

Collections for Last Sunday

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Gift Aid</i>	<i>Loose</i>	<i>Levy</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>At Mass</i>
Immaculate Conception	£186.00	£63.42	£70.47	£319.89	103
All Saints	£194.00	£172.19	£188.01	£554.20	140
St. John's	£120.00	£11.00	£17.90	£148.90	26
			Total	<u>£1022.99</u>	<u>269</u>

All Saints Development Fund for November - £805

Immaculate Conception 100club draw:

1st prize Dillwyn Herbert; 2nd Pat Smith; 3rd Howard Francis.

Next Sunday 9th/10th December there will be a retiring collection for the 'Sick and Retired Clergy Welfare Fund'

PARISH NOTICES

✠ **Advent**

On this First Sunday of Advent, the Blessing of the Advent wreath will take place at Mass on: Vigil: Immaculate Conception 5:30pm;
Sunday: All Saints 10:30am; St John's 5:30pm

Walk With Me booklet of prayers and reflections is in the church porch.

* **All Saints** APF please hand Red Boxes into Mary Taylor or the Sacristy by 3rd Dec. Thank you

* **All Saints** Christmas Shopping Trip to Worcester on Monday 4th Dec cost £13. Anyone interested in last few seats please see Vince today.

* **All Saints** Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 5th Dec at 1:30. Could we have names today please, apologies for such short notice.

* **All Saints** Christmas Quiz with Sherry and mince Pie on Thursday 7th Dec. 7/7.30pm all are welcome.

* **Immaculate Conception** Christmas Raffle Draw will take place on Tuesday, 12th Dec, so please return your counterfoils.

***Bishop Hedley Community Lunch** on 13th Dec 1pm - 5pm. If you wish to attend, please contact Robin in Church - or on the school mobile 07943397511 or 01685 351860. We can arrange transport if needed.

* **St John's** Christmas Coffee Evening will be on Friday, 15th Dec, at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall in Rhymney. Everyone is welcome



Pastoral Area of Immaculate Conception, Tredegar

All Saints, Ebbw Vale and St John's, Rhymney

Parish Priest: **Fr. Joseph Henry Mensah**

The Presbytery, Crossways, Dukestown, Tredegar NP22 4AT

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First Sunday of Advent

Mass Book P82

3rd Dec 2017

Vigil	5:30pm	Immaculate Conception <i>Blessing of Advent wreath</i>	Veronica Yandle RIP Patrick & Margaret Conlon
First Sunday of Advent	9:00am	Immaculate Conception	Guy & Melvin Davies Hannah Austyn Prys RIP
	10:30am	All Saints <i>Blessing of Advent wreath</i>	Margaret Paul RIP. Deceased members of the Davies Family
	5:30pm	St. John's <i>Blessing of Advent wreath</i>	Special Intention for Sandra Jones & Kerry McCarthy
Monday 4th	10:00am	St. John's	
Tuesday 5th	7:00pm	Immaculate Conception	Laurence's Intentions
Wed 6th	10:00am	All Saints	Mollie's Wellbeing Mabel Kelly RIP
Thursday 7th	9:30am	St Joseph's School	
Friday 8th Blessed Virgin Mary	7:00pm	Immaculate Conception	The Holland Family
Saturday 9th	10:00am	All Saints	Dennis McNamara RIP
Vigil	5:30pm	Immaculate Conception	Maureen Baker
Second Sunday of Advent	9:00am	Immaculate Conception	Rita Mitchell (B'day) Nell Turner Hannah Austyn Prys RIP
	10:30am	All Saints	Bill Worthington RIP Lionel Lewis RIP
	5:30pm	St. John's	

VIGIL LAMPS

All Saints:

Our Lady

Fr. Joseph's Intentions

All Saints:

Sacred Heart

Private Intention

Immaculate Conception:

Our Lady

Archbishop Stack

Immaculate Conception:

Sacred Heart

Frs. Edmund & John

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

All Saints:	Daily from 10:30am until 6:00pm
St. John:	Monday after 10:00am Mass
Immaculate Conception:	Friday 12 noon until 3:00pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

All Saints:	After Mass on Wednesday / Saturday
St. John's:	Before Mass on Sunday
Immaculate Conception:	Before Mass on Saturday and Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION (MATTHEW 13: 33-37)

We begin Advent with the same message that we heard a couple of weeks ago near the end of the church year. This Gospel sums it up with two words, “watchful and alert.” We don’t know when the Lord is coming so watch and be ready to greet and welcome him. In our human experiences how we are watchful and alert is determined in part by the one we are waiting for. If we are waiting for a person who acts like a tyrant, is never satisfied and always highly critical, then we stay alert and watch so as to be prepared for the unpleasant experience that we anticipate at his arrival. If the one we are waiting for is a person of reason and fairness we anticipate his arrival by doing our best.

