

## NEWSLETTER

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH  
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Parish Twitter Feed @stannesnantwich

Parish Priest: Fr. Tony Grace

Fr Michael Ryan OMI

Permanent Deacons: Rev. Peter Mascarenhas and Rev. John Penny

25<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Christmas Day C

 St Anne's Christmas Mass Timetable  No Booking Required	
Christmas Eve	3pm, 6:30pm, 9pm
Christmas Day	9:30am, 11am No Vigil Mass today
Boxing Day	9:30am
Tuesday, 28 December 2021	10:00am
Thursday, 30 December 2021	10:00am
New Year's Day	5:00pm
Sunday, 2 January 2022	9:30am

Covid guidelines must be followed

*Fr. Tony, Fr. Michael, Deacon Peter and Deacon John  
Thank you for all your cards and best wishes  
And  
Wish you all  
A Very Happy Christmas  
And a Peaceful New Year*



**200 club December** Congratulations to winners 1<sup>st</sup> Karen Kilcourse £100, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Muskin £60, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cath McKay £40.

**Pope's Christmas Message** can be found via this link to Vatican News <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

**Funeral** for Stanley Robert Moss RIP on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at St Anne's at 11.00am then followed by a burial in Nantwich cemetery at 12.00noon. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for Stanley's family and friends.

**Privacy Notice** The parish of St Anne's sometimes collects 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).

<b>Friday Christmas Eve</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3.00pm 6.30pm 9.00pm</b>	<b>Mass Mass with Carols from 6.00pm Mass</b>	In Memory of Fiona Mary Campbell RIP
<b>Saturday Christmas Day</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9.30am 11.00am</b>	<b>Mass Mass Nativity of the Lord</b>	The Parish Intentions of Sheila Davenport Susana McDaid RIP Deceased
<b>Sunday Boxing Day</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass The Holy Family</b>	Norris Cooper RIP Anniversary Tony Davenport (sick)
Monday	27	10.30am	No Mass or Service today St John	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass Th Holy Innocents</b>	Lois Coburn (sick)
Wednesday	29		No Mass or Service today St Thomas Becket	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass Sixth Day of the Christmas Octave</b>	The Parish
Friday	31		No Mass or Service today Seventh Day of the Christmas Octave	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Mary the Mother of God Vigil Mass</b>	Ted, Peter and Maureen Muskin RIP Deceased members of the Klusiatis family
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Friends of SVP

**IN NEED OF A PRIEST Please contact Fr Grace on 01270 877736**

Prayer and Mass Intentions can be sent by email to us at [stannesnantwich@btinternet.com](mailto:stannesnantwich@btinternet.com)

Sacrament of reconciliation is available 15 mins before Mass

### **Covid-Safe Reminder**

We have been reminded by our bishops to keep our churches Covid-Safe by following the following guidance:

- Anyone displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.
- Sanitise your hands when entering and leaving church.
- Face coverings (both nose and mouth) **should** be worn in church.
- Maintain good ventilation and air-flow throughout the building: because of cold weather, it is important to wrap up well in church!
- Please get vaccinated and have the booster jab when available to you.
- People engaged in pastoral ministry which involves visiting the housebound, sick and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.

There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of transmission is through breath and nasal aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. As such, the strict regimes of church cleaning that were recommended at the beginning of the opening of churches for public worship are no longer necessary. General church cleaning is sufficient.

If these guidance points are supported, then our churches will continue to be safe places for people to gather for acts of public worship, including over the Christmas period.



£404.50

Thank you

Envelopes, standing order and gift aid forms are available from the Presbytery. Online donations <https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donator/page/stannesdioceseofshrewsbury2168>

**SVP** The SVP is available to help people in need, particularly with escalating fuel bills. If you know anyone who would benefit, please feel free to contact us. **The Annual SVP Dinner** will be held on Tuesday, 18 January 2022 at the Sacred Orchard. If you would like to attend, please sign the available list and choose from the menu options. This event is open to everyone. Cost £20.

**200 Club 2022** - subscriptions of £52 or £26 are now due.

Please contact Michael Wilcock or see the leaflet at the back of the church or on the St Annes website for details

**Preparations for the Sacraments of First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion** for children in year 3 (or above) are about to start. Parents/carers of children who attend schools other than St Anne's who wish their child/ children to be included are asked to contact the parish by email or speak to Letitia Selby.

