



## St John the Evangelist RC Church

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**21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 – First Sunday of Lent Year B**

In the coming week, the Prime Minister will be announcing his plans to ease the lockdown. Whilst the exact details remain to be seen, it is widely anticipated that the lifting of restrictions will be carried out slowly and cautiously. This will hopefully avoid the necessity for another lockdown in the near future. There can be no immediate return to normality. We owe it to ourselves and each other to continue to follow all the safety guidelines to contain the spread of the virus. If you use the NHS App and you are notified that you have been in contact with an infected person requiring you to isolate, could you also let me know. This will help us identify any possible issues and keep everyone safe in church. In our Gospel reading this Sunday, we hear about the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness when: “He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.” The past year has certainly been a wilderness experience for most people. Nonetheless, we give thanks to God for the many ‘angels’, seen or unseen, who have been looking after us.

The Women’s World Day of Prayer is due to be held on 5th March. St John’s are hosting the service this year. We have postponed the actual service until **24<sup>th</sup> September** when we hope the current restrictions will be lifted. The service has been written by the women of Vanuatu on the theme of Build on a Strong Foundation. (Matthew 7: 24-27). You can follow online on the 5<sup>th</sup> March by going to the link on [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk). If you want an order of service, contact Mary Gilbert (01746 765504).

If any parents are wondering what is happening about First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year, Bishop Mark has advised all clergy not to make any decisions until after Easter when hopefully, some of the current restrictions may be lifted.

### Mass times and intentions

\*Sat 6.30pm David Duffy

\*Sun 9.00am Parishioners

11.00am Anne Pollard

Mon 10.00am Private Intention

Tue No Mass

\*Wed 12.00noon Parishioners

Thu 10.00am Private Intention

\*Fri 12.00noon Int. of James Morris

\*Sat 6.30pm Parishioners

\*Sun 9.00am Eileen Graham

11.00am Rebecca Avery

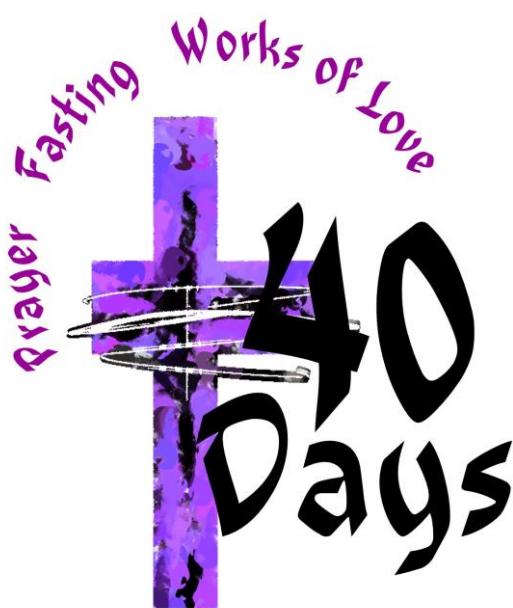
\* Denotes public Mass

Live Stream Masses from our Cathedral are available on the Diocese of Shrewsbury Website. The **revised schedule** is: Sunday – 8.00am Mass, 11.00am Mass, 4.30pm Eucharistic Adoration and Evening Prayer. Monday to Saturday – 12.15pm Mass, 5.30pm Eucharistic Adoration and Evening Prayer. Other Masses may be found from churches throughout the UK and Ireland by going to <https://www.churchservices.tv>.

In February, Pope Francis asks us to keep in mind the following prayer intention: “we pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.”

Throughout Lent, CAFOD are running their Walk for Water campaign asking supporters to walk 10,000 steps per day in solidarity with those people who do have to walk to fetch water every day. You can find further details on the CAFOD website where you can also download a free app to count your steps. John and Mary Gilbert have already signed up for this campaign and they will gladly give you more information if you would like to participate.

**Bridgnorth Food Bank** would be grateful for donations of reusable carrier bags, coffee, rice pudding, jams, squash, toilet rolls, nappies, and pet food. Any items containing alcohol cannot be accepted. If you have items to donate, collection may be arranged if you contact John Gilbert. Alternatively, you may choose to make a cash donation. Your support is much appreciated.



### *Prayer for Lent*

*Eternal God, the refuge of all your children, in our weakness, you are our strength, in our darkness, you are our light, in our sorrow, you are our comfort and peace. May we always live in your presence and serve you in our daily lives, through Christ our Lord. Amen*

Finally.... due to the pandemic, the library has rearranged their books: travel is now in the fantasy section, politics in science fiction, and epidemiology in self-help.