

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 18/12 January 2020

“Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is
the Chosen One of God.”

WELCOME

We welcome Fr Zachary from the parish of Christ the King in Reading who will be saying all Masses this weekend.

FLOWERS ON THE HIGH ALTAR

Fr Patrick has asked for there not to be any flowers on the high altar at the back just for the moment.

In light of this, the very generous amount of flower money that was left over after Christmas will be held and used for the Easter flowers.

CAMINO WALKING

PILGRIMAGE 15th/16th-

23rd/24th Sep 2020. Camino del Norte Stage 2: Vilalba to Santiago 125km over six days. Prices for flights and coach £290 approx.

Hostel or hotel extra. Must be reasonably fit & prepare by walking regularly before the Camino.

Information evening: Thu 6th Feb at 7.30pm in St James church. Full information sheet and booking forms available at the meeting.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid £182.50 Loose £551.38

Standing Orders £1,120.00

(still waiting for some direct debits to activate but this amount of gift aided donation is promised)

HEAVENS ABOVE

A stargazing evening at Our Lady & St Anne's on 25th Jan (Sat) at 7pm, involving 45 min presentation by Dr Chan Malde on planets & galaxies followed by practical observation in Presbytery garden (weather permitting). Come and find out what is shining above your head here in Caversham.

Drinks & nibbles provided.

Tickets £5 /person or

£15 / family - available after all Masses.

All proceeds to Church refurbishment fund.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18th-25th Jan. Ecumenical Service at 6.00pm on Sun 19th Jan at Emmanuel Methodist Church, Oxford Road, Preacher: Bishop Olivia Music: Reading Salvation Army band. All welcome.

WONDERING HOW TO RECYCLE CLEAN PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS?

'Lush' in the Oracle will take clean plastic bottle tops in the shop.

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 receive 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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A -Matthew): Recent events reported in the news have reminded us of just how vulnerable we human beings are. The bush fires in Australia which have caused loss of life and destroyed countless homes, the flooding in Yorkshire before Christmas and the deaths by disease or accident of celebrated people or those we know are a stark reminder of how fragile the human being is. We are vulnerable. Our idea of God suggests qualities such as omnipotence, omniscience and immunity to change or pain. But the mystery of the Incarnation which we have just celebrated at Christmas radically challenges this view of the divine which philosophical reflection suggests to us. We welcomed Messiah as a vulnerable child, dependent on his parents, susceptible to being slaughtered with the other children born in Bethlehem at the time, and we know that as an adult Jesus was “like us in all things but sin.” John the Baptist recognised that vulnerability: he points to Jesus, he describes him as the Lamb of God. Of all the animals, the lamb is the most vulnerable: it is young, it is the sacrificial animal par excellence. Our humanity is most keenly felt when we are in touch with and sensitive to our vulnerability, and it is here that Jesus too is at his most human.

First Reading (OT): Isaiah 49, 3. 5 - 6: There are four Songs of the Suffering servant in the writings of the prophet Isaiah. Today we have an excerpt from the second of those songs. Who is intended for remains a mystery, but the question here is whether one can still believe in a providential God despite all the disappointments. After the exile in Babylon the Israelites were strengthened by their hope in a better future once they had returned to the land of Israel. The hopes they had vested in the Persian king Cyrus seemed to be misplaced. The more hopeless the circumstances in which the people were forced to live the greater the disappointment in God himself. The prophet sets out to give people courage. God will send his servant, he will be the agent of salvation and that salvation will be given not just to the people of Israel but to all men and women. It is a universal promise and call.

Second Reading (NT): 1 Corinthians 1, 1 - 3: Paul knows full well that the Christians of Corinth were anything but well-behaved and that they had caused him considerable heart-break. And yet he addresses them as “saints”! By that he meant not people who were distinguished by keeping the highest moral standards, rather that the community in Corinth had been admitted by Jesus Christ into his life through the gift of his Spirit and participants in what, already in the OT, was the universal call to holiness (a doctrine again highlighted in Vatican II).

Gospel: John 1, 29 - 34: In identifying Jesus as “Lamb of God” John associates him with the Passover rituals and evokes too the image of the Suffering Servant. This is a prophetic insight articulated by John the Baptist, the last of the OT prophets.

[Sunday readings](#)

