

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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**Second Sunday of Advent, 9 December 2018**

“Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all  
mankind shall see the salvation of God.”

Luke 3, 4. 6

**ADVENT COURSE** During the season of Advent Fr Patrick will, once more, be hosting a course for adult Christians anxious to deepen their understanding of the Christmas mystery. Each session will begin at 19.30 and end at 20.30 after which tea & coffee will be served. The sessions will be in the Cenacle on: Mon 10 Dec; Mon 17 Dec. Come to all of them or just the ones you can make.

**ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES**

Date	Time	Venue
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	19.30	Our Lady & St Anne
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11am	English Martyrs
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.00pm	St Michael's Sonning Common
	7.30pm	St James

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Eve**

Vigil Mass 18.00

Christmas Night Mass 22.00

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Day**

First Mass of Christmas 09.00

Christmas Day Mass 11.00

Weekday Masses during the Christmas Octave (from Christmas Day to 1<sup>st</sup> January) will be at 10.00.

**CHRISTMAS MINISTRY ROTA**

The rota to read or to be an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist during the Christmas Masses will be going up in the narthex next weekend. Please sign up.

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION**

Gift Aid £143.09 Loose £526.50

Standing Orders £484.00

The diocesan Privacy Policy is available at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy> or by request from the parish office.

**CAROL SINGING AT PRIORY COURT**

Children in Y4 and above (accompanied by a parent(s) for safeguarding reasons) are invited to go carol singing at Priory Court old peoples' home on Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2:30pm. This will be followed by mince pies and mulled apple juice in the cenacle. Parents are responsible for escorting their children to Priory Court and back to the Cenacle.

To ensure that we have enough hymn sheets and mince pies, and that Priory Court are prepared for numbers, please RSVP to Hilary or Simon if they are able to join at [simonandhilarysmart@gmail.com](mailto:simonandhilarysmart@gmail.com) or 07832 990262.

**CHRISTMAS CLEANING** Will be Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10am. If you have some time to spare and would like to help to make the church especially sparkling for Christmas do come along. All welcome.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND**

Once again, the flower team would be very grateful for any donations towards a 'Christmas Flower Fund'. A box for donations will be at the back of the church after all weekend Masses up to Christmas. Many thanks.

**2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION FOR THE POOR PARISHES FUND THIS WEEKEND**

This charity provides much needed help for poor parishes which are unable to support themselves and for the founding of new parishes. Thank you for your generosity.

**NOVEMBER 200 CLUB WINNERS**

1<sup>st</sup> D Porter 3<sup>rd</sup> Houghton family  
 2<sup>nd</sup> P Naxton 3<sup>rd</sup> M Durnin  
 Cheques available next weekend.

**Second Sunday of Advent (Year C – Luke):** Each year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent we encounter John the Baptist. The adventure of salvation does not begin with human initiative. It is God who intervenes in human history, it is his voice which summons John out of the desert to prepare the way for the Messiah. Jesus did not introduce himself to the waiting world. Someone else, namely John the Baptist, did so. And Luke takes care to situate this event at a specific moment in human history: Tiberius was the Roman Emperor, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, the high priests were Annas and Caiaphas. Luke had provided a very colourful and lyrical account of the circumstances of Jesus' birth in the first chapters of his gospel, yet in situating the beginning of Jesus' public ministry at a certain time he indicated that he was presenting objective historical facts which could be open to scrutiny. Luke was anxious to demonstrate that the prophecies of Isaiah were fulfilled in time and that he had met witnesses who could account for it. And yet, as the prophet Baruch makes clear, we are dealing with God's action, it is he who will prepare the path which the Messiah will tread when at last he comes.

**First Reading (OT): Baruch 5, 1 – 9:** Jerusalem is not just any old city! Jerusalem is a symbol and concept of peace, it is God's city in which his glory dwells. Baruch was the secretary of the prophet Jeremiah, who had so frequently and eloquently articulated the pain and frustration of the Jewish people exiled in Babylon. This is an invitation to Jerusalem to set its house in order so as to welcome the exiles when they return. And it is God himself who will prepare the path which his exiled people have to take in returning to Jerusalem. The light of his glory will shine forth from Jerusalem to guide them on their way.

**Second Reading (NT): Philippians 1, 3 – 6. 8 – 11:** Paul wrote this letter to the Christians of Philippi from prison, yet there is nothing in the letter to suggest this. With empathy for the people who have recently heard the Good News, Paul is anxious to encourage them to find their way forward. The obvious care he took of this community was not to be without fruit. Renewal of a community presented a model for successful pastoral work on the basis of mutual love. Many pastors in today's world ask themselves whether or not this model can still work?

**Gospel: Luke 3, 1 – 6:** Luke cast himself as a historian, keen to establish facts, checking his sources, so as to present Theophilus a reliable and objective account of the great things God had done in recent times. He was to adopt the same "scientific" approach when he set about writing the **Acts of the Apostles**, designed as the follow-up to his gospel narrative. Here Luke presents John the Baptist as fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah about one who was to raise his voice in the wilderness and exhort people to prepare the Lord's way. But Isaiah made clear that whatever about human cooperation, the preparation of the path God's holy one was to tread was a work of God himself. In Advent we pray to the Lord to enable us to make our own rough corners smooth and open our hearts and minds so that he can easily make his way into our lives.

*The readings for today's Masses are to be found in Parish Mass Book : pp 85-86*

# Masses and Intentions

## Second Week of Advent

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 Our Lady & St Anne  
*Solemnity: Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

### Second Sunday of Advent

### Year C (Luke)

Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup> December	17.30	Jozef Skrabek RIP
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00	Leo Vincent Ring RIP
		18.30	Deceased of Carwana family
Monday	10 <sup>th</sup> December	09.15	Mark Goodwin RIP
<i>Advent feria</i>			
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup> December	09.15	Repose of Holy Souls
<i>Advent feria</i>			
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup> December	09.15	Paul & Angèle Doncarli RIP
<i>Advent feria</i>			
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup> December	08.00	Repose of Holy Souls
<i>Memorial: St Lucy</i>		19.30	<b>Penitential service here</b>
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup> December	12.30	Repose of Holy Souls
<i>Memorial: St John of the Cross</i>			
Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00	Jan & Maria Sprlak RIP
<i>Advent feria</i>			

### Third Sunday of Advent

### Year C (Luke)

Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup> December	17.30	Andrew MacDonald
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00	Maria Bugajova RIP
		18.30	People of the parish

Confessions: Saturday 10.30 - 11.30  
16.45 - 17.15

Exposition  
& Benediction: Saturday 10.30 - 11.30

Evening prayer, Rosary: Saturday 16.45