

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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The Nativity of the Lord, Year A
24th – 25th December 2022

I bring you news of great joy: today a
saviour has been born to us,
Christ the Lord.

Lk 2:10-11

Mary, the Holy Mother of God,
Year A

29Dec 22 – 1st Jan 2023

O God, be gracious and bless us and
let your face shed its light upon us.

Ps 67

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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

CHRISTMAS OCTAVE MASSES

All Masses will be at 10am between Christmas and New Year and 2nd Jan

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

A massive thank you to the Children's Liturgy families who have saved pennies in their Smarties tubes and donated to our CAFOD appeal this Advent. So far, we have raised a wonderful £92.50! In our session on Sunday 18th December, the children 'voted with their feet' to support CAFOD's Emergencies Fund, providing food, shelter and water to refugees and families in urgent need. Great choice, children! If you'd like to contribute, you can still do so online at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/childrensliturgystannes2022>

THANK YOU

to the depleted but dedicated team of cleaners who worked hard to spruce the church up to welcome the birth of Jesus.

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

TUESDAY TEA & COFFEE

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

VOLUNTEERS SUNDAY

7/8 January 2023

Would you like to get involved in parish life but are not sure how to do it?

Join in with a whole parish meeting in the Cenacle at 11am, after the 10am Mass on Sunday 8th January. Everybody welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION FOR THOSE NOT IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Preparation for First Communion will begin in the Cenacle on Wednesday 11th January at 4.15pm. Register via parish email with copy of baptism certificate by Friday 6th January please.

OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The office will be closed for the week between Christmas and New Year. It will be open again on Tuesday 3rd January.

This newsletter covers two Sundays so please hold on to it.

OUR LADY'S LAMP

This week's lamp is lit in gratitude
for:

Clara Chipuriro [23/12/22]

The Mulholland family [31/12/22]



Please keep them in your prayers.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Each of the four Masses celebrated for the Feast of Christmas is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The Mass at midnight proclaims the birth of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. The Mass at dawn on Christmas morning continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke's Gospel, ending with the shepherds' visit to the infant Jesus. In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the infancy narratives with which we are familiar.

The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this part of John's Gospel is not an infancy narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel starts at the very beginning and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words echo the first verse in the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' birth was the result of God's initiative. John's Gospel, however, emphasizes that Jesus' birth was the divine intention from the moment of Creation.

The Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out in this Gospel is John's repeated references to "the Word" in the opening verse. This expression (*logos* in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. Jews used this phrase to describe God's action in the Creation story, for example, and in the Wisdom literature. In Greek thought, the *logos* was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God's incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the Trinitarian faith of Christians, the Word came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity. In this prologue to the Gospel of John, we also hear the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel. These are often presented as dualities: light and dark, truth and falsehood, life and death, and belief and unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel, the theme of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify to Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witness to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will testify to Jesus' identity as God's Incarnate Word.

Mass intentions for Christmastide

The Nativity of the Lord YA

Sat 24th Dec 4pm

Mary Van Den Berghe

Sat 24th Dec 9pm

People of the parish

Sun 25th Dec 9am

Mulholland Family

Sun 25th Dec 11am

Christian Giblin

Mon 26th Dec 10am Holy souls

Feast of St Stephen

Tues 27th Dec 10am Holy souls

Feast of St John

Wed 28th Dec 10am Holy Souls

Feast of the Holy Innocents

Thurs 29th Dec 10am Holy Souls

Feast of St Thomas Becket

Fri 30th Dec 10am Holy Souls

*Feast of the Holy family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

Mary, the Holy Mother of God YA

Sat 31st Dec 5.30pm Roland Williams

Sun 1st Jan 2023 10.00am People of parish

Mon 2nd Jan 10am Holy souls

Memorial St Basil the Great &

St Gregory Nazianzen

Tues 3rd Jan 9.15am Holy souls

Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Wed 4th Jan 7.30am Holy souls

Christmas Feria

Thurs 5th Jan 7.30pm Roland & Brid

Vigil Mass of

Epiphany of the Lord

Friday 6th Jan 9.15am Holy souls

Epiphany of the Lord

7.30pm Sarah Louise

Anscombe RIP

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord YA

Sat 7th January 5.30pm Kate Greaney RIP

Sun 8th January 10.00am People of parish