

MASSES AND SERVICES

3rd December – First Sunday of Advent (Readings for Year B)

This weekend there will be a second collection for the Christmas Flowers.

Saturday	5.30pm	Tommy Cardall RIP (Y & A)
Sunday	8.45am	David White RIP (LV)
	10.30am	People of the Parish

Weekday Services (Reading for Year 2, Psalter Week 1)

4.12 Mon	10.00am	Advent Feria Private Int (G&T Govs)
5.12 Tue	9.30am	MASS SCHOOL Marie O'Brien (JC)
6.12 Wed	10.00am	Advent Feria Bob Jones Int (JG)
7.12 Thu	10.00am	Mass or Communion Service St Ambrose Joan Otte RIP (A&C K)
8.12 Fri	10.00am	Mass or Communion Service Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Dec'd of the Hegarty Family (SF)
9.12 Sat	10.00am	Mass or Communion Service Advent Feria Barry Attwood RIP (SS)

10th December – Second Sunday of Advent

This weekend there will be a second collection for the Poor Parishes.

Saturday	5.30pm	George and Margaret Wright RIP (T&J T)
Sunday	8.45am	Denis Moroney RIP (EMB)
	10.30am	People of the Parish

Confession Saturday morning 9.15am – 9.45am
Thursday Exposition: after Mass – 11.15am
Rosary – Monday to Saturday 9.35am
Divine Mercy Chaplet – Friday after Mass

CHURCH CLEANING

This week	D Morgan	P Hogan
Next week	S Chester	H Grosvenor

READERS	5.30pm	8.45am	10.30am
This week	M O'Dwyer	E Moroney Barnett	R Slater
Next week	B May	S Zora	J McDonald

TEA & COFFEE	B & P	G Seymour	I McLaughlin
Next week	Service	S Chester	I Blessed

Parish Priest: Fr John Cross

Deacon: Rev Mr Stephen Saum. Priest in Residence: Fr Paul Dean,
 The Presbytery, 337 Station Road, Dorridge, Solihull, B93 8EZ. Tel: 01564 772098
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 All church services are Live streamed via website & You Tube Registered as a Charity No. 23421
 St George and St Teresa School, Mill Lane, Bentley Heath, Solihull, B93 8PA. Tel: 01564 774906
 Head of School Stephen Hainie. Executive Head Louise Flanagan

ST. GEORGE & ST. TERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH
DORRIDGE
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
3rd December 2023

Dear Parishioners,

We begin the journey of Advent this weekend. It is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus. From this Sunday until Christmas Eve we have exactly three weeks to prepare! During this time of frenetic activity may spiritual preparation be at the top of our list. This means taking a little time to read and reflect on the daily text of the Walk With Me prayers and going to Confession.

Q. Why is the Sacrament of Confession so important for us? **A.** It helps us to welcome Jesus into lives which are tarred by the darkness of sin. It is Jesus himself who invites each of us to be reconciled with the Father. In his sacramental forgiveness of our sins, Jesus brings the grace of healing only he can give. Jesus invites each one of us to walk with him. In his presence we recognise our sinfulness. Jesus sets us free from the burden of sin and brings us the comfort of inner peace. In this state of grace, the line of communication is cleared to allow us to hear God speaking to us and allow God to hear our prayers.

The beginning of Advent also marks the start of The Year of Prayer. Pope Francis would like every member of the Church to focus on the words of the Our Father.

The Agape event last weekend went very well, and all who attended enjoyed the occasion. Many thanks to Anessa and the organisers, helpers, musicians, and readers. When the Church gathers in communion, Christ is present among us.

Every Blessing, Fr John

Safeguarding: Sandy & Daphne will be speaking at all Masses this weekend to introduce themselves as the Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Christmas Greetings Campaign 2023— sheets are available in the narthex, detailing this year's list of prisoners of conscience. Please support this campaign by sending a card to one, or more, of the four prisoners on the sheet; at this time of year we can let them know that they are not alone or forgotten. The sheet is compiled from a list provided by Action By Christians Against Torture (www.acatuk.org.uk) whose aim is to mobilise Christians of all denominations to come together to pray and write letters of appeal. This can often lead to the end of torture, improvement of conditions and release of prisoners. The full ACAT Campaign list of prisoners can be accessed via a link from the Justice & Peace page on the parish website (www.catholicchurchdorrige.uk).

Coffee after Mass: The rota for next year will be produced soon and it would be very helpful to have some additional volunteers. If you are able to help, please contact Joan & Tony on 01564 205238 or email tony.joan.taylor@gmail.com. The requirement should be only two or three times a year for each volunteer.

