

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest
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Second Sunday of Advent – 6 December 2020

“Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.”

Luke 3, 4-6

MASSES DURING DECEMBER FOLLOWING LOCKDOWN

During Advent, there will be an additional public Mass at 10am on Saturdays. This will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.30am.

No booking is required for this 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 7 December, Monday 14 December and Monday 21 December (Winter Solstice) from 19.30 to 20.30.

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.

Final times will be published on the website next week and you will be able to book Christmas Masses on Eventbrite from 10th December onwards.

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

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B – Mark): Over the greater part of 2020 the majority of us have lived with anxiety on account of the multiple effects of the pandemic and of the immediate threat Covid – 19 has posed to each of us individually. We have also looked forward with apprehension to a future which for much of the year seemed so uncertain, menacing even. But now, as the season of Advent opens, we have the experience of prayers having been answered. For most people the arrival of the vaccine and the promises it holds is ascribed to the ingenuity and hard work of the scientific community, and they are right. For some of us we see what has happened as also an answer to prayer and some will see the providential coincidence of the vaccine's arrival and the first week of Advent. This new season of the Church's year is a time of eager anticipation, of longing for a better future and ultimately for the return of the Lord and the full blossoming of the kingdom of God. We have been advised and encouraged since March to wash our hands, to clean surfaces and to socially distance: vigilance, the watch word for Advent, has been the key government message. And now, in anticipation of the longer-term eschatological reality of the Lord's return, the message which rings through our scripture readings this week-end is: repent, convert! Be prepared, get ready! The burden of both the OT reading and the gospel is that we take comfort from God's promises. The collective sadness of the Israelites on their return from exile to find Jerusalem in ruins is eased by the soft balm of God's word, coming through the mouth of Isaiah: be comforted, be consoled, God is with his people. And even if the Baptist calls for repentance, it has a positive effect: it prepares us for the coming of the Lord. And so as we all breathe a collective sigh of relief as the end of the pandemic seems in sight, we might also put down roots of hope for a better tomorrow in the promise which God makes to his Church each year in Advent. We prepare to welcome the Lord anew into our lives by reviewing those lives, by repenting of any blemishes our sinful behaviour has imposed, and converting.

First Reading (OT): Isaiah 40, 1 – 5. 9 – 11: The Israelites are still in exile when these words were written. They have been set free but they still have to negotiate the long journey across desert terrain to return to Jerusalem. These are words of comfort to a stricken, wounded people. And yet they are promised an easy passage home: the path will be beaten for them by a providential God, the road will be straightened and they will see his glory. We might think to smooth the rough corners of our own character so that the Lord who comes can enter into our heart.

Second Reading (NT): 2 Peter 3, 8 – 14: One can see in this letter ascribed to Peter that the community to which it was addressed lived in anticipation of the immediate return of the Lord. The advice the author gave was: be alert, be ready so that when the Lord does come you will be ready to go out and meet him.

Gospel: Mark 1, 1 – 8: John was the last of the OT prophets, he was the messenger, his message was conversion and repentance, his consoling message was the coming of God's holy one was imminent.

Mass Intentions for the Second week of Advent

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

Saturday 5th December 10.00 People of the parish

Second Sunday of Advent

Year B

Saturday 5th December 17.30

Zygmunt Powiecki RIP

Sunday 6th December 10.00

Gerard Lawrence RIP

Monday 7th December 09.15

Joan Jiggins RIP

Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

Tuesday 8th December 09.15

Raf Finelli, 1st Anniversary

*Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Wednesday 9th December 09.15

Alain

Feria of Week 2 of Advent

Thursday 10th December 08.00

Anne Middleton

Feria of Week 2 in Advent

Friday 11th December 12.30

Edmund Longworth &

Memorial of St. Damasus I, Pope

Anne Hunston: Wedding Day

Saturday 12th December 10.00

Sheila Buckley

Feria of Week 2 in Advent

Third Sunday of Advent [Gaudete]

Year B

Saturday 12th December 17.30

People of the parish

Sunday 13th December 10.00

Willy O'Brien