What does it mean to you when Jesus tells us to be watchful and alert? If we perceive Jesus as a judge who holds every fault against us, somewhat like Santa Claus who is making his list, we can be filled with anxiety and fear about his Return in Glory. If, however, we see Jesus as the Divine Physician who longs to heal us so much that he died on the cross so that we could be spared eternal punishment. This image can fill us with humility, contrition and gratitude for his healing as we await his glorious return. The readings today call us to be watchful and alert by allowing God into our lives so as to help us with the ongoing conversion that brings us closer to the Lord each day.

Isaiah uses a beautiful image to get across our relationship with God. He calls God, “Father” and describes our relationship as one in which; “we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.” God gently fashions us and molds us with his own hands. He smooths away the rough edges and carefully molds us into his image and likeness. We each have rough edges and we can have the attitude that it is better to hide them from God and escape his wrath, then to let him see them. Of course we cannot hide anything from God. When we freely confess these we invite the hand of God to touch us and fashion us and heal us.

Saint Paul begins the First Letter to the Corinthians with the warm greeting and encouragement over all the good things the Lord is doing for them. It’s a greeting that we should receive for all our efforts to be faithful. In his letter he continues to instruct them and to also correct them. It is Paul’s way of helping the Corinthians to be watchful and alert. It is also the church’s way today to help us. We need the continued opportunities of growth and conversion so as to be watchful and alert.

As we begin Advent we have the choice of how we wait for the Lord. We can be sitting in the courtroom waiting to be judged and sentenced, or we can be waiting in the doctor’s office waiting for the physician to treat and heal us. Both of these require one to be alert and watch. Hopefully we will approach Advent waiting for the Divine Physician. This involves knowing ourselves well enough that we are honest about our need to visit the doctor’s office, rather than pretending that there is nothing wrong, or we can take care of it ourselves. Be alert and watchful of those parts of our lives that need the healing touch of Jesus and expectantly wait for his coming.

Please pray for the Parishioners of our Pastoral Area, especially:

✠ the sick and housebound:

If you wish to add (or remove) a name on this list please pass a note to Father.

Jeanette Badham, Elise Burgess, Denise Burrows, Yvonne Brown, Grant Caniff, Molly Cini, Jim Clarke, James Cullen, Maria Davies, Maria Death, Brian Garrett, John Godfrey, Margaret Hancock, Sally Harris, Keyon Hughes, Nicola James, Gary Jones, Celia Jones, Leslie Jones, Mandy Jones, Yvonne Jones, Nina Kokkali, Margaret Lawrence, Colin Lee, Tom Markey, Eileen Michael, Louis Moorhead, Maureen Morgan, Kieran Moseley, Mary Moseley, Adam Newbury, Brian Norman, Cathy O’Leary, Ruth Phillips, Bill Pritchard, Owen Pritchard, Christopher Rich, Eileen Richards, Paul Riley, Samuel Roach, Maureen Roberts, Norman Roberts, Ivor Rolfe, Paul Roper, Alison Utting, Grant Walshe, Rachel Watkins, Neville Whitcombe, Joan Williams, Kathleen Williams, Pam Williams, Helen Yabsley, Tony Zeraschi, Debra Richards, Daniel Morgan Bennett, Raymond Titley, Pauline Thomas. Barbara McCarthy, Gavin Hughes, Norma Beecher, Maria James, Maureen Hague, Doris Morris, Sheila Bennett, Joan Spencer, Mary (Benjamin) Thomas, Margaret Jones. Kathleen Woolley, Derek Kerwick, Donald & Kathleen Bennett, Damian Thomas, Baby Isla, Karl O’Leary

✠ those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Alice Markey, Lionel Lewis, Veronica Crawley, Thomas Clarke, Bessie Gough.. Veronica Yandle, Glenys Simmons, Patricia Baines.