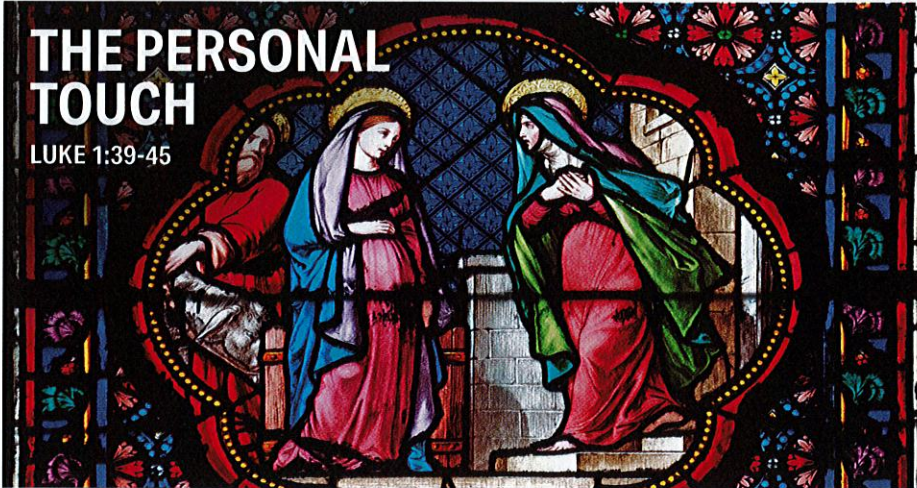


Sunday Message

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year C • 22 December 2024 • Psalter Week 4



THE PERSONAL TOUCH

LUKE 1:39-45

Every time we pray the Hail Mary we say the words, 'Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb...'

These words come from today's Gospel and recall Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth when both were pregnant. Filled with the Holy Spirit, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy, while Elizabeth expresses her own delight at receiving a visit from the mother of 'my Lord.'

Advent is moving swiftly to a climax, and Elizabeth's joy is shared by all who anticipate the coming of Christ. It is no wonder that even the baby in her womb dances.

Christ is very near to us. ■

SAY

"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

DO

Visit someone over Christmas that you haven't seen in some time.

LEARN

The Christian has been given a gift to share with others.

Christ is the peace we long for in our lives.

Like Mary, we are called to be Christ bearers.

PRAY

Pray for all those who are lonely and have nobody to visit them at this festive time.

REFLECT

Sharing good news is exciting. You want to let everyone know about the new baby or the new job or the good test results, you can't wait to share your joy with them, so you post a message on WhatsApp or Facebook. It is instant, cheap and handy, the modern, convenient way of doing things.

These days when we have news to share, it is rare that we rush off to tell family or friends face to face. Instead, we text or instant message them. We might pick up the phone and actually speak to people but even that is happening less frequently now. The short text is quicker. It gets the job done. (It's a handy way of breaking bad news too, as people who have been dumped by text know all too well.)

Despite the fact that we can communicate instantly with people thousands of miles away, we seem to be connecting less and less on a personal, human level. A group of friends or family members can be sitting together in a room or walking up the street, but are so engrossed in their smart phones that they may as well not be together at all. Social media has made us

less social. There is something sad about this. As today's Gospel reminds us, real human contact is a gift. The human contact enjoyed between Mary and Elizabeth was a gift for both of them. The way so many of us communicate today may mean that we are not enjoying that gift of human intimacy and togetherness as much as we could or should.

Spending real time with others and visiting others is important because relationships grow when we can share experiences and emotions in the present moment, when we can soak in the other person's scent, when we can feel the warmth of a physical handshake or hug or embrace. Would the baby in Elizabeth's womb have leapt with joy had Mary and Elizabeth been instant messaging? Often it is only when we are physically close to the other that we can appreciate what he or she is really feeling and thinking. It is only when we look into the other person's eyes that we can truly be with him or her.

Christmas is the time of year when people do a lot of socialising and visiting of relatives and friends. For some this can feel

like a duty or an imposition, too much of an effort. It's easier just to stay at home with our loved ones. Mary could have chosen to stay at home and to not visit Elizabeth. After all, she was pregnant herself. But instead she rushed to share with Elizabeth the good news they had both received. Mary knew the importance of the personal touch, the face to face encounter.

