.45-10.45am

**BAPTISMS:** Sun at 11:45am by appointment **ROSARY:** 20 mins before mass

**REFRESHMENTS:** After Sat 11:00am and Sun 10:00am Masses

## MASS TIMES, FEAST DAYS and MASS INTENTIONS

Mass cards and intention envelopes are available from the Piety Stall and Sacristy

Sat 9 Dec	11:00am	Our Lady on Saturday	Merlyn Green (anniv)
Sat 9 Dec	5.30pm	<b>2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Vigil)</b>	Elizabeth Brown RIP
Sun 10 Dec	10.00am	<b>2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Patrick Byrne RIP
Mon 11 Dec	<b>6.30pm</b>	Advent <i>Feria</i> (Mass in Church)	Edna Penman (sick)
Tue 12 Dec	10.00am	Optional <i>Memoria</i> Our Lady of Guadalupe	In support of LIFE Charities
Wed 13 Dec	8.40am	<i>Memoria</i> St. Lucy St Thomas More School	Holy Souls
Wed 13 Dec	10.00am	<i>Memoria</i> St. Lucy	Margaret Farrell (Anniv.)
Thu 14 Dec	<b>9:30am</b>	<i>Memoria</i> St. John of the Cross ( <b>Mass in St Peter's School</b> )	For all expectant mothers
Fri 15 Dec	9:15am	Advent <i>Feria</i> (Mass in St Bernadette's)	For the homeless
Fri 15 Dec	<b>11:00am</b>	Advent <i>Feria</i>	Anna Ivko RIP
Sat 16 Dec	11:00am	Advent <i>Feria</i>	For persecuted Christians
Sat 16 Dec	12:30pm	<b>Marriage (In Church)</b>	Alexandra Tonks & Philip Jennett
Sat 16 Dec	5.30pm	<b>3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Vigil) <i>Gaudete</i> Sunday</b>	<i>Pro populo</i> (for the people of the parish)
Sun 17 Dec	10.00am	<b>3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Gaudete</i> Sunday St Peter's School (Belonging—First Holy Communion) and Rite of Catechuminate and Baptism of Renesmee &amp; Jetson Day</b>	Bernadette Roberts (anniv.)

**THIS WEEKEND IS BIBLE SUNDAY :** It reminds us of the gift of God's Word in human language, recorded in Holy Scriptures and proclaimed at Mass and available for prayer and reflection day-by-day in our homes. Perhaps if you do not have a Bible you could get one for Advent/Christmas and have it with you when you are having a coffee and quiet time. Perhaps during Advent read St. Mark's Gospel. **It is a lovely way to watch, listen and welcome Our Lord.**

*There is a reflection available for the Ministers of the Word available from the Sacristy and website ([www.stpetersbloxwich.org.uk/parish-ministry.html](http://www.stpetersbloxwich.org.uk/parish-ministry.html)) to help their ministry.*

Last Sunday's Collection	Counting Team	<b>PARISH CENTRE BOOKING</b> Please contact George Pitt <b>07926 636159</b> or <a href="http://www.stpetersbloxwich.org.uk/booking.html">www.stpetersbloxwich.org.uk/booking.html</a>
Gift Aid <b>£161.00</b>	This week <b>H</b>	
Non-Gift Aid <b>£285.25</b>	Next week <b>N</b>	<i>Thank You</i> The value of your donation is increased if Gift-Aided
2nd Collection <b>None</b>	<b>NovStanding Orders</b> <b>£157.00</b>	

**PIETY STALL: Christmas Cards, Rosaries, Mass Cards, etc. (Also available from sacristy)**

**THERE IS A RETIRING COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**—The ladies who prepare the altar give a tremendous amount of resources and love to make the Church beautiful. *Thank you to all who have already contributed.*

**2ND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND — POOR PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE**

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS**—There are **CHRISTIAN ADVENT CALENDARS & CHRISTMAS CARDS** available from the PIETY STALL. David Sumner will be making Christmas wreaths/crosses as usual. Please see Piety Stall to order.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH—NEXT MEETING IN THE NEW YEAR—THURS 11th JAN**

**6:30pm.** We will discuss THE TRINITY. See website for spring schedule.

**UCM APPEAL**—Collecting toiletries for ST. CHAD'S SANCTUARY for Christmas. Please leave items such as soap, etc in the boxes provided at the back of Church. The UCM need help in sewing eyes/beaks onto woollen chicks for Easter Appeal. **UCM meet Mon 11th Dec 7.00pm in the Parish Centre.**

**POPPY APPEAL**—The Parish raised £35.25 for the Royal British Legion.

**ST. PETER'S TODDLER & PARENT GROUP** raised £65 for the MacMillan Cancer Trust. They also made & sent Christmas cards to Fr. Hudson's Care Home

**WALSALL NIGHT SHELTER—(Dec 2017 — Feb 2018)** there is a shelter for the homeless run by the YMCA. Volunteers are needed to support the full-time staff. Email: [theglebecentre@ymcab.org.uk](mailto:theglebecentre@ymcab.org.uk) or visit website: <http://www.ymcab.org.uk/what-we-do/supportandadvice/the-glebe-centre/>

**BUILDING UPDATE**— A Salt Bin has been provided opposite the entrance to the Parish Centre. It is for the parishioners own private use during icy weather/snow. The spreading of salt is undertaken by your own personal decision. No responsibility will be accepted by the Church for any accidents caused by the spreading of salt.

**GLORIES OF MARY**— meets every Friday at 2.00pm in the Parish Centre

**MARY, 'ER BABBY AN' A BOSTIN' TALE**— (*from the Express & Star*) - Soon after they was married Joseph told Mary: 'Arv ad a letter from the tax mon, and that Caesar says as we've got to goo to where we was born to be taxed. So we've got to traipse to Bethlehem". Mary cut sum sandwiches, an' med a bottle of tay, an when they'd ad a daysent breakfast Joseph got the donkey out, put Mary on, an' away they went. "Cheer up, our kid. It ay far now", Joseph told 'er. **(Next week: Mary and Joseph reach Bethlehem)**