

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

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Snow is falling all around you'....That popular Christmas tune came into my mind as I opened the curtains last Sunday morning. I hope you managed to enjoy a snowball fight or to build a snowman but more importantly I hope you managed to stay safe and warm. This Sunday is "Gaudete Sunday" meaning to rejoice. The birth of Christ at Christmas is now very near and the focus of our readings changes to one of joy filled expectancy. This weekend we say thank you and farewell to Sr Angela after 12 years of dedicated service to St Josephs, most especially to the sick of the parish and those who are patients at the Rehabilitation Hospital. We hope and pray that she will enjoy her well earned retirement at Selly Park Convent in Birmingham. This week we have our school carol concert and there are two opportunities to go and see it. Firstly, Monday Morning at 10am. This is a dress rehearsal and a special invite is extended to parishioners. The main concert is at 6:30pm the same evening, so please note that Mass is at 9:00am on Monday morning. Please do try and go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. On Tuesday there are confessions all day at St Peters and on Thursday evening at 7pm we are hosting the three Churches penitential service. On other matters, the less said about the Manchester derby last weekend the better!!!! May God bless us always, Fr Andy

Let us keep the sick and the housebound of our parish in our prayers

Edna Hales, Sue Cleary, Shelagh Price, Jenny Bamber, Maureen Cowell, Suzanna King, Michael Gallagher, Enda McSharry, Eileen Hiorns, Patricia Robinson, Brendan Patterson, Mario Fasi, Lena La Spisa, Anne Bergonzi

The Lawns

Mary Behan, Rosa Venetico, John L'Estrange, Kathleen Hammond, Winifred Galvin

Clarence House
Clarendon Manor
Castle Brook
Galanos House

Mary Craig, Marie Kelly, Sally Lamont
Angele Handford, Christina Kelly
Marjorie Smedley

NEXT WEEK 24 .12. 17	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
8.00am	Please volunteer— list in the narthex	Please volunteer - list in the narthex
5.30pm	Please volunteer - list in the narthex	Please volunteer - list in the narthex
8.30pm Car- ols & Readings	5 Readers needed - list in the narthex	
9.00pm	Please volunteer - list in the narthex	Please volunteer - list in the narthex
Christmas Day 10.00am	Please volunteer - list in the narthex	Please volunteer - list in the narthex

17TH DECEMBER 2017
GAUDETE SUNDAY
Third Sunday of Advent

THANKS AND GOOD WISHES

Today we say goodbye and thank you to Sr. Angela. After the 5.30pm Mass there will be a celebration in the hall and there will be drinks and tea-time nibbles —Please bring any food to the hall between 3.30—5.30pm. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS:

Mass Times at St. Joseph's:
Sunday 24th:

5.30pm Mass will be the Children's Christmas Mass.
8.30pm Carols and Readings
9.00pm First Mass of Christmas (mulled wine and mince pies afterwards in the hall!)

Monday 25th:

10.00am The Family Mass of Christmas.

Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

-Tuesday 19th December. There will be a Day for Reconciliation at St. Peter's with different priests in the confessional throughout the day

-Thursday 21st December: There will be a Penitential Service for all three churches here at St. Joseph's at 7.00pm.

Traditionally, Advent is a time of reflection, repentance and renewal.

Flowers: We are always grateful for contributions towards flowers for Christmas. Please put any donations in the flower box beside the main inner door. Thank you

Presents under the tree: Today is the last day for donating gifts which should be labelled: Boy or Girl, and the appropriate Age Group. Thank you for your kindness to those who have so little.

The Christmas Raffle of a Nativity Shed was won by Jill Sheard. Congratulations Jill!

Please would Readers and Eucharistic Ministers volunteer for duties over Christmas, so that the liturgies will run smoothly. There is a list in the narthex and still some spaces to fill!

Would Readers please note that the readings at all Christmas Masses are taken from

the Midnight Mass.

School Carol Concerts this Monday: 10.00am (Rehearsal, to which you are welcome) and 6.30pm, here in church. Hopefully there will be a convenient time for everyone.

Lectio Divina: The last Advent Lectio is on Friday 22nd December at 10.00am and again will be in the presbytery. All are welcome to this gentle look at the coming Sunday's Gospel.

Readers and Special Ministers: Those whose rota arrives by email should have received it already. Those who receive a hard copy should find it in the narthex.. Thank you for all you do so consistently.

Christmas Offering: The Diocesan schedule reminds us that it is customary for the Christmas Day collections to be an offering to the clergy. This will apply from the Sunday evening Children's Christmas Mass onwards. This is one of only two occasions in the year when the offertory is dedicated to our priests.

