

**THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF HEREFORD,
WEOBLEY, HR4 8QS AND
ST.BEDE THE VEN. KINGTON, HR5 3DW**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A



“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” (*Jacopo Palma II, c.1600*)

THE PARISH

Parish Priest, Fr.Simon McGurk,O.S.B.

St Thomas' Presbytery, Weobley HR4 8QS

Tel. 01544 318 325. (*Please allow at least 10 rings*)

Mob.07442.075303.

email (Parish & Pers.) sjsmcgurk43@gmail.com

Parish-Archdiocese email: simon.mcgurk@rcadc.com

Parish Councillors: Fr.Simon (President), Tricia Carter (Chair), Sarah Nichols, Frank McNally, Charles de Rohan, Julie Gander, Patricia Stuart.

Finance Cttee: Joanna Helme, Pat Roberts, Peter Hereford, Patricia Stuart, Charles de Rohan..

Safeguarding Rep. Joanna Helme 01432.760816

Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Patrick Lobo (Belmont Abbey) on 07568 669 300 or 01432.265 177

The Website:www.thomasandbede.com Go to the website, and click on 'Contact'. Tricia Carter now manages the website (01568.708723).

triciacarter2691@gmail.com

NEW Zoom ID 356 505 3411. Passcode: x55Ftu

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Sat.Dec. 06 MASS of 2ND.SUNDAY OF ADVENT

K'ton. 6.00 Int:Roger Kerrigan :

Sun. 07 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Weobley 10.30. Int. Roger Kerrigan

Mon. 08 Mass. Weob. 9.00 IMMACULATE

CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY

Morning prayer Mon-Fri 9.40, courtesy of Zoom *

Tues 09 - Fri. 12th NO Mass,

Fr. Simon in retreat at Belmont Mon.-Fri..

Sat. 13 Mass of ADVENT 3, K'ton 6.00

Sun. 14 3rd. SUNDAY OF ADVENT 'Gaudete'

Re-commissioning of Ministers of the Eucharist.

URGENT PRAYERS

For a miracle in Ukraine to save the country for its people.

That the peace initiative brokered by Pres. Trump for Gaza and Israel will hold.

For the immediate release of remaining Israeli Hostages. That the political leaders of Israel and members of Hamas will begin to obey God's fifth commandment: "Thou shalt not kill". For the survival of Gaza and the native Palestinians and that these peoples may have the right to decide their own future,

For the people in Hong Kong caught up in the terrible fires.

That our young people will be drawn away from every kind of crime and violence, and drawn to a commitment to good deeds.

PARISH INTENTIONS

For those in our parish or known to us who are sick or in need of special prayers: John & Vicky Tanner, Graham Vaughan, Melita Denaro, Vivian Brooke, Claire Burrows, Sarah Murkin, Roger Nichols, Bill Davies, Kath Morgan, Tricia Carter, Louise Wright, Kim Williams, Frank McNally, Brian Tanswell.

For parishioners, relatives and friends recently dead: Roger Kerrigan, Mike Ware..

We remember those of our parish whose anniversaries occur at this time: Natalie Ried ('73), Alex Karim (S.2000), Nick Fode (M.2014), May Harris (T.'54), John Patrick Gore (Th.'53), Doreen Jones (Th.'69), Michael Pullicino (F.'93), Warren Baker (F.2005), Philip Wilkins (F.2010).

For King Charles III and Queen Camilla. May they always set the highest standards of leadership for our country. For Andrew Mountbatten-Winsor that he may find a new life of grace. We also pray for our government, especially our Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer and his cabinet. May they govern with integrity following the religious beliefs and social needs of our country. And we pray for the leaders of all the other countries of the world, esp.President Zelenski of Ukraine and conversion of the Russian leaders.

ROGER KERRIGAN'S REQUIEM MASS will be at St. Thomas' church on Tuesday December 16th, at 12.00, followed by burial at Almeley churchyard.

MIKE WARE'S FUNERAL will be at 2.00 on Thurs. Dec. 11th at SS.Peter & Paul church, Weob.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY or LECTIO DIVINA GROUP. Contact Andy Palfreman:

palfremanandy@gmail.com or see Fr. Simon Started Wed. December 3rd. 2.30 in Parish Room

RECOMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST. Sat/Sun 13/14 Dec.. Advent 3.

SERMONETTE FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A.

ADVENT from Latin means ‘coming’. It is a present participle: it is on-going, it points to a future, a future coming, a coming which will fulfil all hopes and expectations. The key word is ‘hope’, hope for what is not yet but which will come with certainty and will rule the earth with wisdom and love. This can only be fulfilled completely through a human being like us, namely Jesus the Christ, prophesied before all ages. The liturgical colour is violet, not primarily out of any sense of penitence but for the royalty of the one coming.

