

REPEAT NOTICES

Penitential Service: In the light of Bishop Paul's Pastoral letter last Sunday, we will start making the sacrament of reconciliation more available once again. During the pandemic it has been available only on request, but we will now return to a regular time slot on a Saturday morning from 0900, before Mass, starting from Saturday 11th December, and Thursday evenings from 1730 before Mass. In addition, there will be a penitential service on Wednesday 22nd December at 7pm in St Wulstans. Although we are not permitted to give General Absolution, this will be the nearest thing! Please come along as part of your spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Holy Half Hour: We're hoping to reinstate exposition of the Blessed Sacrament again in the new year and would welcome suggestions for the best day and time to put it on.

Children's Liturgy: We hope we will be able to restart Children's Liturgy in the New Year.

Keeping Advent in mind: Each Thursday (7:30 - 8:30) a group from different parishes meets online to discuss the Sunday readings to deepen our understanding and appreciation of how our faith enriches daily life. Anyone is welcome to join - we're not experts and we take the readings but not ourselves seriously. Please email Martin Bennett at martwinben@gmail.com for the link or for more details.

Donna Worthington's Advent Retreat: 'Waiting for the Light of the World' will take place on Friday 17th December from 1830 - 2100. All retreats cost £20, unless otherwise stated. To book, go to drworthington@live.co.uk

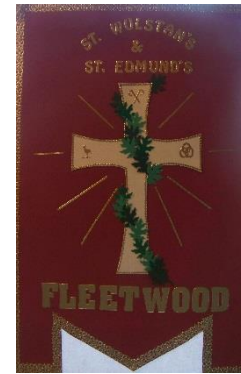
Christmas Church Cleaning: Many people will remember the slogan in the days before emails, 'Post early for Christmas'. I think Judith may have borrowed from that idea with the following message: **CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING WILL BE ON MONDAY 20th DECEMBER AT 9.30 am.** If you can help, please come in by the choir door. Always good to think ahead.

Foodbank Donations: Thank you as always to so many who donate to our Foodbank. For those of you who pay tax, if you would like to, it's now possible to gift aid your donation. Bank details for Faith in the Community are attached to the Gift Aid forms at the back of church.

Nativity Sets, Advent Calendars, Catholic Diaries, Christmas Cards, and gifts.

These items are all available from the repository stall in church or by contacting Maria (07732278730) if you are unable to get to church. Diaries are priced £3.30. Please let Maria know if you would like one as, unlike other items, leftovers are no use next year! Hundreds of items, including beautiful nativity sets, can be viewed online at www.cbcdistributors.co.uk (no priced unfortunately) but Maria is happy to advise on prices.

Handmade Reindeer: As mentioned after Mass last week, Keith Urwin, who does such fabulous work looking after the parish gardens, has hand crafted reindeer from spare bits of wood, and they are really lovely. He'll have some on display on the Green Hut after Mass today.



Catholic Parish of St Wulstan's & St Edmund's

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3rd Sunday of Advent Year C 12/12/21

Sunday 12 th	1000 Kieran Sullivan (Birthday Anniversary)
Monday 13 th	No Mass
Tuesday 14 th	1800 Sarah Wade (Surgery)
Wednesday 15 th	0930 Annie McKeon (Surgery)
Thursday 16 th	1800 People of the Parish
Friday 17 th	0930 Special Intention (S Young)
Saturday 18 th	0930 Bernadette and Tom Delaney (RIP)
Sunday 19 th	1000 Deceased Members of Barker Family



SUNDAY MASS IS NOW LIVESTREAMED ON YOUTUBE VIA OUR PARISH WEBSITE

CONFESSIONS: 0900 on Saturdays and 1730 on Thursdays

St Edmund's church is closed until further notice.

St Wulstan's will be open from 30 minutes before the start of each Mass.

The Lady Chapel is now open again every day from 0800-1700

Collection

5th Dec £382.00

Attendance

Sunday - 119

Weekdays (total) - 95

Website - 70 Households

Thankyou

Keeping in Touch:

- Follow Twitter <https://twitter.com/ssWulstanEdmund>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.wulstansfleetwood/>
- Instagram: St Wulstan & St Edmund



Please pray for: All the sick and housebound of our parish family and also those in care or in hospital

Anniversaries this Week: Joan Kilbane, Maria Murray, Helen Spittle, Joan O'Leary, Maureen Robinson, Mary Gill,

Baptism Anniversaries:

Nathaniel Charles Currey 13th December 2015

Churches Together Prayer Calendar: This week we are praying for St Wulstan's Church and the people of Bridge Street, Duncan Place, Hazel Avenue, London Street, Oxford Way, Silverdale Avenue, Wingrove Road with the prayer: *May the peace of Christ be in their hearts and in their homes.*

NEW NOTICES

Bonus Ball: Winner for 4th December was John Wilson with No 47.

Latest on the Pastoral Ministry Diploma: To our dear St Wulstan and St Edmunds friends:

Just like that...Cathy and I have finished our first year of the Pastoral Ministry Diploma and what a remarkable year it has been.

