

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Second Sunday of Advent 7/8 December 2019

“Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.”

Isaiah 11, 5

RIP

- Please pray for the repose of the soul of Frank Gratrix whose funeral is to take place here on Wednesday 11th December @ 11.00hr.
 - Please pray also for the soul of Marjorie Whitehead who died recently. Marjorie to be brought into church Thursday 19th Dec and the requiem Mass to take place Friday 20th Dec @ 11.30hr.
- May they rest in peace and those who mourn them find solace.

ADVENT COURSE

Week 2: Church recognition - 9th Dec.
The talk takes place in the Cenacle at 19.30hrs on the Mondays of Advent.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Thurs 12th Dec – Our Lady & St Anne; 19.30
Sat 14th Dec – English Martyrs; 11.00
Mon 16th Dec – St James; 19.30
Thurs 19th Dec – St Michael's SC; 19.00

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Tuesday 24th December

18.00 Vigil Mass – children's Mass
21.40 Carols before Mass
22.00 Christmas Night Mass

Wednesday 25th December

09.00 Christmas Dawn Mass
11.00 Christmas Day Mass

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid	£175.50	Loose	£462.96
Standing Orders			£493.12
Tea & coffee money			£123.43

CHRISTMAS AT THE PIETY STALL

Come and browse after 10.00hr Mass on a Sunday.

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.

OUR LADY AND ST ANNE'S BIG CHRISTMAS CLEAN

10am on Wednesday 18th 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 15th December at 2.30pm. Children must be accompanied by parents. To get involved contact Hilary Smart on 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.

RED BOXES Thank you to all those who handed in red Mission boxes for counting. These have been emptied and a cheque for £146.31 sent to the main offices. Please collect from narthex.

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

Second Sunday of Advent (Year A – Matthew): Over the past week the minds of the world have been focused on our immediate future as inhabitants of planet Earth. The UN sponsored Climate Conference in Madrid has been listening to the latest scientific prognosis of the health and future prospects of our world as global warming accelerates, as climate change effects an increasing number of people – most of them poor – and as hurricanes, smog, the melting of the ice cap and disappearing biodiversity all combine to threaten life on earth. There can be no denial but that we are all preoccupied about the future and, given that we now inhabit a global village, the future of the planet is a major concern. As the papal encyclical *Laudato Si* demonstrated, the future of our ‘common home’ is of profound concern to the Church too. In Advent each year, however, the Church invites us to cast our gaze into the indefinite future, to the return of the Lord, to his second coming at the close of the age. And she urges us to listen to the voice of the prophets: the optimistic among them, most notably Isaiah, looked forward to a future where justice would reign, where the instruments of war would be converted into ploughshares used in the harvesting of the land, and where people would live in peace. The readings this week-end again draw our attention to the Lord’s promise to return, the challenge to us is to be ready for his coming. He may well call us to account regarding the care we have taken of our common home: the Garden of Eden has been plundered and neglected, and who is responsible?

First Reading (OT): Isaiah 11, 1 – 10: At the time this passage was written the tiny kingdom of Israel was under threat from powerful neighbours, circling with predatory intent. And yet Isaiah was able to prophesy the emergence of a shoot from the stock of Jesse [i.e. the Messiah] who would bring about a reign of peace, justice and prosperity. The peace, the rejection of war as an instrument of power and politics, was to be the fruit of justice. Because the principle on which people were governed was justice, resort to war was no longer necessary. It is easy to see how the early Christians recognised in this prophetic utterance a description of the kingdom of God proclaimed by Jesus.

Second Reading (NT): Romans 15, 4 – 9: Paul and the early Christians held the Jewish scriptures in great respect and turned to them for moral guidance. Paul was aware that he had a new message to proclaim, focused on the person and the saving mission of Jesus Christ. Christ’s way of treating people was to be the model for those desirous of learning how to treat and live with others. Christ’s example was the rule of thumb for the children of the New Covenant.

Gospel: Matthew 3, 1 – 12: John the Baptist, the last of the prophets in the OT tradition, was cast by the evangelists as the pre-cursor of the Messiah. He announced the coming of Jesus and made him know “when at last he came.” Here it is the end times, the day of judgement that John is focusing on, calling all and sundry – Pharisees and Sadducees included – to be aware that the kingdom of heaven was at hand and that repentance was urgently necessary.

Masses and Intentions

Second Week of Advent

Saturday 7th December 10.00
Feast: St Andrew

Joan Jiggins RIP

Second Sunday of Advent

Year A

Saturday 7th December 17.30
 Sunday 8th December 10.00
 18.30

Zygmunt Powiecki RIP
 People of the parish
 Guillermo Guzman RIP

Monday 9th December 09.15
*Solemnity: Immaculate conception
 of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Stefania Szydłowska

Tuesday 10th December 09.15
Advent feria

Our Lady & St Anne

Wednesday 11th December 11.00
Advent feria

Funeral Mass – Frank Gratrix

Thursday 12th December 08.00
Advent feria 19.30

Dinah Molloy Thompson RIP
 Penitential service here

Friday 13th December 12.30
memorial: St John of the Cross

People of the parish

Saturday 14th December 10.00
Memorial: St Ambrose

Paul & Angèle Doncarli RIP

Third Sunday of Advent

Year A

Saturday 14th December 17.30
 Sunday 15th December 10.00
 18.30

Maria Simalova RIP
 Jackie Clyne RIP
 Evlyn Novell RIP

Confessions:	Saturday	10.30 - 11.30 16.45 - 17.15
Exposition & Benediction:	Saturday	10.30 - 11.30
Evening prayer, Rosary:	Saturday	16.45