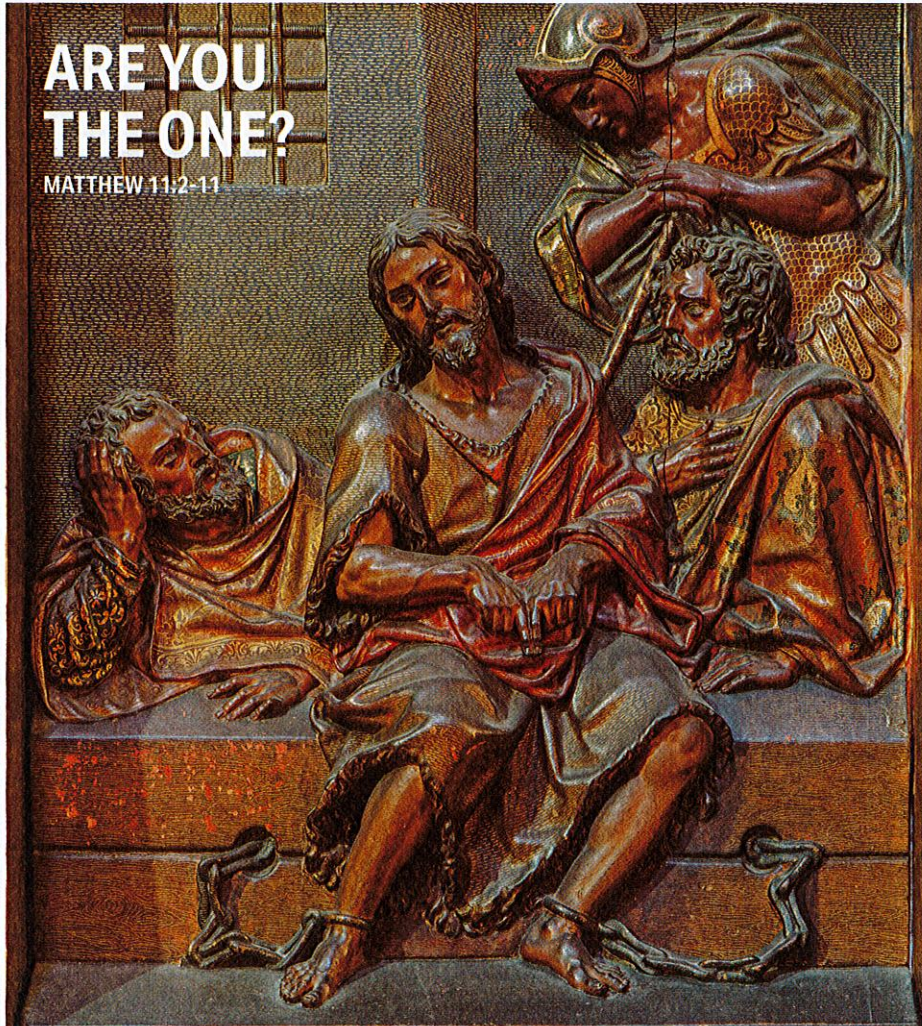


# Sunday Message

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year A • 14 December 2025 • Psalter Week 3



## ARE YOU THE ONE?

MATTHEW 11:2-11

This Gospel reading offers a rich moment of transition between the Old Testament expectation and the New Testament fulfilment. John the Baptist, representing the prophetic tradition of Israel, sends his disciples to Jesus with a pivotal question: "Are you the one who is to come?" His inquiry is not necessarily one of disbelief, but of seeking confirmation – asking whether Jesus truly fulfils the hopes spoken by the prophets.

Rather than offering a direct claim, Jesus points to His works. His answer echoes Isaiah's prophecies: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor receive good news. These are not random miracles, but signs that the long-awaited time of salvation has begun. Jesus allows the Scriptures to speak for Him.

The passage also offers a reflection on John's role. Though imprisoned and perhaps confused, John is praised by Jesus as the greatest among those born of women.

This Gospel encourages us to recognise how Jesus fulfils God's promises, not in dramatic displays, but in merciful action, quiet healing, and good news shared with the lowly.

This passage teaches us that God's work often unfolds differently from what is expected – and that recognising the signs requires humility, faith, and patience. ■

### DO

Take time each day to notice small signs of goodness – moments of kindness, healing, or encouragement – in your home, parish, or community. At the end of each day, thank God for one way His quiet work was visible.

### REFLECT

John the Baptist is in prison. He had spent his life preparing the way for the Messiah, but now, facing death, he begins to wonder: Is Jesus truly the One? So he sends messengers to ask, and Jesus answers not with a simple yes or no, but with evidence: "The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Good News proclaimed to them."

Jesus is quietly fulfilling the words of Isaiah – not with spectacle or force, but with mercy, healing, and hope. This is God's way: humble, patient, and often surprising. John had imagined something more dramatic, but Jesus reveals a kingdom built on compassion, not domination.

