

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest
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Fourth Sunday of Advent – 20 December 2020

“I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.”

Luke 1, 38

SATURDAY MORNINGS

The 10am Mass on Saturdays followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.00am will be continuing provided the stewarding team are able to accommodate it. No booking is required for this morning Mass.

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 21 December (Winter Solstice) from 19.30 to 20.30.

OFFICE HOURS

Mon 21 Dec Tues 22 Dec - 9-4pm

23rd December office closes.

Flexible furlough:

Mon/Tues in Jan working from home.

Wed/Thurs 9-4pm in office.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

There will still be a restriction on numbers of people at Mass over Christmas due to social distancing but every effort will be made to accommodate all those who would like to be at Mass to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

Christmas Masses on Eventbrite from 10th December onwards.

Thursday 24th December

6pm (please aim for 5.45pm)

10pm (please be in church by 9.45pm)

Friday 25th December

9am, 11am

Saturday 26th December

10am, 5.30pm

Sunday 27th December

10am

All Masses during the following week will be at 10am.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The money collected in the baskets over Christmas is traditionally given to the parish priest and forms part of their annual income. Envelopes are available at the end of Masses this weekend for you to take bring back over Christmas. They will be left for 72 hours before opening.

DONATE TO THE PARISH WHILE YOU SHOP ONLINE

Just sign up to The Giving Machine 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 ☺

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B – Mark): This week-end it is legitimate for us to look forward, with eager anticipation, to our annual celebration of the Lord's birth. The scripture readings focus on a central feature of the Incarnation mystery, the faith mystery which defines Christmas. Right from the outset, from that moment when he emancipated the Hebrew slaves from bondage in Egypt, led them through the Red Sea and eventually settled them in the promised land, God was involved in the history of his chosen people. They had the feeling that God was very close to them and that he guided their history with a providential hand. In the OT reading we encounter David who, pleased at the opulence of his own regal residence, was rather ashamed of having the ark of the covenant housed in a tent. The prayers of countless generations was that God would come and visit his people in the person of his holy one, Messiah, and what today's scripture readings impress on us is the fact that the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us. Messiah did not just visit us, he was conceived in a human womb, born in the same way as any child, and lived a normal life – with all its trials, tribulations and joys – of any boy who emerges into manhood and lives an adult life, in a particular place and at a specific moment in history. It is that idea of dwelling, of staying with us, or sharing to the full our human condition that adds dimension to the mystery of the Incarnation. The Church invites us to reflect on the great solidarity with the human race which this act of divine condescension signifies.

First Reading (OT): 2 Samuel 7, 1 – 5. 8 – 12. 14. 16: David's plans to build God a house prompted Nathan to make a great prophecy concerning the provision God would make for the people of Israel. There is a pun on the word "house" in the prophecy of Nathan. God will indeed make of the House of David the royal and kingly line through which his providential designs for his people will be worked out. The angel Gabriel indicates to the Virgin Mary that the son born of her womb will sit on the throne of his ancestor David.

Second Reading (NT): Romans 6, 25 – 27: Paul related no detail of the life of Jesus of Nazareth to the Christians of Rome, there are not indications that he was familiar with the Infancy narratives as we know them nor with the circumstances of Jesus' birth. And yet he had the privilege of revealing to the Romans the "mystery kept secret for endless ages" and which had been made known in his own day.

Gospel: Luke 1, 26 – 38: Today we hear one of the gospel passages with which we are most familiar, not least because of the prayer we used to recite at 12.00 noon and 6.00 pm, the Angelus, and the fact that the visit of the Angel Gabriel to Mary is one of the most frequently depicted in Western art. In this moment all the promises articulated over the generations by the prophets are fulfilled, God is revealed as being true to his word. It is important to recall that it was only through the willingness of a human being, i.e. Mary, to cooperate with the divine plan that the Incarnation was possible and the salvation of mankind which was its consequence. This story is the wonderful prelude to the story of the Nativity.

Mass Intentions for the Fourth week of Advent

Tues. [9.15], Thurs [08.00] and Saturday [10.00]
are public weekday Masses.

Saturday 19th December 10.00 Private Intention
Feria of Week 3 in Advent (O Radix Jesse)

Fourth Sunday of Advent [*O Clavis David*] Year B

Saturday 19th December 17.30
Sunday 20th December 10.00 People of the parish
12.00 Family Mass

Monday 21st December 09.15 Mother Gertrude
Winter Solstice Memorial of St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor/O Oriens

Tuesday 22nd December 09.15 Sr Sheila
Feria of Week 4 of Advent/ O Rex Gentium

Wednesday 23rd December 09.15 Father Tom Meagher
Feria of Week 4 of Advent / O Emmanuel

Thursday 24th December 08.00 Canon Giles Goward Intention
Feria of Week 4 of Advent /Christmas Eve

SOLEMNITY OF THE LORD'S NATIVITY

Vigil Mass of Christmas 18.00 Christian Giblin
21.45 Carols outside - choir only

Midnight Mass of Christmas 22.00 Celebrants intentions
Procession to the Crib

Friday 25th December

Dawn Mass of Christmas 09.00 Celebrants intentions
Mass of Christmas Day 11.00 Celebrants intentions

Saturday 26th December 10.00 The Quilter Family
Feast of St. Stephen, Protomartyr

Feast of the Holy Family

Year B

Saturday 26th December 17.30 People of the parish
Sunday 27th December 10.00 Eimhean & Laura Daly &
Family