

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest Monsignor Patrick H. Daly

Presbytery

2 South View Avenue, Caversham, READING RG4 5AB

Telephone: 0118 947 1787

Parish Priest email: mgr.patrick.h.daly@rcaob.org.uk

Office email: ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Miss Lis Leddy

Website: www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Ms Julia Feeney

Safeguarding Representative Contact: sg.ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk



Baptism of the Lord – 8/9 January 2022

“The heavens opened and the Father’s voice resounded: ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him’.”

Mark 9, 8

Father Patrick regretted that self-isolation (21 - 28 December) meant that he did not see parishioners personally to extend Christmas wishes. He was very touched by parishioners' concern for him over the Christmas period and wishes to acknowledge all the cards and gifts he received. He also wishes to thank parishioners for their generous Christmas Collection and wishes the whole parish a blessed, healthy and prosperous New Year.

SYNODAL PATHWAY

We will organise two gatherings in the Cenacle on two Sunday afternoons in January. Parishioners can drop in, meet and chat with one another, and a parish facilitator - to be duly designated - will collate the fruits of the conversations to be submitted to the Archdiocese to feed in to its response to the synodal challenge. More details will follow.

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 and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

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.

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 or by phone on 0118 937 5544) Friday 7th January 10.30am or 2pm

St Anne's, Washington Road, Caversham
(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: all musicians at Our Lady & St Anne

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

Baptism of the Lord (Year C – Luke): We leap-frog forward thirty years in the life of the earthly Jesus to celebrate this last feast of the Christmas Season. The story the gospel relates is of an incident in the life of Jesus, so striking to his contemporaries that all four gospel writers record it. But the Church invites us today to recognise it as our own story too. Through baptism, each of us has become a beloved son or daughter of God and it is an awareness of this reality which becomes the driving force in our lives as Christians. The image of God as shepherd and defender is one that we need to consider as we recall our own baptism, for the God who calls us is not some distant disembodied voice but the parent, friend and guide who says to us ‘you are my beloved’. It was while at prayer Jesus became aware of the power of the Spirit within him and today we too are invited to pray for an understanding of what the Holy Spirit is offering us and asking of us.

First Reading (OT): Isaiah 40, 1 – 5. 9 – 11: While the book of the prophet Isaiah is the longest in the Bible, containing 66 chapters, it is generally acknowledged that only the first 39 come from the time of the historical figure Isaiah, active as he was in Jerusalem. The second section of the book (chs. 40 - 55), known as Deutero-Isaiah, was written by an unnamed author towards the end of the Babylonian exile, i.e. around 540 BC. It reflects the hope which surrounded the edict of Cyrus, the Persian emperor who allowed the Jewish exiles to go home and rebuild their temple in Jerusalem. Today’s reading calls the people to an awareness that their time of sadness is over. God has seen their repentance and is now going to bring them back home across the desert. In this wondrous event, the glory of God will be revealed for he will be seen both as the warrior who fights on behalf of his people and the shepherd who guides and nourishes them. The verses which call for a time of preparation were later seen as a prophecy concerning the work of John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Second Reading (NT): Titus 2, 11 – 14. 3, 4 – 7: This is one of the so-called Pastoral Epistles, the other being 1 and 2 Timothy. They were written to individual leaders of communities to help and guide them. The reading is a reminder that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is a model for our own lives. For in its entirety the whole Christ-event points to God’s desire to bring all humanity to an awareness of himself and his love. As we respond to Christ, our lives must reflect the spirit of self-sacrifice which is so evident in his life. This is possible because of the gift of the Holy Spirit which we have received. We are all on a journey towards our true home which is with God and it is Jesus who, sharing both our frail human condition and his empowering Spirit, enables us to find the way.

Gospel: Luke 3, 15 – 16. 21 – 22: Luke’s account of the baptism of Jesus does not focus on the event itself but on its aftermath, i.e. the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus while he was at prayer. In describing it in this way, the evangelist is highlighting two themes that are central to his gospel. These are the role of the Spirit and the importance of prayer in Jesus’ life.

Mass Intentions for First week of Ordinary Time

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Year C

Saturday	8 th January	17.30	Mother Davina & sisters
Sunday	9 th January	10.00	Zygmunt Powiecki RIP
Monday	10 th January	09.15	Int. of Bartle & Ena Dillon
<i>Monday of week 1 in Ordinary Time</i>			
Tuesday	11 th January	09.15	Int. of John & Helen Dillon
<i>Tuesday of week 1 in Ordinary Time</i>			
Wednesday	12 th January	18.30	William and Elsie O'Brien
<i>Memorial of St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot</i>			
Thursday	13 th January	08.00	Private intention
<i>Memorial of St Hilary, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</i>			
Friday	14 th January	12.30	Holy souls
<i>Friday of week 1 in Ordinary Time</i>			
Saturday	15 th January	10.00	People of the parish
<i>Saturday of week 1 in Ordinary Time</i>			

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

Saturday	8 th January	17.30	Intention of Melanie Free
Sunday	9 th January	10.00	Mick Buckley RIP