

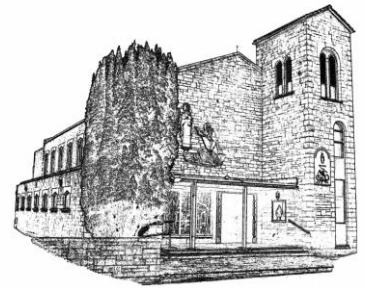
The Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Wilfrid

The Presbytery, 12 Church Road, Selsey, West Sussex, PO20 0LS

Phone: 01243 604953

Parish website: www.stwilfridselsey.co.uk

PARISH PRIEST: Father John Healy



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

14th/15th December 2013

Mass Times

Saturday	5.30pm	Intentions of the Parish	
Sunday	10.00am	Deceased Relatives of the Aslett Family	
Monday		Weekday of Advent	
	10.00am		
Tuesday		Weekday of Advent	No Mass
Wednesday		Weekday of Advent	No Mass
Thursday		Weekday of Advent	No Mass
Friday		Weekday of Advent	No Mass
Saturday		Weekday of Advent	No Morning Mass

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

	5.30pm	Intentions of the Parish	
Sunday	10.00am	Reverend Chris Lane RIP	
Sacrament of Reconciliation:		Saturday, 4.45 to 5.15pm.	

[3rd Sunday of Advent – page 88 in the Parish Mass Book]

CHRISTMAS “SING-A-LONG” to round off the year there will be a social event after Mass this Sunday in the Hall – join in some community singing of seasonal favourites with mulled wine and mince pies, and tasty nibbles. Tickets are on sale after Mass or at the door: £4.00 per ticket (children fee) to cover costs.

RED BOXES: If you have been collecting for the missions throughout 2013 using a “Missio” Red Box at home, now is the time for it to be emptied: please bring it to the Church as soon as possible, and collect an empty one a week later. And you are welcome to take a free “Missio” calendar from the Church porch.

THE REPOSITORY: The Repository and Bookshop will be open again after the Sunday morning Mass – now that its corner at the back of the Church has been “tidied-up.” There are still some Advent and Christmas books and articles from the recent Christmas Fair, as well as a wide range of general devotional items and books.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: Our parish Advent Service of Penance and Reconciliation will be on Friday evening at 7.00pm. It will be a time of reflection and prayer, with an opportunity for those who wish to make a personal Confession. A priest from Chichester will join us to help with Sacramental Reconciliation.

“GAUDATE / JOY SUNDAY”

This is the time when many adults, especially parents and grandparents, are reminded once again of the story of the birth of Jesus – it is the season of Nativity Plays and Christmas Productions at schools and elsewhere. The familiar story is being told for and by children in their simple and direct manner and in a variety of forms and styles. This can be a great opportunity for the grown-ups because the way children understand and describe things can be profound and moving and give fresh insights into what we think we already know.

Some years ago a young student teacher was asked to give a little talk during a children’s Advent Service attended by many adults. He held up a large sheet of paper with the word JOY in large letters for all to see. He then engaged the children in a discussion about what joy is and why it is seen and heard much more around Christmas time than at any time of the year. So how do we become “joy-full” he then asked. On the reverse side of his card he had written the letters of the word JOY down the page with an extra word beside each letter: **J = JESUS; O = OTHERS; Y = YOURSELF.** If you welcome Jesus into your life, and if you count other people as important, you will then find great joy in your life, he concluded. Certainly all the adults present would have grasped the message and both they, and the children as they grew in their faith, would probably always remember it whenever they saw or heard the word JOY.

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING: The Christmas Sing-a-long this Sunday is a gentle and relaxing way to round off the year: a year that has been extremely successful in finding the money to repair our Church roof. We have now paid all the major bills for staunching the leaks from above and yet, all being well, our overdraft at the bank could be less than £20,000 at the end of the year. The reasons for being in such a favourable position at this stage are because we began with healthy reserves that had built up; and then the continuing efforts through this year to fundraise; the very generous response to the “Pledge Sunday” appeal, which included some substantial donations to the “roof fund” and some equally generous interest free loans. Just as important, however, were the pledges to increase weekly donations – to the main offertory collection and the regular retiring collections for the Church Maintenance Fund: promises that were made are now reflected in a sustained increase in both collections. So a mighty “thank-you” to everyone!

However, there is still quite some way to go. When our parish Bookkeeper adds up all the figures at the end of the year, and then presents to the parish early in the new year, we will have a chance to see just what our true financial position will be – but it won’t be half as bad as it might have been!

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING GROUP: The next meeting of the group – to review 2013 and begin planning for 2014 – will now be on Tuesday, 14th January at 6.30pm (and not on 7th January).

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES: As well as our own Advent Service of Penance and Reconciliation on Friday there are others throughout the week in neighbouring parishes: please see the poster on the Parish Notice board in the porch for details.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2014: There is a poster giving advance details of the annual pilgrimage on a notice board in the porch. Further details and application forms will be available in the New Year – but anyone who may be interested in going can note the dates in their diary.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Kathy Chart, Tom Dempsey, Max Foreshew, Christina Hackett, Nell Hassett, Dave Mortby, Peggy Owens, Theresa Watson and all in the parish who are sick.

Please speak to Fr. John if you would like the parish to pray for you, or for someone in your family.

Collections:	7 th /8 th December	Offertory Collection	£391.17p
		Flowers for Christmas	£158.53p