

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK – 17TH – 25TH DECEMBER 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 17TH DECEMBER

10.00am - For the Parishioners of Saint Monica's

RETIRING COLLECTION, AS YOU LEAVE, FOR CARITAS, SHREWSBURY-
OUR DIOCESAN INITIATIVE AT CHRISTMAS FOR THE POOR

MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER – FERIA

9.30am – Church Cleaning. Helpers please.

TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER – FERIA

10.00am – Deceased Priests and Nuns – (Campsie)

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER – FERIA

11.00am – Dafnis and Douthwaite Families

THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER – FERIA

12.00noon – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12.30pm – Jean Howard

FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER – FERIA

2.45pm – Requiem Mass. Pat Cooper

SATURDAY – 23RD DECEMBER

5.00pm – For the Parishioners of Saint Monica's

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 24TH DECEMBER

10.00am – Judy Allen

CHRISTMAS EVE – VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8.00pm – Carols and Readings

8.30pm – Mass of the Nativity of the Lord – For the Parishioners of Saint Monica's

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

10.00am – Dermot Horgan

At the masses at 8.30pm on Christmas Eve and 10.00am on Christmas Day, collections will be taken for the financial support of your Priest. Available in the porch are programmes for this week's services leading up to Christmas and envelopes for a Christmas Offering.

DIED: Pat Cooper, Thorntree Green, Appleton Thorn. Aged 98 years. *Requiescat in pace*

SICK: Maura O'Neill. Please remember in your prayers, all our sick and housebound, and those who love and care for them.

ADVENT comes to its close next weekend with the fourth Sunday and the evening of Christmas occurring on the same day. Over the weekend of the 23rd – 25th December, there will be FOUR masses. In the porch this weekend, you will find programmes for the remaining days leading up to the Feast and Clergy Offering Envelopes for your donations on Christmas Night and Christmas Morning. I would like to record our thanks to the teachers and pupils at Saint Monica's for the lovely Nativity presentation on Tuesday evening. In addition to the celebration, a collection after the performance raised over £200 for Saint Joseph's Family Centre and Madeleine Holder's preserves sale raised £272. Madeleine has raised over £30,000 over the years for her Refugee work. I am sending a cheque for £912 to Father Roger Clarke for the Clinic in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The collection was greatly boosted by your generous contributions to the Mission Box for the Advent Books.

I reprint the poem which I presented last Advent. **A thought-provoker by Frank Horne:**

KID STUFF

The wise guys tell me that Christmas is Kid Stuff Maybe they've got something there –
Two Thousand years ago three wise guys chase a star across a continent
to bring frankincense and myrrh to a Kid
born in a manger with an idea in his head
And as the bombs crash all over the world today
The real wise guys know that we've all got to go chasing stars again
in the hope that we can get back some of that Kid Stuff Born two thousand years ago.

**HAVE A PRAYERFUL AND REFLECTIVE WEEK
GEORGE BROWNE**