

# Welcome to the Parish of Rushall and the Churches of St. Michael the Archangel and Christ the King

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December is the Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Services this week**

|  |                        |         |                |                 |
|--|------------------------|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Fourth Sunday Of Advent</b>                   | <b>21<sup>st</sup></b> | 8am     | Holy Communion | St. Michael's   |
|  |                        | 9am     | Holy Communion | Christ the King |
|  |                        | 10.30am | Holy Communion | St. Michael's   |
|  |                        | 4pm     | Carol Service  | St. Michael's   |
| <b>Monday</b>                                    | <b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> | 8am     | Morning Prayer | Zoom            |
|  |                        | 6pm     | Evening Prayer | Zoom            |
| <b>Tuesday</b>                                   | <b>23<sup>rd</sup></b> | 8am     | Morning Prayer | Zoom            |
|  |                        | 9.30am  | Holy Communion | Christ the King |
|  |                        | 10am    | Drop In        | Christ the King |
|  |                        | 6pm     | Evening Prayer | Zoom            |
| <b>Wednesday CHRISTMAS EVE</b>                   | <b>24<sup>th</sup></b> | 8am     | Morning Prayer | Zoom            |
|  |                        | 11.30pm | MIDNIGHT MASS  | St. Michael's   |
| <b>Thursday CHRISTMAS DAY</b>                    | <b>25<sup>th</sup></b> | 8am     | Holy Communion | St. Michael's   |
|  |                        | 9am     | Holy Communion | Christ the King |
| <b>Friday</b><br><i>St. Stephen</i>              | <b>26<sup>th</sup></b> |         | No services    |                 |
| <b>Saturday</b>                                  | <b>27<sup>th</sup></b> |         | No services    |                 |
| <b>First Sunday of Christmas/ Holy Innocents</b> | <b>28<sup>th</sup></b> | 8am     | Holy Communion | St. Michael's   |
|  |                        | 9am     | Holy Communion | Christ the King |
|  |                        | 10.30am | Holy Communion | St. Michael's   |
|  |                        | 6.30pm  | Evening Prayer | St. Michael's   |

## Services online

The Sunday 10.30am service at St. Michael's is streamed live on Facebook for those unable to attend in person.

Morning and Evening Prayer take place on Zoom on various days of the week: please contact us for the link if you wish to join us.

Today we hear of Joseph and his quiet obedience.

## Readings for Holy Communion – 21<sup>st</sup> December

### The Collect

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our  
saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### First Reading

*Isaiah 7.10-16*

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

### Psalm 80.1-8

**R: Show the light of your countenance, O Lord God of hosts, and we shall be saved**

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you that led Joseph like a flock;  
2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. **R**  
3 Stir up your mighty strength  
and come to our salvation.  
4 Turn us again, O God;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R**  
5 O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?  
6 You feed them with the bread of tears;  
you give them abundance of tears to drink. **R**  
7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
8 Turn us again, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R**

**Second Reading***Romans 1.1-7*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup>Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia.**

**Gospel***Matthew 1.18-25*

<sup>18</sup>The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Prayer of preparation**

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;  
draw us from hatred to love;  
make the frailty of our praise  
a dwelling place for your glory.  
**Amen.**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your  
holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## In a week's time:

|                                    |                  |         |                 |                 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| First Sunday<br>Of Christmas       | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 8am     | Holy Communion  | St. Michael's   |
|                                    |                  | 9am     | Holy Communion  | Christ the King |
|                                    |                  | 10.30am | Seeker Service  | St. Michael's   |
| Holy Innocents                     |                  | 6.30pm  | Evening Prayer  | St. Michael's   |
| Monday                             | 29 <sup>th</sup> | 8am     | Morning Prayer  | Zoom            |
|                                    |                  | 6pm     | Evening Prayer  | Zoom            |
| Tuesday                            | 30 <sup>th</sup> | 8am     | Morning Prayer  | Zoom            |
|                                    |                  | 9.30am  | Holy Communion  | Christ the King |
|                                    |                  | 10am    | Drop In         | Christ the King |
|                                    |                  | 6pm     | Evening Prayer  | Zoom            |
| Wednesday                          | 31 <sup>st</sup> | 8am     | Morning Prayer  | Zoom            |
|                                    |                  | 6pm     | Evening Prayer  | Zoom            |
| Thursday<br><i>Naming of Jesus</i> | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 9.30am  | Holy Communion  | St. Michael's   |
|                                    |                  | 10am    | Drop In         | St. Michael's   |
| Friday                             | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  |         | No services     |                 |
| Saturday                           | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  |         | No services     |                 |
| Epiphany Sunday                    | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 8am     | Holy Communion  | St. Michael's   |
|                                    |                  | 9am     | Holy Communion  | Christ the King |
|                                    |                  | 10.30am | Seeker Service  | St. Michael's   |
|                                    |                  | 4pm     | Choral Evensong | St. Michael's   |