

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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A: GAUDETE!**



**THE PARISH**

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

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**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

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

[triciacarter2691@gmail.com](mailto:triciacarter2691@gmail.com)

**NEW Zoom ID 356 505 3411. Passcode: x55Ftu**

**THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT**

**Sat.Dec.13 MASS of 3<sup>rd</sup>.SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**K'ton. 6.00 Int:Roger Kerrigan :**

**Sun. 14 3<sup>RD</sup>. SUNDAY OF ADVENT Gaudete**

**Weobley 10.30. Int. Roger Kerrigan**

**Mon. 15 Mass. Weob. 10.00**

**Morning prayer Mon-Fri 9,40, courtesy of Zoom \***

**Tues 16 Requiem Mass and Burial of Roger**

**Kerrigan. Weob. 12.00-**

**Burial at Almeley, 1.30 \***

**Wed. 17 ? Mass, K'ton. 10.30.\***

**Thur 18 NO Mass \***

**Fri. 19 Mass 3.00 \***

**Sat. 20 Mass of 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. K'ton 6.00**

**Sun. 21 4<sup>th</sup>. SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**CHRISTMAS LITURGIES**

**Mon. Dec.22 Reconciliation (Confess.), 3.00pm.**

**Wed. Dec.24. Christmas Mass, Kington 5.00pm.**

**Christmas Mass, Weobley 9.00pm.**

**Thur. Christmas Day Mass, Weobley 11.00am.**

**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,**

**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:** Alfred Dobson (T.'43), Elizabeth May Goodwin (W. '76), Lewis Joseph Grey (F.'61), Saun Cochrane (F.), Tony Cochrane (F), Joseph Graham (Sa.), Alec Allen (Sa.2014).

**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 this coming Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 12.00, followed by burial at Almeley churchyard.**

**RECOMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST will now be Sat/Sun 20/21 Dec.. Advent 4.**

## **SERMONETTE FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A.**

**GAUDETE SUNDAY.** Traditionally the third Sunday of Advent – *Gaudete* -, like the fourth Sunday of Lent – *Laetare* -, has been regarded as a day of relaxation and joy. However, unlike *Laetare* Sunday which is a relaxation from penances, *Gaudete* in Advent is a special Sunday of joy, much coloured by the readings of Isaiah, for Advent is not a season of penance but of joyful expectation.

### **FIRST READING: from the prophecy of Isaiah (Ch.35, vv.1-10)**

However much Israel came to be seen as the ‘promised land’ yet it still remained quite arid and unfertile, as we see today in our news bulletins. The prophet Isaiah today extols the spiritual virtues of the land which have their roots in the topographical and such fertile beauty as exists, especially in the spring season. Yet all this is but a metaphor for the beauty which will spring from “the coming of the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.” Nor will it be a time of mere visual beauty but the weak will be strengthened, the anxious given courage, the eyes of the blind opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. In short, it will be a very exciting time.

### **SECOND READING: from the Letter of James (Ch.5. vv.7-10)**

The Letter of James is, for the most part, rather stern. Today, however, he draws on the image of God’s patience. Using a familiar metaphor of the farmer as we might do in Herefordshire to look for the signs of the times in our daily lives. Agriculture also means judging: the right times and seasons for planting and reaping. James recalls the stern words of the prophets of former ages that we may be ready for the One who is to come.

### **GOSPEL: from the Gospel of Matthew. (Ch.11. vv.2-11)**

Unlike Luke, Matthew, having introduced the Baptist, moves quickly to his destiny in Herod’s prison where he is locked up at the pleasure of Herod’s illegitimate wife whom John has dared to call out. John has many disciples, formed by his preaching far and wide, yet he does not seem to know who this person is who is called the Christ. Jesus does not identify Himself by name but by His deeds. This is how the Messiah will be known in every age. In return, Jesus now goes on to talk about John. Despite his notoriety, do not go out looking for someone dressed for the part; just look for a prophet but no ordinary prophet. This one on account of his mission will be greater than anyone else you can imagine, just because of his mission.

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### **STOP PRESS: Coming up.**

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

**LOUD THANKS FOR ALL WHO CAME TO OUR ‘BRING AND SHARE’ LUNCH LAST SUNDAY.**  
**SPECIAL THANKS TO JOAN AND HER TEAM FOR HELPING, TO FRANK AS QUIZMASTER**  
**GENERAL, AND TO THOSE WHO PROVIDED FOOD AND RAFFLE PRIZES.**

### **DON’T FORGET THE FOOD BANK OVER CHRISTMAS.**

**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.

**!FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS! \A special collection (plate) will be taken for the beauty of our churches.**  
**Please be generous.**

### **KEEP PRAYING FOR LIFE**

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

### **-ABORTION UP TO BIRTH.**

Please email [info@righttolife.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:tonia.antoniazzi.mp@parliament.uk)