

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Third Sunday of Advent – 11/12 December 2021

“A feeling of expectation had grown among the people, who were beginning to wonder whether Jesus might be the Christ.”

Luke 3, 9

ADVENT

Fr Patrick's Advent Course [On Site]
[Monday 13, 20 December 2021 at 19.30 hrs./7.30pm]
Week 3 Church & Society
Week 4 Ecumenical dimension

Our Lady & St Anne Penance Service
Tuesday 14th December @ 19.30.
A chance to experience the healing and mercy of God.

**Advent Carol Service @
Our Lady & St Anne's**
Thursday 16th December, 7.30pm

A time of spiritual preparation, as we watch and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Everybody welcome, please wear a mask.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER
COLLECTION** A basket is available to contribute to the Christmas flower fund as usual. It is always lovely to decorate the church for Christmas so please give what you can over the next few weeks.

WREATH MAKING EVENT

This was a great success and raised £300 for the parish building fund. Thank you to everyone who came along and made it such a fun evening. A big 'Thank you' to Paul T for sharing his professional skills and to Helen N for providing all the holly & ivy to allow people to make some really spectacular wreaths [and to Tina for organising it all].

FIRST COMMUNION 2022 FOR CHILDREN NOT IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The next parish preparation for First Holy Communion 2022 will begin on Wednesday 19th 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.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CLEAN

Would you like to help to make the church beautiful to welcome Jesus? If you have some time to offer, contact the parish office to say when you are available. It would be best to have small groups of people at various times that suit them rather than everybody on one day.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Fri 24th Dec 18.00 Children's Nativity Mass
Fri 24th Dec. 22.00 Mass of Christmas night
Sat 25th Dec. 09.00 Mass of Christmas Day
Sat. 25th Dec. 11.00 Mass of Christmas Day

**No 17.30 evening Mass on
Saturday 25th December.**

Masks are obligatory at Mass under Plan B unless people are medically exempt.

CHRISTMAS TOGETHER AGAIN

Sunday 12th December @4pm

Sadly this event has been cancelled.



OUR LADY'S LAMP This week's lamp is lit for:

the repose of the soul of Ian MacDonald

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

Third Sunday of Advent (Year C – Luke): The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete/Rejoicing Sunday. The pink candle on the wreath is lit, the priest wears rose-coloured vestments. There is a predominance of the theme of rejoicing in the scripture readings. We are drawing closer to the feast of Christmas and we have a right to turn our gaze from the awesome prospect of the Lord's return at the close of the age to the imminent celebration of his birth in time. The Church calls us to rejoice and express our heartfelt happiness because the God who spoke through the Law and the prophets will now be in the midst of his people. He will not appear in the form of victorious warrior but as a child, the prince of peace, who will seek to change our hearts by his unconditional love.

First Reading (OT): Zephaniah 3, 14 – 18: Zephaniah was probably a contemporary of Jeremiah and so the context of his preaching was the imminent destruction of Jerusalem, which took place in 587 BC. While this short book contains many warnings about the need for repentance before the day of God's judgement, it concludes with the hope-filled passage which we read today. It looks forward to a time of rejoicing in Jerusalem when the Lord will be in their midst not as judge but as a warrior who dances for joy because of the victory he has won for his people. They have no more evil to fear but are renewed by the saving love of their God. Salvation is at the heart of Zephaniah's writing.

Second Reading (NT): Philippians 4, 4 – 7: Paul usually devotes the last part of his letters to exhorting his readers to continue in the way of faith upon which they have set out. In the letter to the Philippians this exhortation is particularly enthusiastic. He wrote this letter from prison and indeed may have thought that his own execution was at hand. This may explain why he writes so movingly in the letter about his love for the community. Having reflected on how he has lived his life for the gospel, he has no regrets and he does not want the Philippians to be sad. Rather they should be happy because the good news by which they live is a source of joy. Whatever troubles they do have they can bring before the Lord in prayer, confident that the God of peace who has brought them to this point will not abandon them.

Gospel: Luke 3, 10 – 18: John the Baptist's role as the preacher of repentance is highlighted here in the practical advice given to those who are stirred by his preaching and who ask the all-important question – what must we do?

In keeping with the teaching of the Old Testament, any religion that is worthy of the name must relate to life as it is lived. It must impact on the way we deal with our neighbours, how we use our influence in relation to people we work with or have power over. In practical terms, this means sharing what we have and not exploiting or taking advantage of anyone. This is not an optional extra – it is the only way to live an authentic faith and indeed, as in John's time so also in ours, it is the only way to prepare properly for the coming of Jesus.

Mass Intentions for Third Week of Advent

Third Sunday of Advent

Year C

Saturday	11 th December	17.30	Holy souls
Sunday	12 th December	10.00	Zygmunt Powiecki RIP
Monday	13 th December	09.15	Eilish Hilliard
	<i>Memorial of St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</i>		
Tuesday	14 th December	09.15	Holy Souls
	<i>Memorial of St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>		
Wednesday	15 th December	18.30	Ray Lawrence
	<i>Wednesday of the third week of Advent</i>		
Thursday	16 th December	08.00	Holy Souls
	<i>Thursday of the third week in Advent</i>		
Friday	17 th December	12.30	María Angelica Ayala
	<i>Friday of the third week of Advent</i>		
Saturday	18 th December	10.00	Paul & Angèle Doncarli
	<i>Saturday of the third week of Advent</i>		

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year C

Saturday	18 th December	17.30	Holy Souls
Sunday	19 th December	10.00	People of the parish

Evening prayer, Rosary:	16.45	Saturday afternoon
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