

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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**Second Sunday of Christmas – 3 January 2021**

“In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.”

John 1, 1

### **SATURDAY MORNINGS**

The 10am Mass on Saturdays followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.00am will be continuing.

No booking is required for this morning Mass.

### **CHRISTMAS OCTAVE MASS TIMES**

All Masses during the following week will be public and celebrated at 10am (including Thursday).

No booking is required for the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (1st Jan) or for the Epiphany Masses.

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Mon 21 Dec Tues 22 Dec - 9-4pm

23<sup>rd</sup> December office closes.

Flexible furlough:

Mon/Tues in Jan working from home.

Thurs 9-4pm in office.

### **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

**Second Sunday after Christmas (Year B – Mark):** The festive days are behind us and their memory is even receding. What remains of our Christmas celebration? Probably relief that we have all kept safe and respected the stringent social-distancing rules the pandemic has imposed on us. But has it been a Christmas which has touched our hearts or where we feel we have come into closer contact with the mystery of the Nativity? The gift of God to the world, i.e. his very presence among us and his sharing of our human condition, quickly becomes something we take for granted. It suffers the same fate of most of the gifts we find under the Christmas tree: we unwrap them, take momentary pleasure in looking at them but then they are either wrapped up or used day-to-day like anything else we possess. And yet some of the gifts we receive do become valuable to us through regular use or through the repeated pleasure they give us in less frantic times. We often think later of who it is gave us the gift and in a sense it is the giver who gives it value. Christmas is a gift like that: we think it has been gifted to us by God and the more we think about it the more we feel honoured that such a gift be conferred on us.

**First Reading (OT): Ecclesiasticus 24, 1 – 2. 8 – 12:** The city of Jerusalem, going back countless generations, was the place where God’s presence was palpable. And yet it was a place of great social tension, religious controversy and political conflict. One was often caused to wonder whether the wisdom described by Jesus ben Sirach, author of the book of Ecclesiasticus, could find a home in such a troubled environment. And yet the inter-locking of all the various paths explored in the search for God and the conflict they generated suggested that perhaps God in his greatness could not be limited or contained by the many human efforts to capture him. God’s greatness is infinite. Wisdom is a gift of God to humanity to enable an exploration and then an understanding of his greatness.

**Second Reading (NT): Ephesians 1, 3 – 6. 15 – 18:** One of the great themes of all Paul’s writing is that of divine adoption. Through Jesus Christ we have all become sons and daughters of God, as well as brothers and sisters in Christ himself. And yet the question arises as to how much we take this for granted. Do we consider God to be our Father? Do we relate to him as we might to our own biological father? In our Christmas celebrations of the Nativity we have acknowledged that in Jesus God took on human flesh, became one of us. But, as Paul makes clear in developing his theory of divine adoption, we are absorbed into the divine nature of the God who is our father.

**Gospel: John 1, 1 – 18:** We read today the great, majestic prelude or overture to the Gospel of John. The fourth evangelist (like Mark, the evangelist we are reading in Year B) does not have a Nativity story. This prelude gives a cosmic dimension to the birth of Jesus and provided a theological understanding of the mystery of the Nativity. It clearly delineates how our God enters into communication with us right from the outset. In the beginning was the Word, dialogue was opened from the start. The question is: do we listen to the Word and have we any response?

# Mass Intentions for Week 2 of Christmas.

Only weekend Masses need to be booked.

Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup> January	<u>10.00</u>	Julie Gimblett
<b>Second Sunday after the Nativity</b>			<b>Year B</b>
Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup> January	17.30	Maria Angelica Ayala
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> January	10.00	The Colehan family intentions
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> January	<u>10.00</u>	Private Intention
<i>Christmas Feria</i>			
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup> January	<u>10.00</u>	Private Intention
<i>Christmas Feria</i>			
SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD		<u>18.00</u>	Vigil Mass for Epiphany
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup> January	<u>10.00</u> <u>19.30</u>	Private intention People of the parish
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup> January	<u>08.00</u>	Private intention
<i>Christmas Feria</i>			
Friday	8 <sup>th</sup> January	<u>12.30</u>	Celebrant's intentions
<i>Christmas Feria</i>			
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup> January	<u>10.00</u>	Holy Souls
<i>Christmas Feria</i>			
<b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>			<b>Year B</b>
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup> January	17.30	People of the parish
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00	Private intentions