

# Sunday Message

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year A • 21 December 2025 • Psalter Week 4



## JOSEPH ACCEPTS JESUS AS HIS SON

MATTHEW 1:18-24

This passage presents the quiet yet profound role of Joseph in the unfolding of salvation history. Unlike Luke's Gospel, which focuses on Mary's "yes," Matthew offers Joseph's perspective – a man caught in a dilemma between righteousness and mercy. Betrothed to Mary and discovering she is pregnant, Joseph initially plans to divorce her quietly, choosing not to expose her to shame.

But God intervenes through a dream. The angel reassures Joseph: "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Joseph's response is immediate and obedient. Without protest or delay, he does what the angel commands. In doing so, he becomes the earthly guardian of Jesus and the protector of Mary.

Matthew's Gospel highlights that this moment fulfils the prophecy from Isaiah: "*The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel*" – which means "God is with us." That name is central to Christian faith. In Jesus, God is no longer distant or hidden – He is present in our humanity, born into our world.

This passage teaches that God often works through ordinary people, quiet decisions, and faithful obedience. Joseph reminds us that trust in God sometimes means letting go of our own plans and stepping into mystery with faith. ■

### LEARN

Pope St John Paul II emphasised in *Redemptoris Custos* ("Guardian of the Redeemer") that Joseph's faithful obedience shows us the dignity of human cooperation with God's plan. Joseph's "yes" reminds us that holiness often grows quietly through daily faithfulness and trusting surrender to God's will.

### SAY

Lord, give me the strength to trust your plan,  
The courage to follow your will,  
And a heart willing to serve each day. Amen.

### REFLECT

The story of Joseph in today's Gospel is a quiet, powerful example of faith and obedience. Imagine the confusion and worry Joseph must have felt when he discovered Mary was pregnant. In his time, this would have been a scandal. But Joseph is described as a "righteous man" – someone who seeks to do what is right, even when it's difficult.

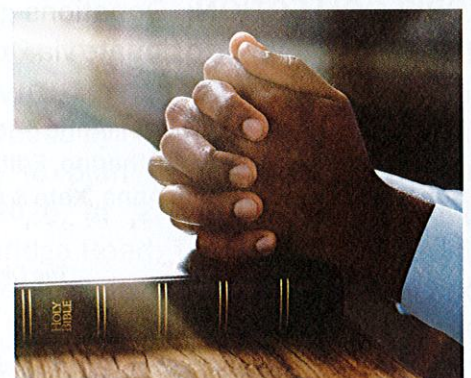
When God sends an angel to speak to Joseph in a dream, the message is clear: don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. This reassurance helps Joseph to trust in a plan he cannot fully understand. Instead of reacting with anger or rejection, he chooses to believe and to act in faith.

Joseph's decision shows us that faith often requires courage. It means trusting God's promises, even when the path ahead is unclear or challenging. His obedience makes him a guardian not only of Mary but of Jesus Himself.

As we prepare for Christmas, Joseph's example invites us to trust God's plan in our own lives. Sometimes God calls us to step into uncertainty, to let go of control, and to follow Him with open hearts. May we, like Joseph, listen for God's voice and respond with courage and love. The God who comes to us is Emmanuel – God with us, always. ■

### DO

Spend a few moments each day in quiet prayer, asking God to help you trust His plan – even when it feels uncertain. Like Joseph, try to be open to God's guidance in your life, and take one small step of obedience or kindness in response.





## 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 Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

In those days: The LORD spoke to Ahaz:  
'Ask a sign of the LORD your God;  
let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.'  
But Ahaz said,  
'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.'  
And Isaiah said,  
'Hear then, O house of David!  
Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?  
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.  
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 24(23):1-2.3-4b.5-6.R.cf.7c.10b

**R: Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.**

1. The LORD's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world, and those who dwell in it.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the rivers he made it firm. **R.**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The clean of hands and pure of heart,  
whose soul is not set on vain things. **R.**
3. Blessings from the LORD shall he receive,  
and right reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the people who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

## SECOND READING Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart  
for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through  
his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was  
descended from David according to the flesh and was declared  
to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness  
by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through

whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the  
obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,  
including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be  
saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Matthew 1:23

**R: Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Emmanuel –  
which means, God with us.

**R: Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his  
mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came  
together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And  
her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to  
shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered  
these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a  
dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as  
your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.  
She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will  
save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the  
prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall  
call his name Emmanuel' – which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord  
commanded him: he took his wife.

