

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Second Sunday of Advent, Year A –

3rd-4th December 2022

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Lk 3:4,6

RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ferruccio Baroni who died recently and for his family and friends who mourn him.

Ferruccio's funeral Mass will be here in Our Lady & St Anne's on Friday 9th December @1.30pm.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT OUR LADY & ST ANNE 2022

Saturday 24th Dec – Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass (children's nativity)	4.00pm
Carols for Christmas	8.30pm
Mass of Christmas Night	9.00pm

Sunday 25th Dec – Christmas Day

Mass of Christmas Dawn	9.00am
Mass of Christmas Day	11.00am

PARISH ADVENT CAROL SERVICE 2022

A time of spiritual preparation in with Advent readings and carols to support us as we watch and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Thurs 22nd Dec here in the church, at 7.30pm. All welcome. Followed by festive refreshments.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

A box for donations will be at the back of the church after all weekend Masses up to Christmas. Many thanks for your support.

TUESDAY TEA & COFFEE

Fancy a chat on a Tuesday morning? Come in to the Cenacle for tea/coffee about 10am. Everybody welcome.

PARISH INCOME BANKED NOV

Contactless - Sun. offering:	£ 553.00
Contactless - candles:	£ 27.00
Loose plate	£1695.10
Shop	£ 14.45
Building Fund	£ 36.00
Standing Orders:	£2361.32

ST ANNE'S SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Fabulous prizes to be won in the school PSA's Christmas Raffle, including £100 John Lewis/Waitrose gift card, donated by Masons Estate Agents! Tickets 50p each and on sale in the Cenacle after 10am Mass Sun. Raffle drawn on 9th December. Thank you for your support!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - LEADERS AND COORDINATOR NEEDED

We are still looking for more people to join our leaders' team. You don't need to have children yourself, just a love of God's word and a desire to share it with the children of the parish. Sessions take place during the 10am Sunday Mass. Full support and DBS check provided. We also need someone to coordinate the team behind the scenes - manage the team rota, register sheets, etc. Interested? Talk to a current leader or email childrensliturgy.stannes@gmail.com.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL CAKE SALE

Many thanks to everybody who helped to make the SVP cake sale such a success - those who baked and those who ate! £226 was raised which will go to support a student sponsorship scheme at our Twinned Conferences in India.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY CAFOD

FUNDRAISER online donation page if anyone would like to contribute that way - www.justgiving.com/page/childrensliturgystannes2022



OUR LADY'S LAMP

This week's lamp is lit for:

Paul Phillips RIP

Please keep him in your prayers.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

Second Week of Advent

Second Sunday of Advent

Year A

Saturday	3 rd December	5.30pm	Eileen Leahy RIP
Sunday	4 th December	10.00am	Rosaleen Ryan RIP
Monday	5 th December	No Mass	
<i>Memorial of St John Damascene, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>			
Tuesday	6 th December	9.15am	Gerard Lawrence RIP
<i>Feast of St Birinus</i>			
Wednesday	7 th December	7.30am	Repose of holy souls
<i>Memorial of St Nicholas</i>			
Thursday	8 th December	7.30pm	Repose of holy souls
<i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>			
Friday	9 th December	9.15am	Repose of holy souls
<i>Memorial St Juan Diego</i>			
		[school Mass]	
		1.30pm	Requiem Mass: Ferruccio Baroni

Third Sunday of Advent

Year A

Saturday	10 th December	5.30pm	Angela & Joseph Caruana RIP
Sunday	11 th December	10.00am	People of the parish

Rosary before Saturday evening Mass.