

# 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)



**Third Sunday of Advent, Year B**

**16-17 December 2023**

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.  
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Is61:1(Lk4:18)

## 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

The deadline to join the next round of the 200 club is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The December draw will take place after the 10am Mass on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December

## NOV 200 CLUB WINNERS

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – M Thomas  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – A Randall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – K. Corrigan

## MINCE PIES AFTER SAT EVE MASS

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

## WEEKLY INCOME 10/12/23

C'less:	£	153.00
Loose plate	£	257.54
200club	£	40.00
Candles	£	18.28
Our Lady's Lamp	£	20.00
Flower fund week 3	£	73.82
Building Fund	£	3.00
Shop	£	33.95
Weekly S Orders:	£	829.00

## CHRISTMAS CONFESSION TIMES

Fr Joe will be available to hear confessions at the following times:

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 6pm – 6.20pm

Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 9.45 – 10.30am

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 9.45 – 10.30am

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 4.30pm [before the children's Mass and again at 7.30pm before Mass of Christmas night]

## CHRISTMAS EVE

## CHILDREN'S NATIVITY

If your child would like to take part in the children's nativity, 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).

## BIG CHURCH CLEAN

Everybody welcome to lend a hand with church clean for Christmas on Wednesday from 10am. Mince pies included.

## FLOWER FUND

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

## 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

Is lit in thanksgiving for  
Kathy & Ken Webb  
Please hold them in your  
prayers.



## Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfilment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the saviour they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our saviour. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfil the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

# Mass intentions for Third Week of Advent

## Third Sunday of Advent

## Year B

Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30pm	People of the parish
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Int. Daniel Shabaz-Surina
Monday	18 <sup>th</sup> December	No Mass	
<i>Monday of the third week of Advent</i>			
Tuesday	19 <sup>th</sup> December	No Mass	
<i>Tuesday of the third week of Advent</i>			
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30pm	Private intention
<i>Wednesday of the third week of Advent</i>			
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup> December	9.15am	Private intention
<i>Thursday of the third week of Advent</i>			
		7.30pm	Advent Carols
Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup> December	9.15am	Private intention
<i>Friday of the third week of Advent</i>			

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Year B

Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup> December	5.30pm	Nellie Hearne RIP
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	People of the parish

## Christmas Eve Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Children's Nativity	5.00pm	Joan Jiggins RIP
Carols	7.30pm	
Mass of Christmas Night	8.00pm	Fr Thomas Meagher RIP

## Christmas Day Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Mass of Christmas Dawn	8.00am	People of the parish
Mass of Christmas Day	10.00am	Christian Giblin RIP

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.