This Gospel is perfect for Gaudete Sunday – the Sunday of joy. Not a shallow or noisy joy, but the deep joy that comes from knowing that God is truly at work, even when we don't fully understand His ways.

When we face doubt, disappointment, or delay, Jesus invites us to look again. Where is mercy happening? Where is grace quietly at work?

Today, we rejoice not because everything is perfect, but because Christ is near. And wherever He is, healing and hope are never far behind. ■

### SAY

When I'm unsure,  
Lord, give me peace.  
When I can't see clearly,  
let me still follow you.  
Let your quiet grace be enough  
for today.  
Amen.

### LEARN

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 548) teaches:

"The signs worked by Jesus attest that the Father has sent him. They invite belief in him. But for those who turn to him in faith, he grants what they ask. So miracles strengthen faith in the One who does his Father's works."



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.*

**COLLECT**

O God, who see how your people  
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,  
enable us, we pray,  
to attain the joys of so great a salvation  
and to celebrate them always  
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 35:1-6a. 10

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
'Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Sion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 146(145):6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10  
R. cf. Isaiah 35:4

**R: Come, Lord, and save us.**

Or **Alleluia.**

1. It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever,  
who does justice to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the LORD who sets prisoners free. **R.**
2. It is the LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,  
the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the LORD who loves the just,  
the LORD who protects the stranger. **R.**
3. The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The LORD will reign for ever,  
your God, O Sion, from age to age. **R.**

**SECOND READING** James 5:7-10

A reading from the Letter of Saint James.

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord.  
See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being  
patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You  
also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is  
at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters,  
so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at  
the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and  
sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL** Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

**R: Alleluia, Alleluia.**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

**R: Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL** Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the  
Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the  
one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and  
see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are  
cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the  
poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one  
who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds  
concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see?  
A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A  
man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing  
are in kings' houses.

'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and  
more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I  
send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way  
before you."

'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen  
no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in  
the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray,  
be offered to you unceasingly,  
to complete what was begun in sacred mystery  
and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We implore your mercy, Lord,  
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults  
and prepare us for the coming feasts.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**





St Patrick's Church  
King Street  
Wellington  
TF1 3AP

# THE BEACON

Parish Priest: Fr Ravi Bosco

M: 07447 632733 E: fr ravi.bosco@gmail.com

Clergy: Fr Joe Donlan, Fr Michał Łatuszyński M: 07926 044405 E: stafford@pcmew.org

Safeguarding & Parish Office: Moira Shrimpton M: 07540 723614

Office: The Presbytery, King Street, Wellington, TF1 3AP E: ourladyandstpatrick2024@gmail.com T: 01952 – 242423

Our Lady of the Rosary  
& St Luke's Church  
Church Road, Trench  
TF2 7HG

Sat	13th	17:30	John Adams Anniversary - FHC Enrolment Mass	St Patrick's
Sun	14th	08:45	Mass in Polish	St Patrick's
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>		09:00	FHC Enrolment Mass – Family Mass	Our Lady's
		11:00	Tissa Fernando and Tudor Perera Anniversary	St Patrick's
		15:00	Carols by Candlelight	Our Lady's
Mon	15th	<b>Ferial</b>		
Tues	16th	<b>Ferial</b>		
		12:00	Richard McCarthy RIP	St Patrick's
Wed	17th	<b>Ferial</b>		
		12:00	Nickie Willis (Health)	Our Lady's
Thurs	18th	<b>Ferial</b>		
		19:00	Reconciliation Service	St Patrick's
Fri	19th	<b>Ferial</b>		
		09:30	Denise Gilmour Anniversary	St Patrick's
		18:00	Mass in Polish	St Patrick's
Sat	20th	17:30	In Thanksgiving – Beryl & Brian Masters	St Patrick's
Sun	21st	08:45	Mass in Polish	St Patrick's
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>		09:00	William Noel Dukes 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Remembrance	Our Lady's
		11:00	Elisa Maxwell 13 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	St Patrick's
		13:00	Baptism – Oliver Ghica	Our Lady's

## SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS (CONFESSION)

30 minutes before Masses

**RIP: Clive Theodore.** (Requiem Mass 9<sup>th</sup> January at 11am at St Patrick's) We pray for everyone whose anniversaries are at this time.

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

30 minutes before weekday Masses

**BAPTISMS:** Forms are available from the porch. Please hand your form to Fr Ravi.

**Weekly Offerings:** Total: £1588.67- Standing Orders £737.25 (£560 Gift Aided), Envelopes £246.30 (£198 Gift Aided), Loose Plate £585.12 (Not Gift Aided). Dona - £20. We can only add Gift Aid if donations are identifiable.

### Bank details:

SRC DT 234025

St Patrick Wellington

Sort Code: 30-15-52

Account Number: 54546760

SRC DT -234025

Our Lady & St Luke Telford

Sort Code: 30-15-52

Account Number: 54582160



Please scan this QR code to donate to your parish online. You can register your card for gift aid to be added to every donation

**ENVELOPE USERS:** If you would like to change your donation to a standing order, please let the office know as the next year's envelopes are being organised currently. Standing order and Gift Aid forms are available from the small drawers in the porches in both churches. If you would like to start using envelopes, please let the office know.