The season of Advent reminds us of God's personal touch, that God has visited us in human form as one like us. God entered fully into our humanity in order to show us how to be fully human. God visited us and remains with us, through thick and thin. That is the wonderful good news that this season heralds.

As Christians, each of us is a bearer of this good news. Christmas is an opportunity to share the joy that our faith brings us. Very often joy is contagious. If we share our joy with others, if we follow the example of Mary in today's Gospel, then they may catch it and it will spread, so that there is more joy in the world. Perhaps the greatest present we can give anyone this Christmas is to be truly present to them. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from the Prophet Micah.

Thus says the LORD:

You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of
the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 80(79):2ac. 3b. 15-16. 18-19. R. 4

R: *Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.*

- O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us. **R.**
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself. **R.**
- May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have
you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have
taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your
will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure
in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings'
(these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold,
I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order
to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Luke 1:38

R: *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.

R: *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL Luke 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country,
to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary,
the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the
Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you
among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is
this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the
baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed
that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from
the Lord.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power
the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

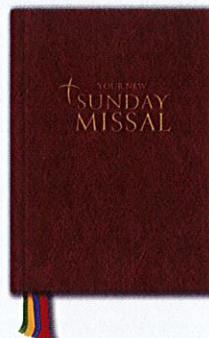
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.



Your New Sunday Missal is available from
Redemptorist Publications

Visit www.rpbooks.co.uk

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22 DECEMBER 2024

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat	21st	17:30	John Dooney (Health) / Clive Theodore 95 th Birthday	St Patrick's	
	22nd	08:45	Mass in Polish	St Patrick's	
	4th Sunday of Advent	09:00	In Thanksgiving Blessed Sacrament and Mother Mary		Our Lady's
		11:00	Dennis & Olive Collins RIP / Harry Gaughan Anniversary		St Patrick's
		15:00	Carols by Candlelight		
Tues	Christmas Celebrations of Mass	24th	17:30	Liam Reynolds Birthday Remembrance / The Children in our Parish	St Patrick's
		19:30	For the Young People in our Parish (Carols from 7pm)		Our Lady's
		20:00	Mass in Polish		St Patrick's
		00:00	For the Sick in our Parish (Carols from 11.30pm)		St Patrick's
		08:45	Mass in Polish		St Patrick's
Wed	25th	09:00	For the Deceased of our Parish		Our Lady's
		11:00	For our Parishioners		St Patrick's
Thurs	26th	St Stephen, Martyr			
		12:00	Mass in Polish		St Patrick's
Fri	27th	St John, Apostle & Evangelist			
		12:00	Bill Tupholme Anniversary		St Patrick's
Sat	28th	17:30	Hugh and Bridget Canavan RIP		St Patrick's
Sun	29th	08:45	Mass in Polish		St Patrick's
		09:00	Sarah O'Neill Intention		Our Lady's
		11:00	T.M. (Health)		St Patrick's

SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS (CONFESSION)

30 minutes before Masses

RIP: Rosemary Poole (3 Jan).

Weekly Offerings: Total: £1473.88- Standing Orders £729 (£539.25 Gift Aided)- Envelopes £335.35 (£229 Gift Aided)- Loose Plate £409.53 – We can only add Gift Aid if donations are identifiable. Please consider using envelopes or Standing orders and complete a Gift Aid declaration.

Bank details: St Patrick Wellington
Sort Code: 30-15-52
Account Number: 54546760

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

30 minutes before weekday Masses

BAPTISMS: Please contact Fr Ravi to book a place on January's Preparation class.