**BECOMING A CATHOLIC** Have you thought about becoming a Catholic or do you know someone who might like to join the church? You may have a Catholic partner, children at a Catholic school, or a friend who is a Catholic and you want to know more about the church and its teaching. If you would like to know more or have any questions, please contact Deacon John Penny Tel: 07973375422 or [email: johncpenny@gmail.com](mailto:johncpenny@gmail.com)

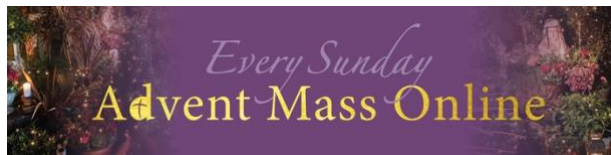
**Missio Red boxes** are available at the back of church – why not take one for your house to collect for this worthy cause – all those spare pennies do soon add up! If you would like us to count your red box donations, then please hand to a steward or a member of the clergy at Mass. Please return any unused boxes so that we may redistribute them.

**Church musicians: appealing for any musicians in the parish (not sure about drummers!) to come forward and help with this very important parish ministry. Please speak initially to one of the clergy.**

**Community Hub** **GREAT NEWS: OUR PLANNING APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED! Next step is to put the building work out to tender.** Thank you to everyone who has donated, this really does mean a lot to the Parish and community. We have been advised that due to economic conditions the cost of the building work has increased to **£305k**. Please do help by making a donation by cash or cheque to the presbytery or via online banking.

**Pope Francis' prayer intention for December** We pray with Pope Francis that catechists, who are called to proclaim God's Word, may be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be its courageous and creative witnesses.

<https://youtu.be/aJpxgGQywX8>



Redemptorist Publications is delighted to bring the Advent Mass, celebrated by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R. into your home every Sunday.

[https://rpbooks.us15.list-](https://rpbooks.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6b341178fc20f6586567e68cd&id=d14b193fbd&e=dae0386626)

[manage.com/track/click?u=6b341178fc20f6586567e68cd&id=d14b193fbd&e=dae0386626](https://rpbooks.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6b341178fc20f6586567e68cd&id=d14b193fbd&e=dae0386626)



**St. Mary's Nantwich Friday Place of Welcome 10am-1pm in the Parish Hall** opened on the 12th November. People are starting to find us but we have plenty of room for more. Come and enjoy and let people know about us! Our simple menu: Hot drinks, Home made Soup of the day Wholemeal/bread or toast, Cake(s) of the day (often home baked) Cold or warm squash, Toasted teacakes Spreads and preserves Chocolate biscuit bars. We're now a member of the Places of Welcome national network

offering a regular free, safe, welcoming space for anyone to drop in to share food and meet together in friendly company. A place where you can share ideas, activities and find local information.

**Also Senior Lounge** at St Mary's will be meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 3.00pm to 4.15pm All Welcome

#### **Feast/Memorial Days this week**

**St Peter Canisius 1521-1597 21 Dec** Peter was born at Nijmegen (Netherlands) and died in Fribourg on this day. He was a Jesuit priest who spent his time writing and teaching in universities and colleges. Together with his easily understood preaching and the writing of famous catechisms, his academic life enabled him to restore and strengthen Catholic belief in response to Reformation. He is remembered for his use of the press in promoting the Catholic revival after the Council of Trent.

**St John of Kanty 1390-1473 23 Dec** Born in Kanty (Poland), John died in Cracow. Ordained a priest, he taught philosophy, theology, and scripture at Crocow University. John urged his students to be moderate for in controversy. He is remembered for his excellent reaching, for his personal austerity and generous almsgiving.



**Donate to Mary's Meals and double your love. Give until 31 January 2022 and your donation will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.6 million – meaning we can reach even more hungry children with life-changing school meals. [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk)**

**Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team – Online Ministry** Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by searching for @Shrewsbury\_ymt. Find us on YouTube by searching for Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team – SYMT, don't forget to subscribe so you know when we go live or release new content.

**The Well-being at Home programme** is a free, 12 week programme aiming to increase activity levels and improve wellbeing of over 55 year olds living in Cheshire. **If you would like to find out more about the programme or the Active Waterways Cheshire project please visit our website [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/activewaterways](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/activewaterways)**

**Nantwich and Rural communities Newsletter** link <https://www.cesap.org.uk/your-social-action/>  
**Sanctuaries, shrines Catholics can 'visit' virtually in Europe, Mideast.** <https://catholicsentinel.org/Content/Arts/Arts-and-Entertainment/Article/Sanctuaries-shrines-Catholics-can-visit-virtually-in-Europe-Mideast/6/31/40431>  
**Journeying Together** <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/journeying-together/>  
**The National Shrine for Our Lady of Walsingham** [www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream](http://www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream)  
**Laudato Tree** <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2020-05/laudato-tree-sahel-pope-francis-laudato-si-year.html>  
**Watch a Mass from home. Live-streaming of Masses** Shrewsbury Diocese:

