

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest
Monsignor Patrick H. Daly

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Sunday within the Octave of Christmas 28/29 December 2019
“This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:
I called my son out of Egypt.”

Matthew 2, 15



OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The office will re-open on Thursday 2nd January.

CHRISTMAS CRIB DONATIONS

Any donations made at the crib this year will be given to Friends of the Holy Land to support their work in the Middle East.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

is traditionally taken for the parish priest.

VOLUNTEERs

If you would like to get involved with anything in the parish, contact the parish office and find out what you could do.

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

Sunday within the Octave of Christmas – Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth (Year A – Matthew): For many if not most modern families, Christmas is the only occasion in the whole year when all its members come together. It is a cross-generational feast, with children – the future of the family, the bearers of its destiny – to the forefront. Christmas is a children’s feast but the elderly too receive a lot of deserved attention, if only to relate what it was like in Christmases past and when Christmas was occasionally white. Family means a great deal to most of us, although what family means in practical terms varies greatly in the contemporary world. Many of those who feature frequently in the news – politicians, celebrities or members of royal families – have chaotic family histories. With chaos goes a lot of suffering, not least where children are concerned. And yet, against this background, the Church places the feast of Jesus, Mary & Joseph as a family unit – the holy family – on the Sunday between the first day of Christmas (the Nativity of the Lord) and the eighth day of Christmas (Mary, Mother of God) not just to honour them but to reflect on how much and why our family matters to us. The NT never refers to Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a family: each of them has a quite separate fate, they have all received a specific vocation from God to fulfil a particular task in the history of Salvation. Jesus grew to be a man in the home he shared with Mary and Joseph; there was a religious atmosphere in his home and it helped him grow in his own relationship with God. At the age of twelve he was able to remind Joseph and Mary, after their distress at losing him in Jerusalem, that he had to attend to “my Father’s business.” As we reflect on the dynamic at work in our own family, it might help to set our family life against the tensions, opportunities and challenges that marked the family life of Jesus in Nazareth.

First Reading (OT): Ecclesiasticus 3, 2 – 6. 12 - 14: The scriptures see children as a blessing, as being very close to God. Jesus called a child to be close to him so as to teach his disciples where true greatness lay. This reading from the OT is specifically addressed to children and in that respect is quite unusual. Come to think of it we are all children, all of us is a son or a daughter, and this text thus speaks to all of us. Drawing his inspiration from the fourth commandment of the Decalogue, Jesus ben Sirach (author of this text) insists that God too is involved when children pay due honour to their parents.

Second Reading (NT): Colossians 3, 12 – 21: Paul presents here an ideal of how people can succeed in living together, whether that communal living be in a family, in society or in a church. Love is the key and all other attitudes spring from that love which has its origin in God.

Gospel: Matthew 2, 13 – 15. 19 – 23: One of the phenomena which marks the life of every continent today, Europe very much included, is the instability that leads to families becoming refugees or compelled to migrate from their homeland to a foreign country. The heart-breaking story related by Matthew today may describe events of two thousand years ago, but it could be a lead story on News at Ten.

Masses and Intentions Christmastide

Saturday 28 th December	10.00	People of the parish
<i>Feast: Holy Innocents</i>		
Feast of the Holy Family		Year A
Saturday 28 th December	17.30	Evlyn Novell RIP
Sunday 29 th December	10.00	Sarah Louise Anscombe RIP
	18.30	Thanksgiving
Monday 30 th December	10.00	Repose of holy souls
<i>Sixth day in the Octave of Christmas</i>		
Tuesday 31 st December	10.00	Intention of Terry Burrett
<i>Seventh day in the Octave of Christmas</i>		
Wednesday 1 st January	10.00	Raff Finelli RIP
<i>Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God</i>		
Thursday 2 nd January	<u>08.00</u>	Repose of holy souls
<i>Memorial: St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen</i>		
Friday 3 rd January	12.30	Repose of holy souls
<i>Christmas feria</i>		
Saturday 4 th January	10.00	People of the parish
<i>Christmas feria</i>		
Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord		Year A
Saturday 4 th January	17.30	Zygmunt Powiecki RIP
Sunday 5 th January	10.00	Karolina & Jan Sprlak
	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