Coincidentally, in this most recent module, we have been learning about the Second Vatican Council and the subject of Synodality. Rather perfect timing I thought, considering that Pope Francis has recently opened the 'Synod on Synodality', a process in which he invites us all to participate. Please don't be put off by this formal language that appears to be meant only for Bishops and Clergy. No, the Holy Father welcomes **EVERYONE** to take part in this conversation regarding our faith. What a valuable opportunity to have our voices heard and to enable others to join in the discussion. Father Jim Burns explains it much better than I in the Catholic Voice this week. Let us respond wholeheartedly together.

I am reminded of Pope John XXIII as he announced the idea of the Second Vatican Council, He said "We need to throw open the windows of the church and let in the fresh air" When asked "Why now?" he simply replied "It is time." Maybe Pope Francis feels the same? Dare we think of it as Vatican 2.5 or at least an extension of the hopes of that council? As a post Vatican II Catholic myself, it's been fascinating studying some of the documents and putting into context the reasons for such radical change, and how much the Church has evolved but still retained its sacredness. Reassuringly, the constitutions written back in the 50's and 60's are still very relevant to the world now and read as if they could have been written yesterday. However, that does indicate how far we still have left to go on the journey.

On the subject of the Pastoral Ministry Diploma that Cathy and I are currently on. I want to encourage others to come and join us in the new year. I'm sure my wonderful study buddy Cathy would agree with me when I say it's been an incredible journey so far. Does it take up some of your time? Yes indeed! Does it call you to place more trust in God and challenge your thinking? Absolutely! As one of our mentors told us at the very beginning "I can't assure it won't be difficult at times, but I can promise you it will be fruitful."

I feel so blessed to have had this opportunity for learning and unexpected personal formation. If I can do it... anybody can. All your prayers have carried us both along and we are extremely grateful for them... keep em coming! Come join us and we promise to help and pray for you along the way. Catch us anytime for a chat about it.

Wishing you all a blessed remainder of Advent as we wait for the 'Light of the world' to enter in. Kim and Cathy xx

Parish Synodality Discussions: As mentioned last week, we will start in January and meet on the three Thursdays 13th, 20th, and 27th from 7-8pm. I will print off the questionnaires after Christmas.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: As mentioned last week we are reinstating regular times for Confession from this Saturday 11th December. Timings are:-
Saturdays 0900-0925 Thursdays 1730-1755

Latest from our Hospital Chaplain: In her update to staff, Chief Operating Officer, Natalie Hudson, shared key statistics about the status of our main site at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, including high numbers of patients waiting in A&E and ambulances queueing outside. She wrote: I want to share the following to provide a flavour of the status of our main site at Blackpool Victoria Hospital at 8am this morning: [Monday]

- A total of 86 people were waiting in A&E - which is a setting designed for 32 people
- 59 of those people were waiting to be admitted to hospital for treatment
- About half of those had been waiting more than 12 hours to be admitted
- A number of ambulances queuing outside
- Whilst even a very small number of people waiting is unacceptable - the simple fact was that the Trust had no free beds anywhere, including on our Covid-positive wards. Please do keep the hospital community, patients, staff and their families in your prayers at this time, and thank you for all that you do to support the hospital.

Date for Diary Re St Eds: There will be a meeting in the Green Hut on Wednesday 5th January to discuss what the Parish would like to do in regard to the future of St Edmunds. I am told there are different stories going around as to what has been decided, but this is to assure you that no decisions have been made. You the parishioners will decide what we do and what we will propose to the Diocese, so please have a good think before the meeting.

Alpha 2022: We are looking forward to joining St Nicholas' for the next Alpha course. For those who have not experienced Alpha, it's a super way of getting to know Jesus for those seeking faith, but also a super way of getting to know him better for those who already know him. Let Kim, Cathy, or Fr Alf know if you'd like to enrol. We start on Saturday 15th January in St Nick's parish hall at 1000 with cooked breakfast. Alpha is one of the ways we're using in Divine Renovation to make sure our church does not get turned into a gymnasium in 10 years time.

PS from Brian Wood: Some years ago, when I was working, I visited Haverigg Prison in Cumbria. I took my Mum along for the ride. It was in the middle of winter and was already dark when we set off home. On the M6 near Lancaster, the traffic reduced to a crawl before the roadworks. As we crawled along, the engine stalled and would not restart. We were stuck in the second lane with lorries crawling on either side of us. We could do nothing but wait for the Police to find us. It was frightening. I looked at my mum and she was saying her rosary. Suddenly, a car pulled up and reversed up to us. I got out and met a young man getting his tow rope from the boot. He attached it and pulled us through the roadworks. I started the engine on the clutch. When the road was clear, he detached the rope, refused all offers of payment and sped off into the night. Mum and I then got home safely. What a triumph for Our Lady, sending us her good Samaritan! Dear Jesus, shower blessings on that young man and let me always be available to help others if I can.