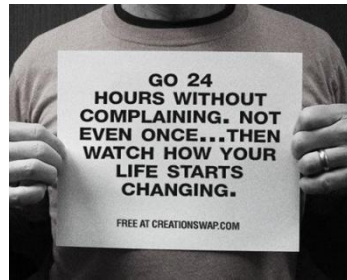


Ponder Over..... We are at the dawn of Advent, a time to prepare for the coming of the Lord in to our lives. The whole process of preparation is about learning to replace natural reactions with graceful ones. We all know computers have default settings. Push a certain button and you get a certain screen. When I push the Yahoo! button, the internet connects. Defaults are good; if the computer did random things it would be useless. All of us are born with default behavioural settings. Get a certain stimulus and we give the same reaction over and over. We default to our natural instincts. In this season of advent, there are a lot of default settings – natural reactions – that have to be reset. Since our old self resides side-by-side with our new self, change doesn't happen overnight. But our goal is to become more and more like Jesus. That happens as old default settings – natural reactions – get changed to new ones. Stop complaining and arguing over every matter. But rather live gracefully, in the grip of grace, and lay hold of God's gift. We are all familiar with the word "complain", it means to express dissatisfaction, pain, regret, discontent, uneasiness, resentment or grief. It means to find fault and accuse someone. It is synonymous to grumbling, whining, murmuring, lamenting, protesting and every other word that can be used to express dissatisfaction or discomfort. Whether it is hereditary or learnt I cannot really say, but I know that children as soon as they learn how to talk will start to complain, when you ask a child to go and bring something, he or she starts to complain. Once I asked one of my students in the seminary to take out all the plates that they used to eat in their refectory to the sink, and he was complaining that, he was not the only one that used the plates. So I told him this time firmly, "I did not ask you who used the plates, take them out to the sink." The earlier we discipline them and let them know that complaining is not good, the better. The life is not to be spent on complaining. We should realize that when we complain, it weakens our spirit, it becomes difficult to move forward. Ps. 77:3. The psalmist said that "when I complained, my spirit was overwhelmed". In this season of advent, keep our brain working on the positive. Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is beauty, admire it. Life is bliss, taste it. Life is a dream, realize it. Life is a challenge, meet it. Life is a duty, complete it. Life is a game, play it. Life is a promise, fulfil it. Life is sorrow, overcome it. Life is a song, sing it. Life is a struggle, accept it. Life is a tragedy, confront it. Life is an adventure, dare it. Life is luck, make it. Life is too precious, do not destroy it. Life is life, fight for it. - Mother Teresa



ST CATHERNE'S CHURCH

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WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2018

(Readings- Sundays: Cycle C, Weekdays: Cycle 1, Psalter Week 1)

This Sunday – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Day of Special Prayer for all Migrants and Refugees)

Mass 8.30am (David Smith)

Mass 10.30am (People of the Parish)

Monday - Mass 9.30am (Private Intention): St Francis Xavier

Tuesday - Mass 9.30am (Margaret Davies)

Wednesday- Mass 7.30pm (Deceased Legionaries)

Thursday – Mass 9.30am (Joyce Hooley)

Friday – Mass 9.30am (Shelley Aardurick): St Ambrose

Saturday - Mass 12.00 noon (Ann Crisp): The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed

Virgin Mary - Solemnity

Next Sunday – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass 8.30am (People of the Parish)

Mass 10.30am (For Priests throughout the World)

MORNING PRAYER: Monday, Tuesday Thursday and Friday – 9.15am

NO EVENING PRAYER THIS SUNDAY

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Tuesday 10.00 – 11.00am , Thursday

6.00pm – 8.00pm

CONFESSIONS THIS SATURDAY: 11.00am – 11.45am and on request.

Diocese of Shrewsbury, a registered charity (NO 234025)

ST CATHERINE'S NEWS

PLEASE PRAY FOR all who have died recently especially Moira Bradshaw, Brian Dunning. Also please pray for those who are ill or housebound including, John Morris, Jo Power, Ann Brown, Betty Roberts, Norah Stuart, Kathleen Bennett, Joseph Conway, Amy Duke, Sue Green, Geoffrey Roberts, Geoff Milton, Timothy Wild, Francis Hayes, Ann Marie Heald, Katie Hogan, Eilis Longley-Brown, Joan Nulty, Neil Monaghan, Justin Williams, and Jo Clark.

(Please advise Fr. Thomas of any changes to this list in order that it may be kept up to date).

FR THOMAS HOME VISITS, ENQUIRIES FOR BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, DEATH, etc. – please contact at the presbytery on 632 4388.

COFFEE will be served today by Cleaners, next Sunday by the Ladies Guild.

YOUTH LOURDES GROUP CAKE SALE will be next **Sunday 9th December** after both Masses, not today as on last weeks newsletter.

ADVENT REFLECTION AND TAIZE SERVICE will take place this afternoon at 3pm until 4pm. Light refreshment follows. All welcome.

CARITAS AT CHRISTMAS 2018 There will be a collection here today. Thank you for your support. Your donations will go to families in need within the Diocese, ensuring they have a Christmas meal and gifts to celebrate the Nativity of Christ and create happy family memories

RECENT DEATHS. If anyone has a friend or relative who has died in the last year please give names to Fr Tom.

SICK: A reminder to let you know it is really important that if anyone you know is ill, and particularly those who might be going into one of our hospitals, to please inform Father Thomas as soon as possible.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION will take place on Friday 21st December at 7pm. Please try to attend this service and prepare ourselves to celebrate the nativity of the Lord.

FOOD BANK – Please leave the food items in the box at the back of Church.

LOURDES FUND RAISER 'THANK YOU'. Tony Murphy would like to thank all those who helped raise a fantastic £1,203 for the Across pilgrimage to Lourdes by Jumbulance at our event last Saturday. We will remember you in our prayers at the Grotto in Lourdes. Dates are available for local pilgrimages in 2019. Anyone wishing to find out more should contact Tony on 07881656974 or email tonymurphyefc2002@yahoo.co.uk. Facebook page is Liverpool & Chester Across

MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE who helped with or attended the Autumn Fete two weeks ago, and a special thank you to the children who sang so beautifully. We raised £1283.

CHRISTMAS CARDS now available at the back of Church. Please put an offering in the CAFOD box.

SUNDAY OFFERING 25th November: £534.16

DIOCESAN NEWS

ADOREMUS REVISITED – Bishop Barron's first talk on the Mass followed by reflection and discussion and Mass – Sat 8th Dec 9.45am. St Anne's Parish Centre, Rock Ferry.

VACANCY FOR POSITION OF HEADTEACHER at St Hugh's Catholic Primary School, Timperley. See poster for details.

CARITAS OPEN DAY on Wednesday 5th December 2.00 – 4.00pm at Caritas Head Office, Wheatland Lane, Wallasey. CH44 7ED. All welcome.

SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM: Explore Advent – prepare his road, on Tuesday 4th December at Our Lady and St John's, Heswall. 7.00 – 8.00pm. All welcome.