

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest
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First Sunday of Advent – 29 November 2020

“Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know
when the time will come.”

Mark 13, 33

OLASA PRIVATE PRAYER

Our Lady & St Anne will be open for private prayer before the exposed Blessed Sacrament on Saturdays from 10.30 – 11.30 beginning Saturday 28th November (weekend of First Sunday of Advent).

ADVENT COURSE 2020

Fr Patrick will be running his Advent Course on Zoom this year for obvious reasons. If you would like to join, please pin the details to your calendar or look on the website for the link which will be the same each week.

Topic: OLASA Advent Course

Time: 7:30

Join Zoom Meeting

[OLASA ADVENT COURSE](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84943731720>

Meeting ID: 849 4373 1720

The course will be on Zoom on Monday 30 November, Monday 7 December, Monday 14 December and Monday 21 December (Winter Solstice) from 19.30 to 20.30.

MASSES DURING DECEMBER FOLLOWING LOCKDOWN

Thursday and Tuesday morning weekday Masses will start again on Thursday 3rd December at the usual times.

Starting Sat. 5th Dec, the 10am Mass on Saturdays will be public for the rest of Advent.

No booking required at these Masses but contact details will be needed.

DONATE TO THE PARISH WHILE YOU SHOP ONLINE

The parish has signed up with a charity called The Giving Machine, part of a portal called Churchmarketplace which is sanctioned by the Archdiocese. Just sign up to TGM and nominate Our Lady & St Anne RC Church as your charity. We have a designated number of 267066. Find out how it all works at

<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/how-tgm-works/>

All the major supermarkets make a donation so if you click and collect or have a delivery every little helps 😊

READING VOLUNTARY ACTION COVID SUPPORT

<http://rva.org.uk/coronavirus-community-action/> - if you would like to volunteer or need some help have a look at what is available here.

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

First Sunday of Advent (Year B – Mark): The new liturgical year opens with the Church in expectant spirits. The early Christians lived on tenterhooks as they expected the risen Lord to return at any time. Many hoped that he would come back in their own lifetime. We have learned to be more patient. Nonetheless, the prospect of the Lord’s return is never far from mind. That “thief in the night” always risks knocking at our door. Advent puts the prospect of Christ, the king and the judge whom we encountered in the scripture readings last week, coming back before us each year and challenges us to examine our own lives just to see how prepared we are to meet the Lord. Towards the end of this short liturgical season our minds will turn to the historic moment when, over two thousand years ago, the Son of God entered into our world. He came to dwell among us so that coming and the mystery of the Incarnation which goes with it is also recalled at Christmas, for which the latter days of Advent prepare us. But recollection of the birth of Christ and anticipation of his coming at the close of the age, both central to our Advent experience, both challenge us to reflect on how in the here and now Christ also seeks to be present in our lives. The lock-down and the inability of most people to visit God’s house and to participate in the communal worship of the Church have combined to get so many of us to re-examine our whole relationship with God and the ways we celebrate our Christian faith. The good news is that the church buildings will soon be open again and that our Christmas celebrations, albeit in a minor key, can take place. Advent gains an extra impetus this year through the difficult experience we have all been through. The end result might well be a more spiritual celebration of Christmas at a time when it has become increasingly secularised. It is good to see that this year’s Christmas stamps do tell the whole world that this country still cherishes and believes in the Christmas story.

First Reading (OT): Isaiah 63, 16 – 17; 64, 1. 3 – 8: This text dates from the moment that the Israelites returned from their exile in Babylon. They were downhearted and despondent, and acutely aware of their sins. This text is a prayer addressed to God: there is a humble acknowledgement of individual and collective sin, and there is also a fascinating articulation of the faith the Israelites had in God and their understanding of who and what he is.

Second Reading (NT): 1 Corinthians 1, 3 – 9: Paul was still expecting the imminent return of the Lord at the time he wrote this letter to the Christian community at Corinth. He congratulated them on the way their community was organised and on those who were serving it and building up its faith as teachers and preachers. It is a reminder to us too how important preaching is in our lives as a Christian community and perhaps a challenge too to the priest/preacher to meditate on what he intends to say and to his congregation to imbibe his words.

Gospel: Mark 13, 33 – 37: Stay vigilant was one of the messages the government gave us in the pandemic. But it has been the message of the Church since apostolic times. In no season is it more relevant than in Advent.

Mass Intentions for the first week in Advent

Fr Patrick will celebrate Thursday 3rd December with a congregation and the Sunday Masses for the Second week of Advent are available for booking.

Saturday 28th November 10.00 Tony Lundy RIP

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday 29th November 10.00

Monday 30th November 09.15

Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle

Tuesday 1st December 09.15

Feast of St. Edmund Campion, Priest & Martyr

Wednesday 2nd December 09.15

Feria of Week 1 of Advent

Thursday 3rd December 08.00

Memorial of St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Friday 4th December 12.30

Feria of Week 1 of Advent [First Friday]

Saturday 5th December 10.00

Feast of St. Birinus, Bishop

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday 5th December 17.30

Sunday 6th December 10.00

Year B

Zarzeczny Family Deceased

Grestiak Deceased

Margita, Maria & Macej Grestiak

Our Lady & St. Anne Intention

Eufemia Robor Menodiado

Alice Bamford RIP

People of the parish

Year B

Zygmunt Powiecki

Gerard Lawrence