

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Presbytery

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**Second Sunday of Christmas – 1-2 January 2022**

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

**John 1, 1**

## A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.  
Come and kindle in us  
A mighty flame

So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God  
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

## FIRST COMMUNION 2022 FOR CHILDREN NOT IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The next parish preparation for First Holy Communion 2022 will begin on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January. Sessions will run in the Cenacle from 4.15-5.15pm. The First Communion date will be some time in June but has not been fixed yet.

This is for those children currently in year 3 or those in year 4 or above who missed out on preparation due to lockdown.

If you have not done so already, please contact the parish office by email to add your child to the list.

## FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Thursday is the feast of the Epiphany and there will be two Masses.

One in the morning at 09.15 and one in the evening at 19.30.

## OFFICE OPEN

The parish office will be open again on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

## AFGHANISTAN CRISIS APPEAL

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website:

[cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](https://cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal) and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

## APPLYING FOR LOCAL CATHOLIC PRIMARIES

St Anne's and St Martin's primary schools would like to invite any parents with children due to start school in September 2022 to come and visit them before the application deadline on 15 January.

Open days are:

St Martin's, Caversham Park  
([admin@stmartins.reading.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmartins.reading.sch.uk) or by phone on 0118 937 5544) Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am or 2pm

St Anne's, Washington Road, Caversham  
([admin@st-annes.reading.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-annes.reading.sch.uk) or by phone on 07730008966) Friday 7 January 9:30 am or 1:30pm

If these dates/times do not suit, please do contact the school offices to arrange a private tour at a time that works for you.



## OUR LADY'S LAMP

This week's lamp is lit for: the people of Afghanistan

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 C – Luke):** With these readings we are reminded again of just how beautiful a feast Christmas is. The Church in her wisdom extends the full joy of Christmas itself over an eight-day period (Octave) and then the season for what in some years amounts to a full week/ten days. All human life is given a dignity which, if we take time to reflect upon it, transforms our understanding of ourselves and those around us. The light breaks through into our fragile human hearts and shows us what is possible if we only have the courage to believe in what God has done and continues to do for us through his Son.

**First Reading (OT): Ecclesiasticus 24, 1 – 2. 8 – 12:** This book, also known by the Hebrew name of its author, Sirach, is one of the latest books of the Old Testament, being written around 190 BC. Sirach, as well as being very familiar with the traditions of his own people, was also aware of the influence of Greek philosophy on the Jews of his time and so he sought to present the faith of Israel in a way which showed that it was superior to the arguments of their pagan neighbours. The extracts in today's reading come from the climax of the book in chapter 24 where we find a poem in praise of the wisdom of God. As had happened earlier in the OT, the idea of wisdom is personified (Proverbs 8) and described as a woman who was God's instrument at the moment of creation. Sirach then develops this idea and says that later on wisdom was directed by God to come and live on earth. This wisdom was then to be found in Israel and its holy book, the Torah. It is clear that for the evangelist John this notion of God's wisdom pitching its tent on earth allowed him to see Jesus as the Word (or wisdom) of God made flesh who lived among us (literally 'who pitched his tent among us').

**Second Reading (NT): Ephesians 1, 3 – 6. 15 – 18:** Unlike the other letters of Paul, there is not reference in Ephesians to the specific problems of a local Christian community or church and so it is thought that this letter may have been intended as a circular to be read as widely as possible in the early church. The opening verses are a hymn of praise in which the apostle's enthusiasm for all that God has done for us in Jesus spills over into a wonderful prayer of blessing. We are encouraged to recognise that through Christ we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavens. In other words, in giving us his own son God has held back nothing in his desire that we should live through love in his presence. After praising God, Paul then turns to praying for all who follow Jesus and he asks that they be given the wisdom to understand just what it is that they have entered into, and in this prayer too Paul's excitement at what it means to be a Christian is once again very evident.

**Gospel: John 1, 1 – 18:** The prelude to the Gospel of John, read at the day Mass on Christmas, is John's theological Nativity story. It is a great poem in which, nearly sixty or more years after Jesus' death and resurrection, John reflects on the mystery of the Incarnation and on the consequences of God entering the world.

## Mass Intentions for Second week of Christmas

### Second Sunday after the Nativity

Year C

Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup> January	17.30	People of the parish
Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> January	10.00	Ian MacDonald RIP
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup> January	10.00	Buckley family intention
	<i>Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>		
Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup> January	09.15	Holy souls
	<i>Tuesday of the second week of Christmas</i>		
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup> January	18.30	Holy souls
	<i>Wednesday of the second week of Christmas</i>		
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup> January	09.15	Holy souls
	<i>Solemnity of the Epiphany</i>	19.30	Christopher Boedtger
	<i>of the Lord</i>		
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup> January	12.30	Holy souls
	<i>Memorial of St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest</i>		
Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00	People of the parish
	<i>Solemnity of Mary, the holy Mother of God</i>		

### Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Year C

Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup> January	17.30	Mother Davina & sisters
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00	Zygmunt Powiecki RIP
		12.30	Baptism