

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest  
Monsignor Patrick H. Daly

Presbytery  
2 South View Avenue,  
Caversham,  
READING RG4 5AB  
Telephone: 0118 947 1787  
Office email: [o.l.a.s.a.office@gmail.com](mailto:o.l.a.s.a.office@gmail.com)  
Parish Secretary: Miss Lis Leddy  
Parish Priest email: [o.l.a.s.a.priest@gmail.com](mailto:o.l.a.s.a.priest@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk)



**Third Sunday of Advent 14/15 December 2019**

“They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces.”

Isaiah 35, 10

## RIP

- Please pray for the soul of Marjorie Whitehead who died recently. Marjorie to be brought into church Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec and the requiem Mass to take place Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 11.30hr.

May she rest in peace and those who mourn her find solace.

## ADVENT COURSE

**Week 3: Role of the saints in the life of the Church -16th Dec.** The talk takes place in the Cenacle at 19.30hrs on the Mondays of Advent.

## ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - Our Lady & St Anne; 19.30

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Dec - English Martyrs; 11.00

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Dec - St James; 19.30

Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec - St Michael's SC; 19.00

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

18.00 Vigil Mass - children's Mass

21.40 Carols before Mass

22.00 Christmas Night Mass

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December

09.00 Christmas Dawn Mass

11.00 Christmas Day Mass

## CHRISTMAS AT THE PIETY STALL

Come and browse after 10.00hr Mass

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid £120.05      Loose £680.58

Standing Orders                      £493.12

Poor parishes                              £260.89

## Mulled wine and festive bakes - Sunday 15th December

Please come and join us for mulled wine, tea, filter coffee and festive bakes in the Cenacle after 10am Mass on Sunday 15th December. Proceeds to CIRDIC - Churches In Reading Drop In Centre - which supports rough sleepers and homeless people in the Reading area.

## OUR LADY AND ST ANNE'S BIG CHRISTMAS CLEAN

10am on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The Big Clean to do all the extra cleaning jobs in the church in addition to the weekly work eg cleaning windows and the confessional. 4 members of the big clean team have left the parish so there really are plenty of roles for everybody who would like to get involved. Just turn and there will be a list of jobs! Everybody welcome.

## CAROL SINGING IN CARE HOME

The young carol singers have been invited back this year on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm. Children must be accompanied by parents. To get involved contact Hilary Smart on [simonandhilarysmart@gmail.com](mailto:simonandhilarysmart@gmail.com)

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

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

## GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

On admission to Royal Berkshire Hospital all Catholics should inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic and if they wish to have Communion or see a Priest.

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

Our Lady & St Anne Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Charity No. 234216

**Third Sunday of Advent (Year A – Matthew):** The early Christians lived in the hope that Jesus would return. Many of them expected that the second coming would occur in their own lifetime. The debate among them, and one which was fed by the writings and ministry of St. Paul, was how they should live so as to be ready when the Lord did come back. We are living two thousand years after the death of Jesus and, like the first generation of Christians, we too are expected to conduct ourselves in such a way that we would not be taken by surprise were the Lord to return. Christians are fully immersed in the life and activities of our age as indeed their forefathers have been for countless generations. One of the major themes which emerged from the Second Vatican Council was that of the Church's relationship with the world and with the secular powers which governed it. The challenge today is for Christians to develop a distinctive voice and to adopt a lifestyle which is more in harmony with the gospel and invites the world to set different standards for itself. This week-end the chances are politics will be top of the agenda in most people's minds and the country settles down to life under the new government elected on Thursday.

**First Reading (OT): Isaiah 35, 1 – 6. 10:** This exquisite text from the pen of the prophet Isaiah uses powerful images to describe the path back to health and salvation. Everyone and everything will be touched by an explosion of Joy. [This is Gaudete/Rejoicing Sunday]. Those set free by God await a wonderful fate. There will be peace, happiness and human fulfilment. It comes as no surprise that later the Christians should turn to this OT text and see it as forecasting the coming of Messiah, God's holy one, and the dawning of the kingdom of God. They drew great encouragement from this text and from all that it promised.

**Second Reading (NT): James 5, 7 – 10:** We saw a few weeks ago how patience is the advent virtue par excellence. James urges his readers to exercise patience just like the farmer who has sown seed and awaits the harvest. The Lord is coming, the judge stands at the door. The longer the delay, the greater the patience required. But James does not want his people to tread water, he wants them to see patience as a virtue and to put the waiting time to best possible use. Christians must not just sit back in a fatalistic posture and let heavenly designs have their way. They must make the time fruitful. They must actively prepare themselves and the world for the second coming of the Lord. Ours is a world where everyone seems in a hurry, where activity is ceaseless, where everything operates on the basis of a twenty-four hour clock. We must make patience into a virtue, it must make us strong.

**Gospel: Matthew 11, 2 – 11:** Having sent a message to John the Baptist about what was happening since he began proclaiming the kingdom of God, Jesus challenges the people as to what their expectations of John were when they went to hear him preach. As Christmas now approaches, it is worth our asking ourselves what exactly we expect of the Messiah.

# Masses and Intentions

## Third Week of Advent

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 Paul & Angèle Doncarli RIP  
*Memorial: St John of the Cross*

### Third Sunday of Advent

### Year A

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 17.30 Maria Simalova RIP

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 Jackie Clyne RIP  
 18.30 Evlyn Novell RIP

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 09.15 Norma Kelly  
*Advent feria*

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 09.15 Áine Donnelly  
*Advent feria*

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 09.15 Jim & Bridie Finucane  
*Advent feria*

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 08.00 Theo Kowoupas - recovery  
*Advent feria* 15.30 Marjorie Whitehead brought into the church

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 11.30 Requiem Mass – Marjorie Whitehead  
*Advent feria*

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 10.00 Frank Gratrix RIP  
*Advent feria*

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Year A

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 17.30 John Anthony Dawson RIP

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 10.00 Church musicians  
 18.30 People of the parish

<b>Confessions:</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	10.30 - 11.30 16.45 - 17.15
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<b>Exposition &amp; Benediction:</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	10.30 - 11.30
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<b>Evening prayer, Rosary:</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	16.45
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