

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Third Sunday of Advent, Year A –

10th – 11th December 2022

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Is61:1

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

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

ENVELOPES Traditionally the Christmas collection is part of a parish priest's income so please **take a Christmas offering envelope home** for your contribution at Christmas Masses. You can also donate using the contactless machine. Thank you for your generosity.

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. Or you can donate on the machine if you prefer. Many thanks for your support.

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.

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.

RETIRING COLLECTION

After all Masses this weekend, there will be a retiring collection for the Poor Parishes fund. Thank you for what you can offer.

CHRISTMAS MINISTRY ROTAS

The rotas for reading and special ministers of the Eucharist over Christmas will be going up soon. If you are already a reader or special minister of the Eucharist, please sign up if you are available.



OUR LADY'S LAMP

This week's lamp is lit for:

Ferruccio Baroni RIP

Please keep him in your prayers.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

Third Week of Advent

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
Monday	12 th December	No Mass	
<i>Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>			
Tuesday	13 th December	9.15am	Zygmunt Powiecki RIP
<i>Memorial of St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</i>			
Wednesday	14 th December	7.30am	Repose of holy souls
<i>Memorial of St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>			
Thursday	15 th December	7.30pm	Maria Angelica Ayala
<i>Thursday of the third week of Advent</i>			
Friday	16 th December	9.15am	Angela Fung
<i>Friday of the third week of Advent</i> [school Mass]			

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year A

Saturday	17 th December	5.30pm	People of the parish
Sunday	18 th December	10.00am	Our Lady & St Anne

Rosary before Saturday evening Mass.