

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

**Parish Priest: Fr Joseph McLoughlin**

2 South View Avenue,  
Caversham,  
READING RG4 5AB

Telephone: 0118 947 1787

Email: [fr.joseph.mcloughlin@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.joseph.mcloughlin@rcaob.org.uk)

Parish Secretary: Lis Leddy

Office email: [ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk)

Website: [www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk)

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Julia Feeney

Safeguarding Representative Contact: [sg.ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk)



**First Sunday of Advent, Year B**

**2-3 December 2023**

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Ps84:8

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

### Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass (children's nativity) 5.00pm  
Christmas Carols 7.30pm  
Mass of Christmas Night 8.00pm

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Day

Mass of Christmas Dawn 8.00am  
Mass of Christmas Day 10.00am

## ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

A time of spiritual preparation with Advent readings and carols to support us as we watch and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Dec here in the church, at 7.30pm. All welcome. Followed by festive refreshments.

## 200 CLUB DEC/JAN/FEB 2024

To join the next round of the 200 club as a new member [starts at the end of December], please complete a form from the board and return to the parish office. Those with a standing order or a single annual payment don't need a new form. As the club has only just started, the Christmas Draw contributions will be forwarded to the Christmas 2024 pot.

## 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 generosity.

## WEEKLY PARISH INCOME

26/11/23

C'less:	£	140.00
Loose plate	£	308.44
Cath Youth Service	£	152.46
Candles	£	26.45
Shop	£	188.00
Weekly S Orders:	£	829.00

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

The next cycle of preparation starts after Christmas in January at time and date to be confirmed.

All interested parents & children must attend a meeting with Fr Joe on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December** [next Sunday] at 11.30am in the Cenacle.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S NATIVITY

There will be a children's nativity during the 5pm Mass on Christmas Eve (and no children's liturgy that morning). If your child would like to take part, please bring them to church at 4pm dressed in a costume (for a nativity character!) of their choice. If any older children would be willing to read, please speak to James Mulligan after Mass or email [james\\_mulligan94@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:james_mulligan94@hotmail.co.uk).

## SECOND COLLECTION – POOR PARISHES FUND

A collection will be taken after both Masses on Sat 9<sup>th</sup>-Sun 10<sup>th</sup> December to support struggling parishes within the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Thank you for your generosity.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Dec Mince pies in Cenacle after 5.30pm Mass  
Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec Big Church Clean for Christmas @10am  
Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Dec Parish Advent Carol Service @ 7.30pm

## OUR LADY'S LAMP



There are no dedications in the diary at the moment.

## Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

# Mass intentions for First Week of Advent

## First Sunday of Advent

## Year B

Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup> December	5.30pm	People of the parish
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> December	10.00am	Rosaleen Ryan RIP
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am	Repose of Holy Souls
<i>Memorial of St John Damascene, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>			
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup> December	No Mass	
<i>Feast of St Birinus, Bishop</i>			
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30pm	Repose of Holy Souls
<i>Memorial of St Nicholas, Bishop</i>			
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am	Repose of Holy Souls
<i>Memorial of St Ambrose, Bishop Doctor of the Church</i>			
Friday	8 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am	Thgvg Our Lady & St Anne
<i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>			

## Second Sunday of Advent

## Year B

Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30pm	People of the parish
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Zygmunt Powiecki RIP

The Rosary is prayed in front of the Shrine  
before Saturday evening Mass. Everybody welcome.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Julia Feeney**. They can be contacted at: [sg.ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.