

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Presbytery

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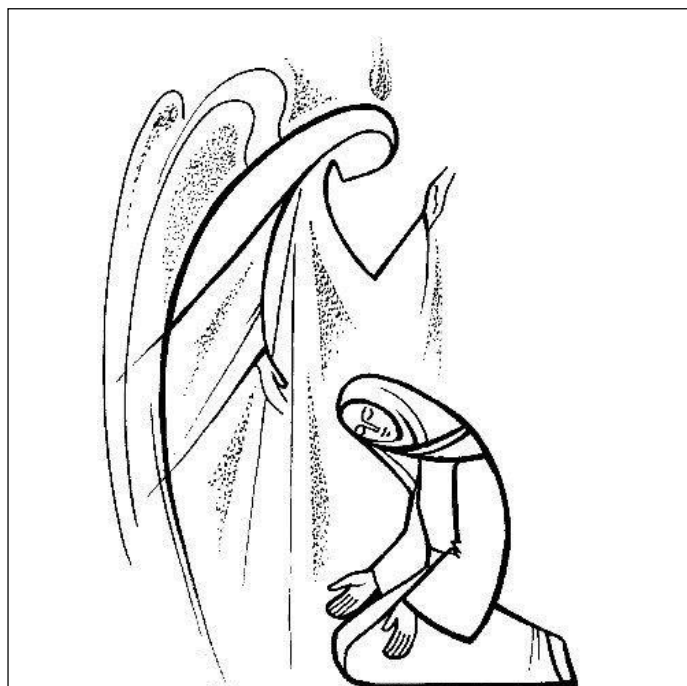
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**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B**

**23rd – 24th December 2023**

I am the handmaid of the Lord: let  
what you have said be done to me.

Lk 1:26-38



**Feast of the Holy Family, Year B**

**30th – 31st December 2023**

God spoke to our ancestors through  
the prophets; but in our own time, the  
last days, he has spoken to us through  
his Son.

Heb1:1-2

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Traditionally this forms part of the parish priest's income. Please leave your envelope in the bag or donate on the contactless machine.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Sun 24th Dec – Christmas Eve

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

### Monday 25th Dec – Christmas Day

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

## MASSES DURING THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

In the week between Christmas and New Year, all weekday Masses will begin at 10am.

## WELCOMING OR TAKING UP THE GIFTS AT THE 5.30PM MASS

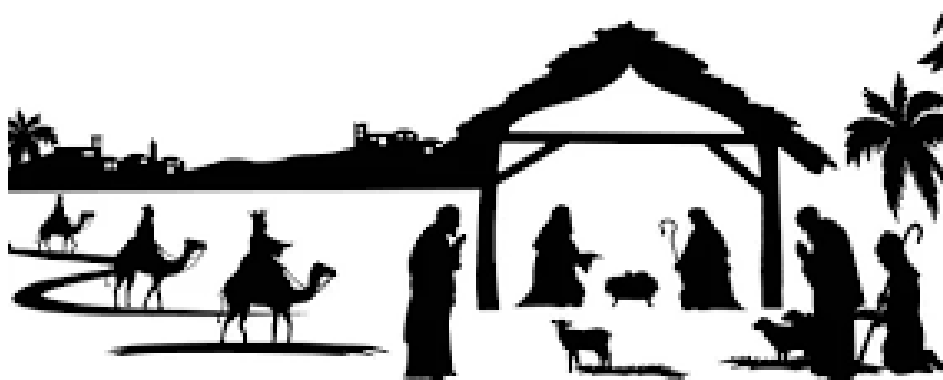
Saturday evening Mass is looking to build a team of welcomers and people who bring up the bread and wine in the offertory procession.

Support and guidance will be provided. If you think you could do this occasionally, there will be a chance to sign up for a specific date in the new year.

## OFFICE CLOSURE

The office is closed for the week following Christmas. It will re-open Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2024.

**THANK YOU** to everybody who has helped to prepare the church for Christmas.



## WEEKLY PARISH INCOME

16-17/12/23

C'tless:	£175.00
Loose plate	£272.56
Candles	£ 22.02
200 club	£120.00
Flowers	£109.80
Shop	£129.94
Weekly S Orders:	£829

## OUR LADY'S LAMP



This week's lamp is lit for:

4<sup>th</sup> Sun Advent: Fr Thomas Meagher

Holy Family: no dedication

## Background on the Sunday Readings

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Saviour was among us, although not yet recognised. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her fiat, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

# Mass intentions for Christmastide

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent YB

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> December 5.30pm

Nellie Hearne RIP

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> December 10am

People of the parish

## VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY YB

5pm Children's Nativity

Joan Jiggins RIP

7.30pm Carols

8.00pm Mass of Christmas Night

Fr Thomas Meagher RIP

## SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD YB

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> December

8am Mass of Christmas Dawn

People of the parish

10am Mass of Christmas Day

Christian Giblin RIP

Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.00am

*Feast of St Stephen* Private intention

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.00am

*Feast of St John* Michael & Molly  
O'Halloran RIP

Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.00am

*Feast of the Holy Innocents* Luis Garcia RIP

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.00am

*Feast of St Thomas Becket* Michael Carter RIP

## Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, YB

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm David Mott RIP

Sun 31<sup>st</sup> December 10.00am

People of parish

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> January 10.00am Private intention  
*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> January No Mass

*Memorial of St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen*

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> January 6.30pm

*Memorial of the* Ian MacDonald RIP

*Most Holy Name of Jesus*

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> January 9.15am

*Christmas Feria* Private intention

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 9.15am

*Christmas Feria* Brid & Roland Williams

## Epiphany of the Lord YB

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> January 5.30pm People of parish

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> January 10.00am Private intention