

*St. Thomas', Tean St. Giles', Cheadle St. Wilfrid's, Cotton*

Presbytery & Parish Office: 18 Charles Street, Cheadle, ST10 1ED.

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Parish Priest: Fr Sandy Brown: E-mail: fr.sandybrown@gmail.com

Parish Child Protection Officers: Lynn and John Smith 01538 756314

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Guild Hall Bookings: 01538 750830

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216



**Christmas Day 24/25th December 2011 Year B; Psalter: Week 1**

**'All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God'**

**Christmas Eve**

4.00 pm (Tean) Vigil Holy Souls  
6.00 pm (Cheadle) Vigil D & D Mannion  
8.00 (Cheadle) Midnight Mass People of the Parishes

**Christmas Day**

9.00 am (Tean) Holy Souls  
10.00 am (Cheadle) Forrester Family

**There is one Collection at all Christmas Masses. This is traditionally your offering to the priest.**

**Normal Sunday Envelopes will be for the Parish NO EVENING MASS**

**Monday: FEAST : St Stephen (Boxing Day)**

26th 10.00am (Cheadle) 1..Joseph Padayattay  
2.. Alcock family  
10.00 am (Tean) James Leonard  
NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**Tuesday :FEAST : St John the Evangelist**

27th 10.00 am (Cheadle) Fred & Francis Brown

**Wednesday :FEAST : The Holy Innocents**

(Prayer for the Unborn)

28th 10.00 am (Cheadle) Aleesha Brough  
10.00 am (Tean) Rebecca Keegan

**Thursday : FEAST : St Thomas of Canterbury**

29th 10.00 am( Cheadle) Josie Martin  
10.00 am (Tean) M & M Fitzgerald

**Friday: FEAST: The Holy Family**

30th 10.00 am (Tean) Int. Keith & Sandra Dawson  
(Golden Wedding)

**Saturday: Christmas Octave Day**

31st 10.00 am (Cheadle) People of the Parishes  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.00 am  
10.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God**

4.30pm Confessions  
5.00 pm (Cheadle) Sean Langdon

**1st January New Years Day**

10.00 am (Cheadle) Jack & Priscilla Huxley  
5.30 pm (Tean) Holy Souls

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Sunday, 25th December:

Christmas.

Sunday, 1st. January: Feast of Mary, Mother of God;

Sunday, 8th January: Epiphany

10th. January: Property & Maintenance

First Communion Parents to meet at Tean at 7pm.

Please pray for the sick:

Dom Dyfrig (Kevin) Harris, Fr. Ken Collins, Fr. Tom O'Connor, Fr. Joe McKenna, Canon Gerry Hanlon, Fr. Peter Rogers, Christine Burnett, Alban Burton, Freddie Dwyer, Winifred Birch, Janet Daniels, Veronica Arnold, David Routledge, Alan Hodgson, Michael Phillips, Barbara-Anne Nash, Cara Plant, Elsie Brehenny, John O'Leary, Sheila Murray, Edna Carr, Geoffrey Brown, Dorothy Swift, Marion Pilling, Pam Howfield, Pat Ryan, Ellen Thompson, Ron Mawer, Josie Coates. Alan Johnson, Isabel Finney, Chris Keates. John O'Callaghan, Beryl Trowell, Beatty Gilbert, John Bowler. Stephen Mellor, Margaret Chandler, Beryl Dean

**Rest in Peace**

Vince Helm, Catherine Barber, Joyce Oakley ( Fr. David's Mother), all who have died recently and those with anniversaries, falling at this time.

Today a light will shine upon us for the Lord is born for us; and he will be called Wondrous God, Prince of Peace, Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end.

**Thought for the Week**

Christmas is here again and we celebrate the birth of Christ. Whilst it is good for us to celebrate and enjoy the glitter and festivities of the season we should not forget why Christ came into the world. The following meditation puts it so well. He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never set foot inside a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place he was born. He never wrote a book, or held an office. He did none of these things that usually accompany greatness. While he was still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends deserted him. He was turned over to his enemies, and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had— his coat. When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today his is the central figure for much of the human race. I am well within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever sailed, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as this "One Solitary Life." (adapted from James Allan Francis)



**WEEKEND MASSES;**  
Saturday: 5.00 p.m. at Cheadle  
Sunday: 10.30: at Cheadle  
5.30 at Tean .

The Holy Father's Mission Intention : December

That children and young people may be messengers of the Gospel and that they may be respected and preserved from all violence and exploitation. .

**LITURGY**

1st Reading : Isaiah 52 7-10 Psalm 97  
2nd Reading : Hebrews 1 1-6 Gospel : John 1 1-18

### Blessed John Henry Newman on Christmas.

The Son of God has become the firstborn of every creature; he has taken our nature, and in and through it he sanctifies us...

This is the wonderful economy of grace, or mystery of godliness, which should be before our minds at all times, but especially at this season...he who is the everlasting Light became the Light of men; he who is the Life from eternity, became the Life of a race dead in sin... May each Christmas, as it comes, find us more and more like him, who as at this time became a little child for our sake, more simple-minded, more humble, more holy, more affectionate, more resigned, more happy, more full of God.

Dom Dyfrig Harris O.S.B., better known in Cheadle as Fr. Kevin, from his stay in the 90s. Recently, he has been looking after the Ukrainian Community in Gloucester, working from Belmont. Sadly, last week he suffered a big stroke, which has taken away feeling in his right side. There is mention of leukaemia. Please keep him in your prayer.