Our Lady & St Luke Telford
Sort Code: 30-15-52
Account Number: 54582160

ROTAS

Sat 5.30: W: Kevin & Katrina, **EM:** Nicky, **C:** Nigel & Collette **Next Week: W:** Mary & Martin, **EM:** Louise **C:** Gay & Nicky
Sun 9: W: Philip & Bobbie, **EM:** John, **C:** Bobbie, John & Nick **Next Week: W:** John & Thomas, **EM:** Catherine **C:** C,C&F
Sun 11: W: Oluchi & Adrian **EM:** Moira **C:** Ann & Jane **Next Week: W:** Stephen & Shan **EM:** Mac **C:** Moira & Jarmila

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DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY NOTICE

Our two parishes sometimes collect personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

LIVESTREAM: Our Masses from St Patrick's are available online at <https://churchservices.tv/wellington>



*Christmas Greetings to You and to all the
members of your Families
from Fr Ravi, Fr Michal, and Fr Joe.*

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Everyone is welcome on **Sunday 22nd December at 3pm at Our Lady's** to this free, relaxed gathering as Christmas draws near. Please come and join us for carols/short reflections with festive refreshments. Church will be set out with tables and chairs and lit with candles. Children will be able to have fun in the meeting room - or remain in church and join in some singing!

PARISH NEW YEAR LUNCH:

Sunday 12th January at Caseys at Cordingley Hall

ALL WELCOME! £20 for a 2 course meal (£12 for children), full roast dinner with dessert to follow: vegetarian options are available as is Gluten Free. Organiser Pauline Hoyle needs your payment and menu choices a.s.a.p. Talk to her at Mass or contact her on pauline.hoyle@outlook.com or 07954 683359

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - PLANNING

We are keen to re-introduce this annual day of prayer to the Telford area: in 2025 the service resources have been developed by Churches Together in the Cook Islands. The aim is to bring together Christians from across the world to join in 24 hours of prayer for world peace. The theme is "You are wonderfully made". We are seeking people interested in planning the 2025 service, to attend a meeting on **Tuesday 14th January, at 7pm, at Our Lady of the Rosary church** to discuss further. The World Day of Prayer will be on Friday March 7th, held locally at St Georges Church at 2pm

POLISH MASS UPDATE

There will be no Mass in Polish on Fridays on 27th December and during January. Friday Mass resumes on 3rd February.

YEARBOOK AND ORDO

We have Yearbooks and Ordos available from the Office for £7 each. Please contact Moira if you would like one.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR LUNCH

Organised by CWL but open to everyone, the lunch will take place at The Pheasant Admaston on **Sunday 26th January at 1.00 for 1.30pm.** in the upstairs suite. Reservations will only be accepted with payment (cash or cheque made out to CWL Wellington) on a first come basis and the menu choice form must be completed at the same time. Places are limited. Please see the noticeboard for more information and booking forms

Reservations and raffle tickets will be available after Mass at 5.30pm and 11.00am at St Patrick's on 4th/5th and 11th/ 12th January. This year's raffle will benefit **Mary's Meals**, a registered charity which sets up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities where poverty prevents children receiving any education. Many of the children walk long distances to get the meal when they attend school and it is often the only daily food they receive. Otherwise they would have to work or beg to survive.

Donations of raffle items (perhaps unwanted Christmas gifts) would also be very welcome.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday of Advent is Bambinelli Sunday. Please bring the Baby Jesus statue from your Nativity set to be blessed during Mass.

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY 2025: 3PM AT THE SALVATION ARMY, LION STREET OAKENGATES

The Salvation Army warmly welcomes fellow Christians to join with them to celebrate this joint service. Whilst the service will have music led by the Salvation Army Band, organisers are keen to invite musicians, singers and readers to participate in the service. They have asked that they be advised of likely numbers by 31st December 2024. They are also looking forward to welcoming people on the day. If you are willing to take a role in the service, or intend to come along on the day, please let Pauline Heffernan know.

paulineheffernan60@gmail.com

JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKLET 2025

Alive Publishing have been working closely with the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales's Jubilee Committee on a Jubilee Companion Booklet 2025. This booklet is only available as a print edition and will help pilgrims ponder and pray, focusing on the great themes of the Holy Year. It has numerous articles on the Jubilee, prayers and hymns and highlights the Jubilee Icon. For more information visit: <https://alivepublishing.co.uk/>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER JOE

This Sunday is Father Joe's Birthday. We wish him the Happiest of Birthdays.