FIRST READING: from the prophecy of Isaiah (*Ch.11, vv.1-10*)

Today Isaiah goes from threatening mode to promising mode. Out of all the political chaos of recent years, Isaiah discerns a thread of new hope, a hope emanating from Jesse, the father of King David. He is described as a “stump”, as of a tree, and he is seen as the physical origin of the new royal line from which the Messiah, the Saviour, will come. (Many of our local medieval churches have depictions of the ‘Jesse Tree’ in stone, glass or wood – something to look for next time.) Isaiah tells us that the “Spirit of the Lord” will rest upon the branch which emanates from the Jesse tree. It will be a spiritually fertile tree, with “wisdom and understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and fear of the Lord”. All will be judged by Him according to these standards. He will be belted round with righteousness and faithfulness. In this climate complete harmony will prevail: the wolf shall dwell with the lamb and all nature will live in harmony, and the little child will play over the cobra’s lair. Imagine! Is not ecological harmony one of our main preoccupations today. Well, here we have it. Yet some go out and shoot mature lions as mascots.

SECOND READING: from Paul’s letter to the Romans. (*Ch.15. vv.4-9*)

Paul draws a parallel between the life propagated by the Old Law of the “circumcised”, with the new life which we can now live in Christ Jesus. What was written in former times was also written for us today but in order to see it out we need endurance and the encouragement of the scriptures. Only with these aids will God grant us the virtue of living together in harmony. Because He was circumcised, Jesus was able to witness to the truth and to confirm all the promises of the patriarchs. In this way we gentiles too will come to glorify the God of our fathers who gave us faith.

GOSPEL: from the Gospel of Matthew. (*Ch.3, vv.1-12*)

“John the baptizer” is often called the last of the Old Testament prophets, though distanced from them by about 300 years. In fact he is just as much a prophet of the New Testament. In true prophetic spirit he does not mince his words. It is Mark and Matthew, the gospel writers, who identify John as the prophet spoken of by Isaiah seven centuries before. We can see that John is a totally uncompromising character, living in the wilderness a life of strict fasting and wearing the meanest of clothing. I think that if we met him we would have “reservations”. Yet he has come to announce the long awaited Messiah, the saviour of the world. Clearly we would be wrong to shun him, as the Pharisees and Sadducees did. They became the “salt which lost its taste”. They were good for nothing but to be trodden underfoot by men. We would do better to follow Jesus who has come to “gather us into his barn”.

STOP PRESS: Coming up.

“WE BELIEVE”. WEOBLEY ADVENT BIBLE STUDY GROUP. Contact Patricia Stuart: 07966 499751
Revd. Philip Harvey (C.of E) introduces the Nicean Creed on its 1700th anniversary, and its deeper meaning for our lives and for our shared beliefs. **LAST MEETING, Monday 2.30pm., December 8th.**
at Weobley Methodist Chapel, Hereford Road. PASS THE WORD.

THIS SUNDAY, Dec. 7th. ‘ADVENT’BRING AND SHARE’ LUNCH. .11.45 for 12.00. in the Parish Room.
Please sign list in the churches if you can bring a savoury or sweet dish. Also RAFFLE PRIZES welcome.

HORIZONS OF HOPE – “THE MIDDLE COMING” on our inner landscape: How do we experience the coming of Christ today. Talk to be given by Fr. Michael Casey, Trappist monk of Tarrawarra Abbey, Australia. Next Saturday December 13th 10.00-12.30 am. At Belmont Abbey. Don’t miss.

DON’T FORGET THE FOOD BANK.

START YOUR DAY WITH MILLIONS THROUGH-OUT THE WORLD WITH “PRAYER OF THE CHURCH”.

RED BOXES. These have now been emptied and the money paid in: a grand total of £617,77 (before the addition of ‘Gift Aid’). This is a great total. Very sincere thanks to Andy for persisting with this charity.

KEEP PRAYING FOR LIFE

for the defeat of the proposed Assisted Suicide bill.(Local M.P.s: Ellie Chownes voted in favour of the Bill. Jessie Norman against. Go to work on Ellie Chownes. House of Lords vote: 33% for, 67% against.

ABORTION UP TO BIRTH.

Please email info@righttolife.org.uk to express your views on Tonia Antoniazzi M.P.'s amendment to allow abortions up to 37 weeks (i.e. birth). *"Thanks" – the babies.*

Or email Tonia Antoniazzi at tonia.antoniazzi.mp@parliament.uk