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.*





St Patrick's Church  
King Street  
Wellington  
TF1 3AP

# THE BEACON

Parish Priest: Fr Ravi Bosco

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Safeguarding & Parish Office: Moira Shrimpton M: 07540 723614

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

## BAMBINELLI SUNDAY – Bring the Baby Jesus from your home Nativity scene for a blessing

Sat	20th	17:30	In Thanksgiving – Beryl & Brian Masters / Hugh & Bridget Canavan RIP	St Patrick's
Sun	21st	08:45	Mass in Polish	St Patrick's
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent		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

Mon 22nd **Ferial**

Tues 23rd **Ferial**

12:00 The Boyle Family (Edinburgh) Solace in a time of grief St Patrick's

Wed 24th 17:30 The Children and Youth of the Parish St Patrick's

### Christmas Celebrations of Mass

19:30 Our Parishioners (Carols from 19:00) Our Lady's

20:00 Mass in Polish St Patrick's

00:00 The Sick of the Parish (Carols from 23:30) St Patrick's

08:30 Mass in Polish St Patrick's

Thurs 25th 10:30 Trish and Liam Reynolds Birthday (Remembrance) St Patrick's

Fri 26th **St Stephen, Martyr**

12:00 Mass in Polish – all welcome St Patrick's

Sat 27th 17:30 Maria and Pius Aguofia RIP / Brian Masters 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Intentions St Patrick's

Sun 28th 08:45 Mass in Polish St Patrick's

Feast of The Holy 09:00 Our Parish Families Our Lady's

Family 11:00 Nugent Family Intentions St Patrick's

12:30 Baptism – Ambar Carrasco Nunes St Patrick'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

**CRIB COLLECTION:** Donations given at the Crib will be sent to Caritas to fund their work with families locally. You can also donate via Dona.

## ROTAS (W, EM, C)

**Sat 5.30:** Lynne & Lewis, Ann, Anne & John **Next week:** Martin & Mary, Anne, Gay & Nicky

**Sun 9:** Vanessa & Tony, Catherine, Edith & Laura. **Next week:** Phillip & Bobbie, John, Bobbie, Nick & John

**Sun 11:** Stephen & Shan, Anna, Kate & Geraldine **Next week:** Jennifer & Paul, Jane, Anne & Jane

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>





*The Blessings of the Season to all our  
parishioners and their families  
from Fr Ravi, Fr Michal, and Fr Joe.*

We welcome all those who are joining us for Christmas and New Year and wish a safe and peaceful Christmas to everyone travelling to celebrate with family and friends further afield.

#### **JOB VACANCY**

#### **PARISH SECRETARY FOR OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S PARISH**

Details are available from the Diocesan website at  
<https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>

**REGULAR GIVING TO THE PARISH:** You can give regularly by standing order, by envelope and online via Dona. If we can identify your donation and you have completed a gift aid declaration we can claim an extra 25% from HMRC from tax you have already paid to them at no further cost to you.

If you are concerned that anyone will know what you have paid in, please don't be. The only person who can identify a payee is the parish secretary.

Standing order forms and gift aid declarations can be found in the porches in the white drawers. (You can also set up a standing order in your banking app using our account details). When complete please post the forms in the post boxes. If you would like a supply of weekly envelopes, please leave a note in the box and complete a Gift Aid form if you can.

#### **NEW YEAR MASSES**

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

#### **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 (SRC DT-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 30 minutes before each Mass.

**NEWSLETTERS:** If you would like to receive electronic copies of the parish newsletter please email [ourladyandstpatrick2024@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyandstpatrick2024@gmail.com) to request being added to the mailing list.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026 FRIDAY 6TH MARCH SERVICE AT 11.00A.M.:** based on resources produced by Nigerian women. There will be a meeting to plan the service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 2.30pm at **Wombridge Church** Wombridge Road, Telford TF2 6HT. If you would like to be involved in the service, please come to the meeting: all welcome, especially ladies of Nigerian descent. For more information, please contact Pauline Heffernan [paulineheffernan60@gmail.com](mailto:paulineheffernan60@gmail.com)