Cash collections for Bethany Foodbank: Sainsburys in Dorridge, have offered us the possibility of undertaking cash collections for Bethany Foodbank. Sat 9th and 16th will be the dates. However, whilst we have some volunteers, we need quite a few more to make it viable and cover most times during the day with a couple of people at a time. In addition to electric bills of £1-2k per month the foodbank is now having to pay rent of £2.5k per month, previously they have had the use of their premises for free. If you can help, please email svpstgt@btinternet.com or phone Steve on 07740935527 or contact any SVP member.

Christmas Giving Tree Thank you for a tremendous first weekend response to the Christmas Giving Tree in the Narthex with virtually all of the tags having been taken. Please return the presents (wrapped and identified by the tag) to the church any weekend from now until **17th Dec**, at the latest, so that the gifts can be delivered to those less fortunate in the parish of St Vincent's, Nechells in time for Christmas. Just to re-iterate the email from the Head Teacher there who states "We once again thank you for your incredible kindness. Our families are very special but live in such poverty these gifts mean so much to us".

For those who would like to make a financial donation, please place in an envelope marked 'Christmas Giving Tree' and post through the Presbytery letterbox. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

PTFA Christmas Events

School Christmas Boutique: We are in desperate need of used but good condition or new items (Toys, candles, books etc) suitable for children, teenagers, mums, dads and grandparents. Please place in the box in the narthex (No clothes / shoes please). Our school children always enjoy the boutique shopping experience. Thank you.

School PTFA Christmas Raffle: Raffle tickets will be available at the end of mass this weekend for the Christmas Raffle to anyone who would like them. Tickets can be taken home and money and stubs next week to church or to school. We have some wonderful prizes this year including luxury hampers donated by families in the school, vouchers donated by Elegance beauty, Touchwood and gifts from Tesco and other local businesses. All money goes to St George and St Teresa School for resources for the Children. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 14 December. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Christmas Masses and Services

Parish Carol Service Sunday 17th December at 4pm
Seasonal refreshments afterwards in the Parish Centre.

Service of Reconciliation and Confession
Tuesday 19th December at 7pm, Our Lady of the Wayside, Shirley.

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Saturday 23rd December Vigil - 5.30pm
Sunday 24th December - 8.45am
There will be no Sunday 10.30am Mass

The Nativity of the Lord
Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve - Childrens Mass - 4pm
Midnight Mass! Celebrated by Mgr McHugh - 8pm
Monday 25th December Christmas Day – 8.45am and 10.30am

Hampton Singers' Christmas Concert: Sat 9th Dec at 4 pm at St Mary's, Temple Balsall. Tickets £15 including refreshments available on the door or at www.hamptonsingers.co.uk

Concert in aid of Mary's Meals: Marysmeals.org.uk feeding children in the world's poorest countries, for £19.15 per school year. Presents a concert with Lichfield Gospel Choir, 9th December, St Martin in the Bull Ring £10 per ticket. See leaflet in porch.

Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Multi Academy Job Vacancies: Further information and application packs are available under the vacancies section of the website (olaas.co.uk).
School Administrator Permanent: St John the Baptist Catholic Primary.
Teaching Assistant Fixed Term – to 31st Aug 2024: St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School.

Offertory: 26.12.23 Gift Aid Envelopes £258 Loose Plate £297
Catholic Youth Service Gift Aid Envelopes £160 Loose Plate £249
Average weekly offering via standing order and online banking - £680

✠ *Your Prayers are asked*

For those who are ill or housebound: Fr. Michael Ho, Joe Stephens, Michael Grosvenor, Dorothy Perkins, Jill Baynham, Tony Parsons and Rod Goodman, Dr John Martin, Pat McGeever. Catholics in parish nursing homes and hospitals. *We pray for them and all who care for them.*

Recently deceased – Jacqueline (Bobbie) Donovan. Her funeral will take place on Tuesday 19th December at 11am.

Janice Murphy. Her funeral will take place on Wed 20th December at 10am.
May they rest in peace.

Anniversaries (this week) from the last 20 years: Rene Wainwright, Michael Gannon, Courteney Harris, Rosaleen Rafnson, Tommy Cardall, Peggy Jones.
May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Parish Centre News. Timetable for next week on the noticeboard. If you are having a family occasion, please consider booking our hall for your venue. **It is important that users of the Parish Centre arrange bookings (and payments for non-Parish Events) through Oksana Zurak 07967-846-963 or oksanazurak@gmail.com**

Makes me smile!

I just paid £50 for eight legs of venison. Is that too dear?

My grandma used to say, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." I don't know if that's true, or just one of Granny's myths?

I've just seen a sign in the local supermarket. It says "Turkey £29
That is £350 cheaper than Jet2.

My grandfather drank varnish. It killed him but he had a lovely finish.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese's policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Sandy Walmsley and Daphne Morgan. They can be contacted at: sg.stgeorge-stteresa.dorridge@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.