## ROTAS (W, EM, C)

**Sat 5.30: W:** Appurwa & Pansilu **EM:** Moira **C:** Moira. **Next week:** Lynne & Lewis, Ann, Anne & John

**Sun 9: W:** Children **EM:** Moira **C:** Moira. **Next week:** Stephen & Shan, Anna, Kate & Geraldine

**Sun 11: W:** Marvellous & Melody **EM:** Moira **C:** Moira. **Next week:** Vanessa & Tony, Catherine, Edith & Laura

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity (No.234025)

## 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](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice).

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



## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2026:** We welcome this year's cohort to Masses this weekend. Lessons begin in January and Holy Communion will be celebrated in May.

**RCIA:** Adults who are interested in being baptised and/or received into Full Communion with the church will have RCIA sessions at St Patrick's on Thursdays, with Prayer at 6.30pm, Mass at 7pm and a session after Mass during Advent and Lent.

The course includes a day of reflection with Bishop Mark in Chester on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February and The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion on Sunday 22 February at Shrewsbury Cathedral, concluding with your Reception at the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April at St Patrick's.

**MARRIAGE – Betrothed:** The marriage preparation course for couples getting married next year is being held on 21st & 28th March in Shrewsbury Cathedral Parish Hall, on town walls. All couples must register at [monika.golembieska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:monika.golembieska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT:** This Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm at OLoR Everyone is welcome at this annual celebration. We'll have carols, reflections and prayer, accompanied by mince pies and mulled wine, in a relaxed, candlelit service. We'll also be blessing our outdoor stable: new for this Advent season. Please join us if you can

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** Our Advent Reconciliation (Confessions) Service at 7pm on Thursday of this week, 18 December at St Patrick's will be led by Fr Chris Walsh. This will give the opportunity to prepare for Christmas. Everyone is welcome.

Next Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – Bambinelli Sunday  
**Please bring the statue of baby Jesus from your family Nativity set to be blessed during Mass.**

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES

Christmas Eve – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

5:30pm St Patrick's  
7:30pm Our Lady's (*Carols from 7pm*)  
8.00pm St Patrick's (*in Polish*)  
Midnight St Patrick's (*Carols from 11.30pm*)

Christmas Day – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December

8.30am St Patrick's (*in Polish*)  
10.30am St Patrick's

New Year's Eve -Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December

Midnight St Patrick's – Holy Places Collection

New Year's Day – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January

10am Our Lady's – Holy Places Collection

**Ministers are invited to sign up on the sheet on the noticeboard.**

## CHRISTMAS MASSES IN TELFORD PARISHES

### St Mary's, Madeley

**Christmas Eve** 5pm – Children's Mass  
8pm Vigil Mass  
**Christmas Day** 9am Morning Mass  
11am Daytime Mass

### St Mary's Shifnal and St Joseph's, Albrighton

**Christmas Day** 4.30pm Shifnal  
6.30pm Albrighton  
**Christmas Day** 9.30am Shifmal  
11am Albrighton

## CHRISTINGLE AND CHILDREN'S PARTY

The Children's Liturgy teams are hosting a **Christingle Service** at 3pm followed by a **Christmas party** for Children Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December 3.30pm -5pm at Our Lady's.



There are sign-up sheets on the noticeboards so we know numbers.

## 1906 - 2026 – 120 YEARS OF ST PATRICK'S

**OUR SPECIAL JUBILEE MASSES:** On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm there will be a special Reunion Mass for all those who have attended St Patrick's Primary School and BRJ. There will be refreshments afterwards in the meeting room. On the following weekend Two more Special Masses will be celebrated. On **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 5:30pm**, Mass will be dedicated to our deceased parishioners and priests who have served the parish. **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 11am** Mass will be a Mass of Thanksgiving presided over by Right Reverend Mark Davies, Bishop of Shrewsbury. After this Mass there will be a reception at Wrekin College Hall for everyone. Priests who have served the parish are invited to take part in the weekend's celebrations. We are announcing well in advance to give a chance to invite your family and past parishioners scattered throughout the world.

In preparation of the 120 years celebration St Patrick's will be undergoing refurbishment and will be temporarily closed from 2<sup>nd</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March whilst the works take place. The refurb will cost in the region of £25,000. Anybody who feels able to contribute towards this cost should let Fr Ravi know. Any donations can be given by cheque made out to St Patrick Wellington or paid directly into St Patrick's account (SRCDT-234025 St Patrick Wellington. Sort Code: 30-15-52 Account No. 54546760) and you should use the reference REFURB.

During the refurbishment our weekend Masses will take place at **Wrekin College Chapel, Sutherland Road, Wellington, Telford, TF1 3BH** at the same times as usual. There is space for all and plenty of parking on car parks. Nobody should park on the surrounding roads. The Chapel will be accessible from 30minutes before each Mass.