<http://www.churchservices.tv/shrewsburycathedral/embed#tab-player> Church Services TV: <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>  
Prayer resources at: <http://pathwaystogod.org/>. <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> <http://ln54.blogspot.com>  
<http://prayasyougo.org/>  
**Life** Helplines and Information can be found at <http://www.dayforlife.org/article/helplines-and-information-2020/>

**HAIL MARY,  
FILLED WITH  
GRACE!**

(LUKE 1:39-45)



*Fresco at the Sanctuary of the Visitation in Ein Kerem, Israel, depicting Mary's meeting with Elizabeth*

The first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke are a highly artistically constructed series of five scenes (this excludes the later one of the finding of the child Jesus in the Temple) and the central event is the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth, both pregnant, with Jesus and John the Baptist respectively.

The reason for Mary's visit to her cousin is not, as often supposed, out of concern for her welfare or an act of kindness or charity, but rather is part of the stereotyped account of the annunciation of the birth of a significant person in the divine plan. The final and sixth element in the narrative is the giving of a sign. In this context, the sign is the confirmation of the divine or angelic word: it is an assurance that the person receiving the message has not dreamed or imagined it. Thus, Elizabeth's being pregnant is the sign to Mary that Gabriel's communication was genuine. Mary's visit is to confirm that she has understood correctly her experience with God's messenger. This is the only scene in which the two mothers meet: the unborn John the Baptist gives testimony to the arrival of the child Jesus, just as later he will proclaim the coming of the Messiah. Elizabeth hails the arrival of "the mother of my Lord" and her words have passed into the Christian tradition as part of the most common and popular prayer to Mary. ■

**REFLECT**

**T**he scene of the visitation is the central occasion of Luke's Infancy Narrative, the first two chapters of his Gospel. It brings together the two mothers, Elizabeth and Mary, and their unborn children, John and Jesus. After this, they diverge and we are given the accounts of the birth of the two children. Always, Luke presents Jesus as superior to the Baptist. Elizabeth is cast in the mould of the mothers of important figures in Jewish tradition who are unable, for some unspecified reason, to conceive naturally, but by divine intervention are able eventually to give birth. Mary's virginal conception is of a different order: this is to insist that Jesus is the Son of God and has no human father.

It is important to remember that the Gospels are theological documents: they are expressions of faith. While we might be inclined to see events such as the visitation in terms of human sympathy, there is much more at work, much more depth to figures such as Elizabeth and Mary than a surface reading of the text might suggest.

It is worth reflecting on Elizabeth's final words to Mary: "Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled." In the Bible, the verb "to believe" can be understood as "to trust". Perhaps if we thought more about trusting God rather than simply believing in God, we might be closer to the attitude of Mary and Elizabeth and to that of Joseph and Zechariah. Luke is always emphasising the need to listen to the word. ■

**DO**

Set out the figure of the shepherd from your crib set: reflect during the week on how seemingly ordinary people received news of the birth of the Messiah rather than official and educated individuals.



**LEARN**

The point of Mary's visit to Elizabeth is to confirm Gabriel's message at the annunciation.

In biblical annunciation narratives, a sign is always given to assure the recipient that they have not imagined or dreamed their experience.

People who demand signs as proof are condemned: this is not the same as individuals, such as Mary, checking out signs that they have been given by the divine messenger.

**SAY**

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

(see Luke 1:28, 42)



**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 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.  
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth  
gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers will come  
back  
to the sons of Israel.  
He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he  
will extend his power  
to the ends of the land.  
He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Psalm 79

Response:

**God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be  
saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have  
chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
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.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or  
sacrifices for sin:  
then I said,  
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the  
book,  
"God, here I am! I am coming to obey your  
will."

Notice that he says first: You did not want  
what the Law lays down as the things to be  
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations,  
the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and  
you took no pleasure in them; and then he  
says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your  
will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace  
it with the second. And this will was for us  
to be made holy by the offering of his body  
made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Luke 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she  
could to a town in the hill country of Judah.  
She went into Zechariah's house and greeted  
Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard  
Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb  
and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.  
She gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women  
you are the most blessed, and blessed is  
the fruit of your womb. Why should I be  
honoured with a visit from the mother of my  
Lord? For the moment your greeting reached  
my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy.  
Yes, blessed is she who believed that the  
promise made her by the Lord would be  
fulfilled."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,**

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.**

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**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.**

Father, Ruler of the Universe,  
from the very beginning of time  
you have shown your love for us,  
and most of all when you sent your Son as  
our Saviour.  
Bless all who look upon this crib.  
May it remind us of the humble birth of  
Jesus,  
and raise our thoughts to him,  
who is God-with-us and our Saviour  
who lives and reigns forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

*Blessing of Crib*

