

Benefice of St Nicholas Newport and St Michael and All Angels Chetwynd

Newsletter 16/8/26

Musings

On the 14th August the Church remembers Maximilian Kolbe. Maximilian was born in 1894 in Poland, then a part of the Russian Empire. In 1907 he joined the religious order of the Conventual Friars, taking his final vows in 1914. The Franciscans sent him to study in Rome and he was ordained as a priest in 1918. He returned to Poland and founded a new monastery near Warsaw which became a major publishing centre for religious works. After 3 years of missionary work in Asia he returned to the monastery where, alongside the publishing business he founded a religious radio station.

After the invasion of Poland by the Nazis he remained in the monastery turning it into a hospital and providing shelter for refugees including over 2000 Jews. In 1941 he was arrested and sent to Auschwitz. When a prisoner successfully escaped, in retribution 10 men were chosen to be starved to death in an underground bunker. One of those chosen, Franciszek Gajowniczek, cried out, 'My wife! My children! Maximilian immediately volunteered to take his place. When the guards looked in his cell, they would see him leading his fellow prisoners in prayer. He died on 14th August 1941.

Maximilian was canonised by the Pope in 1982 and present in the congregation was Franciszek Gajowniczek, the man he had saved. Franciszek survived the war and was reunited with his wife although, sadly, his sons had been killed in an air raid. He became a lay missionary and spread the story of Maximilian's sacrifice. Maximilian Kolbe is one of those remembered among the statues of 20th century martyrs above the west door of Westminster Abbey. He was a man who stood up for his faith and saved others.

Someone for us to remember.

Sandra

This week beginning 16/8/26

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.30am Holy Communion
(Common Worship)

Next week beginning 23/8/26

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10.30am Morning Prayer

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Readings 16/8/26 Genesis 45:1-15 or Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Matthew 15:10-28
 23/8/26 Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

Bells

The work on the bells at St Nicholas Church will begin on 24th August and will take between 2 and 6 weeks.

Signposts Summer Festival

An afternoon of fun for all the family. There will be crafts, games, snacks, bingo prayer spaces and free Bibles.

Free Entry Saturday 29th August 12.00pm to 3.00pm Victoria Park

Ride and Stride

The annual Ride and Stride in aid of Shropshire Historic Churches Trust will take place on Saturday 12th September.

Heritage Day

Also on 12th September Newport town will be celebrating Heritage Day. There will be opportunities to go up St Nicholas Church tower.

We pray for all affected by natural disasters remembering especially the victims of the earthquake in Colombia and wildfires in Britain and throughout Europe

We remember in our prayers: Joyce and Geoff, Iraj and Minoo. Jo and Mike, Margaret and Maurice and David

My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations *Psalms 56 verse 76*

If you would like to receive our weekly church newsletter by email, please email the Parish Administrator Liz at stnicsnewport@gmail.com. By requesting to join, you consent to receive email communications from St Nicholas Church, Newport. You can unsubscribe at any time.