

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest Monsignor Patrick H. Daly

Presbytery

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Fourth Sunday of Advent – 18/19 December 2021

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

Luke 1, 38



Fr Patrick  
wishes  
everybody a  
happy and  
holy  
Christmas.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 18.00 Children's Nativity Mass

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 22.00 Mass of Christmas night

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 09.00 Mass of Christmas Day

Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 11.00 Mass of Christmas Day

**No 17.30 evening Mass on  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December.**

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

## ADVENT

**Fr Patrick's Advent Course [On Site]**  
[Monday 20 December 2021 at 19.30  
hrs./7.30pm]  
Week 4 Ecumenical dimension

**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.

## OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The parish office will be closed on Wed  
22<sup>nd</sup> December and will re-open Thurs.  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.



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

Regi Mathew and family

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 C – Luke):** Today Bethlehem is not a particularly impressive town. The pandemic has hit it hard, the pilgrims no longer come, what products the Palestinian residents have for sale remain unsold. The only lasting sign of an earthly king is the distant tomb of King Herod the Great which rises on the horizon as an impressive monument to human vanity and oppressive rule. The irony is that even as Herod was having it built a child was born in a cave only a few miles away who, without the use of military force or the power of wealth, would show the world a different way. He would live his life in love as a simple offering to God. In the person of Mary and her simple ‘yes’ to God we are reminded that there is only one present that matters this Christmas and that is the gift of ourselves.

**First Reading (OT): Micah 5, 1 – 4:** The prophet Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah in Jerusalem, preaching towards the end of the eighth century in the kingdom of Judah. He, like so many of the prophets, was keenly aware of the injustices which were taking place in the land. He was also very aware that the covenant was the only hope for the Israelites. Despite the shortcomings of the people and the inevitable consequences of their sins, God would always be faithful. In this reading he recalls the hope that God would once again give Israel a king like David who came from Bethlehem. This future king will be a true shepherd to his people and will guide his flock in the ways of God, bringing them to true peace.

**Second Reading (NT): Hebrews 10, 5 – 10:** The Letter to the Hebrews is more of a profound sermon than an epistle and was written to convince Jewish believers in Jesus that he was indeed their long awaited Messiah. The extract today is a very fitting reading as we draw near to Christmas. It emphasises a truth that was expressed in the prophets and psalms. Put simply: God is more interested in the humble offering of the self in obedience to his word than in a thousand offerings of bulls and goats. This is precisely what is found in the life and death of Jesus, and the author of Hebrews quotes from Ps. 40 to prove his point. Jesus came to do the will of God and that will is expressed in all his words and deeds of love.

**Gospel: Luke 1, 39 – 45:** Along with John the Baptist, Mary the mother of Jesus is the other key figure in Advent. As John urged us to repentance so Mary is put before us in Luke’s gospel as the woman of faith, the one whose trusting ‘yes’ to God opened up the way for the wonderful mystery of the incarnation. In this text, Mary and Elizabeth, two pregnant women both witness to the power and fruitfulness of the Holy Spirit as they recognise the amazing way God is at work in them and respond with joy. Throughout the gospel of Luke the role of the Spirit will be emphasised and the reader will be constantly reminded that being faithful to God’s will requires an openness to the promptings of the Spirit. We have here in the church a copy of one of the most celebrated Renaissance depictions of the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth described in today’s gospel. It was donated to the parish by the Sisters of the Visitation of Ghent who lived in the convent.

## Mass Intentions for Fourth Week of Advent

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year C

Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup> December	17.30	People of the parish
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00	Caulfield private intention
Monday	20 <sup>th</sup> December	09.15	Eilish Hilliard
<i>Monday of the fourth week of Advent - O Clavis David</i>			
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup> December	09.15	Bridget McArthur RIP
<i>Tuesday of the fourth week of Advent - O Oriens</i>			
Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> December	18.30	Denise Desiree Charles RIP
<i>Wednesday of the fourth week of Advent - O Rex Gentium</i>			
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup> December	08.00	Harrison Lavell RIP
<i>Memorial of St John of Kanty, Priest - O Emmanuel</i>			
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00	Kate O'Malley RIP
<i>Friday of the fourth week of Advent</i>			

### VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

18.00	Children's nativity
21.45	Carols followed by Mass of Christmas night

### SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup> December	09.00	Mass of Christmas Day
		11.00	Mass of Christmas Day

#####There will not be an evening Mass at 17.30 on Christmas Day#####

### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus

Year C

### Mary & Joseph

Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00	'Van' Van Den Berghe
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