Joyce Oakley, Fr. David's mother, died in Blackpool, following heart failure on 15th December. Fr. David celebrated her Funeral Mass at Maryvale (his present parish), on Thursday, (with 20 priests, including myself and Fr. Tony, who knew her when he served in Kings Heath). She was buried at Oscott, and how the sun shone! News came at short notice, but it was good that two of our parishioners could be there. I have of course passed on your sympathy and prayer to Fr. David, his father, sister and brothers RIP.

Vince Helm had been ill for some months and had borne his sickness with such serenity. He died in hospital on Monday (19th). Our prayers and sympathy are very much with Sue and their sons and family. As it is Christmas, his Funeral must be delayed till the early New Year. At the time of writing, it would seem that we shall have the Mass on Wednesday, 4th January at 11, with the Reception of his body the previous evening at 5pm5pm. This will be fully confirmed in next week's Newsletter. R.I.P.

**RED BOXES:** Many thanks to all Red Box Holders. In the parishes £630 was collected during 2011.

**LOVELY JAM:** This will be on sale again on Sunday, 8th January, the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord.

**CHRISTMAS TIDE:** This is a message mainly for all who will be away! But also for our visitors. I hope that all have a good time and manage some prayer! Details of Masses in the Parishes are on the special sheet and on the front of this Newsletter. This year, New Year's Day falls on a Sunday. It is the Feast of the Mother of God, so the Vigil Mass will have special meaning. I hope the weather does not make life difficult

**Christmas 2011** I hope that you are having a good Christmas, with much rest and enjoyment, hopefully with easier weather than this time last year! Many thanks to all who have worked hard to prepare for the Feast in both our Churches. I have had to go to press before the festivities. Next week, I shall try to make a better appreciation of all the good work. I could only be present at some of the school presentations, as I was away for 5 days.

**The Blessed Kuriakose Elias Church** near Pune (not far from Bombay) needs replacing. The Catholics there belong to the Syro-Malabar Rite (St. Thomas's Christians). Fr. Shiju Vattampurath, the Parish Priest, asks whether we can give him some help to rebuild his church. I suggested to him that we might send him a sum of money, raised through our **Crib Offerings**. If anyone would like to make any other contributions, please see me.

**TOYS & STUFF** Any items you might like to bring and place by Christmas Trees and Cribs will be gladly passed on to families and children in need, after the Season!

**Come Home for Christmas!** This is an initiative of the Catholic Church, which aims to offer a seasonal welcome to Catholics, who, for different reasons, no longer or rarely attend Holy Mass. Whatever your story or journey, the door is open for you. Bishop Kieron Conry writes that it is estimated that at least two-thirds of baptised Catholics is non churchgoing. That means 4.5 million people. This is a significant constituency of folk, who, in most cases, self-identify as Catholic but never or rarely attend Mass. In February, there will be a special day on the 4th to help us to explore the ways of faith with our Archbishop and others. It will take place in Birmingham, by the Cathedral. More on this in a future Newsletter. The day is called Crossing the Threshold.

**CRUNCH TIME:** I thought it useful to mention this item again—as the weather was bad last week. As priests we tend to keep from you such issues as priest power and where we are going! I believe that we are better together. One local parish, about our size, has been told by their priest that he is to leave them on 9th January. At the same time in the immediate future there is no one available to replace him. May be later? This is the first time that this has happened in our area, but it is a diocesan problem—fewer priests, older priests, smaller congregations, too many churches etc. The whole matter is in the hands of the Archbishop and his Council and clearly the big decisions will be in their basket. What about us? It is not a matter for panic. It is a matter for us to take part in the Mission of the Church much more. Obviously, where churches do not have a priest for themselves, then so much has to be taken on by lay initiative. We have to be together. The matter will be looked at the next FORUM MEETING. All our priests are obviously very concerned, but not surprised by it all.

We believe that two issues are possible to everyone just now.

- 1) PRAYER for the Church, the deepening of Faith amid our young people especially.
- 2) Promotion of and Prayer for Vocations. Whom have we sent on in recent years. Ultimately I guess we are all responsible for the future of our Church.

**St. Thomas of Canterbury:** His feast is on Thursday Patron of Tean. Masses at 10.

### **CYCLE OF PRAYER:**

#### **Diocesan Intentions**

Openness to the Word of God # Migrants and Refugees # Expectant Mothers # for Advent and Christmastime

#### **Pope's General Intention:**

##### **December**

That all peoples may grow in harmony and peace through mutual understanding and respect.

#### **Prayer Services in Residential Homes**

Beech Lodge: 22 Dec. 2.15 pm Thursday.  
Church Terrace: as indicated soon  
Daisy Bank : as indicated soon.

**SV.P.** Those in need of help should contact Adrian Hackett on 752081 The Society meets monthly on a Tuesday evening.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION** - every two months on Mondays at 7.30pm at the Presbytery, Next meeting: 6th February 2012

**BIRMINGHAM Catholic Directory:** We are still awaiting the 2012 edition, though we have had the bill. It should retail at £3.

#### **Readers St Giles**

Please note that if you are unable to attend please find a substitute reader.  
Christmas—Special Lists  
31st Dec B Hammersley Sun G Shaw

**Book of Remembrance:** It is our turn again to enshrine this Book in our Church this year. It is now in place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel alongside our own case of Remembrance. You are most welcome to open it and turn the pages. Keep them in your prayers,

**DAYS OF RECOLLECTION:** They have resumed. Ring Fr. David on 07765 931126

**St Thomas' Gourmet Walking Club** have a 5 mile walk around Tean on Tuesday 27th December everyone is welcome to join them. Meet in Tean Car Park at 11.00 am.

#### **Parish Finances**

St Giles': £327.69 gift aid £162.50

St Thomas' £245.87 gift aid £118.80

