

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

Parish Secretary: Lis Leddy

Office email: ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk

Website: www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Julia Feeney

Safeguarding Representative Contact: sg.ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk



Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

9-10 December 2023

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

Lk3:4,6

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

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

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 21st 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 as a new member [starts end of Dec], complete a form from the noticeboard and return to parish office. As the club has only just started, the Christmas Draw contributions will be forwarded to the Christmas 2024 pot.

FLOWER FUND

The box is available for cash donations or use the contactless machine if you prefer.

MINCE PIES AFTER SAT EVE MASS

There will be festive refreshments in the Cenacle after the Saturday evening Mass on **16th December**. Do pop in for a mince pie and a chat.

WEEKLY INCOME 3/12/23

C'less:	£	140.00
Loose plate	£	257.03
200club	£	200.00
Candles	£	24.62
Shop	£	28.50
Flower fund week 1	£	158.38
Flower fund week 2	£	133.42
Building Fund	£	91.00
Weekly S Orders:	£	829.00

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY would like to thank you all for the food donations for the Weller Centre which are distributed to struggling families in our community. They are in desperate need of the following items : **tinned baked beans, tinned soups, tinned fruit & rice pudding and packs of rice**. Your continued support would be much appreciated and will help those in need.

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.

2nd COLLECTION – POOR PARISHES FUND taken after both Masses on **Sat 9th Sun 10th December**. Thank you for your generosity.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

OUR LADY'S LAMP



Is lit in thanksgiving for the wedding anniversary of
Thomas and Gracy

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptised with water, but that the one who is to come will baptise with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

Mass intentions for Second Week of Advent

Second Sunday of Advent

Year B

Saturday	9 th December	5.30pm	People of the parish
Sunday	10 th December	10.00am	Zygmunt Powiecki RIP
Monday	11 th December <i>Memorial of St Damascus 1, Pope</i>	9.15am	Int of Margaret Thomas
Tuesday	12 th December <i>Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	9.15am	Private intention
Wednesday	13 th December <i>Memorial of St Lucy, Martyr</i>	6.30pm	Private intention
Thursday	14 th December <i>Memorial of St John of the Cross. Priest Doctor of the Church</i>	9.15am	Int Carmela Burton
Friday	15 th December <i>Friday of the second week of Advent</i>	9.15am <i>[end of term Mass with whole school]</i>	Maria Angelica Ayala RIP

Third Sunday of Advent

Year B

Saturday	16 th December	5.30pm	People of the parish
Sunday	17 th December	10.00am	Int. Daniel Shabaz- Surina

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 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.