

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Fourth Sunday of Advent, 23 December 2018

“Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy.”

Luke 1, 43 - 44

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.

CAROLS BEFORE CHRISTMAS NIGHT MASS

The choir will be leading carols from 9.40pm before Christmas Night Mass at 10pm. Please arrive early and make sure that you get a seat.

THANK YOU TO OUR CHILDREN'S LITURGY FAMILIES!

Well done to our children whose Smarties tubes appeal raised an amazing £136.74 for CAFOD! They have chosen to spend this, plus the funds from their recent cake sale, on medical treatment for pregnant mothers and newborn babies and water pumps for families in poor communities. Thanks to all who supported them!

MAPLEDURHAM MASS

All are welcome to the Mapledurham chapel for Mass next Sunday 30th December at 18.00.

RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS

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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid £203.80 Loose £491.17

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.

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.

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Pamela Ploszynska who died recently and for all those who mourn her. Her funeral will be here at Our lady & St Anne on Friday 4th January at 11.30.

CRIB COLLECTION

Any donations made at the crib this year will be given to Aid to the Church in Need. Aid to the Church in Need supports important projects which are undertaken by the local Church in the 140-plus countries where they give aid. Our projects range from big to small and cover a whole range of ideas – including some very unusual ones – to help nurture the faith of persecuted and suffering Christians.

OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The office will be closed from 24th Dec until 1st January. Re-open 2nd Jan.

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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C – Luke): We are fortunate here at Our Lady & St. Anne to have inherited a wonderful large canvas depicting the scene described so touchingly by Luke in today’s gospel. It is a rather fine copy of Mariotto Albertinelli’s painting of the Visitation (1505) in the Uffizi Gallery, Florence. The Sisters of the Visitation (of Ghent) served in this parish community for the best part of a century and it was this encounter between Mary and Elizabeth, to be seen in the picture at the end of the north side aisle, that informed the spirituality of the Sisters. What brought these two pregnant women together was the children in their respective wombs. Two blessed women meet, embrace and rejoice in the way God has worked in their lives, in their bodies. This tender image is the first one in the family album of our Christian faith! Elizabeth is cast in the role of prophetess and the encounter, known as the Visitation, finds itself situated between the Annunciation and the Nativity. The readings today are heavy with promise, the prophet Micah articulates the plans of God and the insecurities and needs of his people that his coming will address.

First Reading (OT): Micah 5, 1 - 4: The coming of someone who will be shepherd to his people and will bring peace is announced in the prophecy of Micah. What Micah forecasts for the future, Paul in his letter to the Christians of Ephesus was able to place in the present: “He [Jesus] is our peace” (Eph. 2, 14). The long-awaited one has come, he is present in his Church. With the birth of Jesus the prophecies which spanned the generations of Jewish history have come to pass.

Second Reading (NT): Hebrews 10, 5 - 10: Sacrificial lambs were victims, slaughtered against their will. But here we have a lamb who willingly gave up his life for the sake of others. Sacrifice played a very significant part in OT religion, even if God repeatedly reminded his people that sacrifices were not pleasing to him, he preferred a broken and contrite heart. But Jesus came into the world – that is what we are celebrating in commemorating the Nativity – to do his father’s will and, out of love for his Father and for us, he offered up his life so that we might be saved.

Gospel: Luke 1, 39 - 44: Mary hastened to the hill country of Judah after she heard from the angel Gabriel that her elderly cousin too was with child, she too being in receipt of a miracle. Elizabeth in greeting Mary became a prophetess whose utterance confirmed for Mary what the angel had told her. The child in Elizabeth’s womb leapt for joy and in so doing was he the first to “announce” the coming of the Lord. This role, initiated when he was still in the womb, he was to fulfil later in life when on Jordan’s banks he announced the coming of one “whose sandals he was unworthy to loose”. Mary uttered her great hymn of praise, the Magnificat, not included in today’s gospel extract, which is in praise of a woman who has believed. She believed not because she had seen a sign, rather she looks for a sign – such as the one given to her in the greeting of Elizabeth – because she believed.

The readings for today’s Masses are to be found in Parish Mass Book : pp 90-91

Masses and Intentions Fourth Week of Advent

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

Monday 24th December 10.00 People of the parish
Advent feria

First Mass of Christmas 18.00 Sister Anne
(children)

21.40 Carols

22.00 Mass of Christmas Night

Tuesday 25th December 09.00 Mass of Christmas Day

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord 11.00 Mass of Christmas Day

Wednesday 26th December 10.00 The Quilter family
Feast: St Stephen

Thursday 27th December 10.00 Jackie Clyne RIP
Feast: St John

Friday 28th December 10.00 Sarah Louise Anscombe RIP
Feast: Holy Innocents

Saturday 29th December 10.00 Mary Wheeler
Feast: St Thomas Becket

Feast of the Holy Family

Year C (Luke)

Saturday 29th December 17.30 Evlyn Novell - intention

Sunday 30th December 10.00 Jose Dominguez
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