

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Third Sunday of Advent, 16 December 2018

“As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.”

Luke 3, 4. 6

ADVENT COURSE

The final session will be in the Cenacle on: Mon 17 Dec.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Date	Time	Venue
Mon 17 th Dec	7.00pm	St Michael's Sonning Common
	7.30pm	St James

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Mon 24th Dec – Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass (children) 18.00

Christmas Night Mass 22.00

Tues 25th Dec – Christmas Day

First Mass of Christmas 09.00

Christmas Day Mass 11.00

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

CHRISTMAS CLEANING Will be Wed 19th Dec at 10am. If you have some time to spare you would be very welcome. Santa hats not obligatory.

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.

RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS

are available at the piety stall after 10am Mass. Do have a look.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid £173.10 Loose £513.88

Poor Parishes £246.32

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.

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.

CHILDRENS LITURGY FORMS

If your child/ren would like to join in with Children's Liturgy in the new year, please return the registration forms by 24th December. Many thanks for your help with this.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Eddie Moran would like to thank everybody who sponsored him. Together you have raised £1300 which increases to approximately £1468 when gift aid has been added. This will be divided between the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and the parish.

200 CLUB FINISHING

Unfortunately, the 200 club will be finishing at the end of December 2018 as the number of members is now too few. There will be a December draw and a Christmas draw. If you have a direct debit, please cancel it. Any money left in the pot will be returned to the relevant people. No more subscriptions will be accepted.

Thank you to those who have supported the club over the years.

NOVEMBER 200 CLUB WINNERS

1st D Porter 3rd Houghton family

2nd P Naxton 3rd M Durnin

Cheques available in the sacristy.

Third Sunday of Advent (Year C – Luke): The opening antiphon in today's Mass calls upon us to rejoice. The celebrant wears a rose coloured chasuble, on this first of the two Sunday's in the year when this colour is worn. We light the third of the candles on our Advent wreath and it too is pink/red. In the NT reading we hear Paul urging the early Christians of Philippi to be happy, in fact he says that all he wishes and prays for is their happiness. The title of the first Apostolic Exhortation addressed by Pope Francis to the Church shortly after his election as Successor of Peter was *Evangelii Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel*. Tomorrow, 17 December, we enter the second part of Advent and now it is legitimate to look forward to Christmas and, in fact, the scripture readings at Mass from 17 to 24 December are about the way in which God prepared for the birth of his Son. Not only is it a joyful narrative, full of hope and eager expectation, but it dovetails nicely with the joy so palpable on our TV, our radio channels and in the streets in these final days of the Advent season. In the Advent Course last Monday we saw what it meant to the human race that the Son of God entered into our history, came and dwelt amongst us. And that too is a great source of our joy and a reason for rejoicing. This Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, the liturgy itself is suffused with restrained joy which will be released in all its customary exuberance as we celebrate the Mass of Midnight on Christmas Night.

First Reading (OT): Zephaniah 3, 14 – 18: This reading contains a promise made by God to come and dwell with his people. It is not a question of a majestic and triumphal entry into their city, rather having driven their enemies away and removed threats to their security, he just comes and lives among them. It is clear that the victorious God rejoices in the happiness of his people and his own joy comes from the knowledge that they are happy.

Second Reading (NT): Philippians 4, 4 – 7: Paul wrote this letter to the Christians of Philippi from prison, where his circumstances were anything but pleasant. And he urges them to be happy, to be joyful, and we must see this as a recommendation that they be serene and happy regardless of the sufferings they may have to endure or the mood they may be in. Their security and ultimately their joy too must come from the knowledge that God is always close by and takes their welfare and their happiness to heart.

Gospel: Luke 3, 10 – 18: John provides very practical advice to those who ask him what steps they must take to convert their hearts. He provides much the type of advice that Jesus was later to give in his teaching. Many were convinced that John himself might be the Messiah, but he pointed to the one who was to come and suggested a radical judgement scenario which was to feature so prominently in the preaching of Jesus which the evangelists place in the latter days of his teaching ministry. [As of 17 December the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke commence and lead us up to the celebration of Christmas itself. The gospel stories are mirrored against the principal OT texts which hint at God's providential plan.

The readings for today's Masses are to be found in Parish Mass Book : pp 88-89

Masses and Intentions

Third Week of Advent

Saturday 15th December 10.00 Jan & Maria Sprlak RIP
Advent feria

Third Sunday of Advent

Year C (Luke)

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

Monday 17th December 09.15 Loretta D'Costa RIP
Advent feria

Tuesday 18th December 09.15 John Durnin RIP
Advent feria

Wednesday 19th December 09.15 Dec'd of D'Costa & Ammieda family
Advent feria

Thursday 20th December 08.00 Elizabeth Mooney RIP
Advent feria

Friday 21st December 12.30 James O'Brien
Advent feria

Saturday 22nd December 10.00 Joan Jiggins RIP
Advent feria

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year C (Luke)

Saturday 22nd December 17.30 Int of Paige, Harrison & Evie Lavell
 Sunday 23rd December 10.00 Fr Tom Meagher RIP
 18.30 Christian Giblin RIP

Confessions: Saturday 10.30 - 11.30
 16.45 - 17.15

Exposition
 & Benediction: Saturday 10.30 - 11.30

Evening prayer, Rosary: Saturday 16.45