Monica Prayers: This gentle time is a specific opportunity for those present to pray for their loved ones who have abandoned their faith. The group will meet in church on Fridays at 6.00pm for **about half an hour's time in prayer** before the Blessed Sacrament. It will be held fortnightly at St. Peter's, with the middle Fridays alternating between St. Joseph's and Our Lady's. The first Monica Prayers to take place at St. Joseph's will be this coming Friday at 6.00pm and will be led by Sean Gough from St. Peter's. You will be very welcome.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 16 December <i>Psalter Week 2</i> VIGIL	OL SP	12.30 pm 5.00 pm	Mary Bohan Frances Lovell Mrs Canavan People of the Parish	Confessions: OL: 11.45am SP: 4.15pm
Sunday 17 December Third Sunday of Advent	SJ OL SP SJ	8.00 am 9.30 am 11.30 am 5.30 pm	People of the Parish Peter & Rosemary McGovern Mary Bridget Collins Joe & Rose McGreevy	Exposition & Holy Hour SP: 3.00-4.00pm
Monday 18 December <i>Advent feria</i>	SJ SP	9.00 am 10.00 am	P. J. Stevenson's Intentions Requiem: Martin Wall	St Joseph's School Concert in Church @ 10am & 6.30 pm
Tuesday 19 December <i>Advent feria</i>	SP SJ SJ	10.00 am 9.30 am 12.30 pm	Day of Confessions until 8.00 pm Mary Darby RIP John & Mary Smythe & Family	Rosary: SJ 9.10am; SP Noon
Wednesday 20 December <i>Advent feria</i>	SJ OL SP	9.30 am 12.00 pm 12.30 pm	Funeral Service: Margaret Hood Mrs Brown John Dawson; & Fred Newton	St Peter's School Concert in Church @ 7.00 pm
Thursday 21 December <i>Advent feria</i>	SJ SP SP SJ	9.30 am 9.30 am 12.30 pm 7.00 pm	<i>End of Term Mass in Church:</i> Persecuted Christians <i>School Mass in Church</i> Mary McGivern's Intentions <i>Catholic Leamington Penitential Service for all three Churches</i>	
Friday 22 December <i>Advent feria</i>	SJ OL SP	9.30 am 12.00 pm 12.30 pm	Arthur Devanney J. & G. Goggins Richard Chidzik	Exposition: SP 11.00am SJ: Rosary 9.10am St Monica's Prayer Service 6.00pm
Saturday 23 December <i>St John Kanty</i> VIGIL	SJ SP OL SP	9.30 am 10.00 am 12.30 pm 5.00 pm	Mary Darby Frances Lovell Arthur & Irene Leach James Daly	SJ: Morning Prayer 9.15 Confessions: SP: 9.15am & 4.15pm; SJ: 10.00; OL: 11.45am Exposition: SP: 9.00; SJ: 10.00am
Sunday 24 December Fourth Sunday of Advent ** CHRISTMAS EVE ** Christmas Vigil Midnight Mass	SJ OL SP SP SJ SJ SP OL	8.00 am 9.30 am 11.30 am 3.30 pm 5.30 pm 9.00 pm 10.00 pm 12.00 am	John & Teresa Skinner; & Mary Darby Maisie Buckley <i>Children's Christmas Mass:</i> Sarah O'Mullane; & Meg Lewis Kate Briddon <i>Children's Christmas Mass:</i> Heather Long; & Ian Wilshire People of the Parish People of the Parish Private Intention	

ANNIVERSARIES

Arthur Devanney, Mary Daniels, Betty Curham, John Murray, Heather Long, Patricia Devshi, Marianne Malyon

Recently Deceased
MARGARET HOOD
Funeral Service: Wednesday 20th December at 9.30am

Christmas Day Christmas Lunch: at the Episode Hotel on Christmas Day, for any couple or person on their own. The cost is a nominal £15 and transport can be arranged. It is from 12-2.30pm. Please speak to Linda on 07789003450


Toy Appeal - we wanted to thank parishioners and local schools for their amazing support in terms of donations and/or time. With so much generosity and hard work by so many people we have been able to provide a gift bag full of toys, books and games for 346 local children who otherwise may have had nothing to open on Christmas Day.

SPAN Christmas Supermarket Voucher Scheme: Thanks to the kind generosity of parishioners at the three churches: we shall be in a position to give a gift of additional financial support to 149 local families this Christmas. We are very grateful to all those whose contributions have enabled this to be possible.

200 Club: The next collection will be on 7th January 2018.

Carol Concert at St. Peter's
17th December at 7.30pm, entrance free, collection for charity.

Our Lady's 7 Day Candle:
You will have noticed that there is a new system in place now. Special envelopes have been provided for your intention and offering and there is a list of weeks in 2018 for you to choose from.



This week Our Lady's 7 Day candle burns for the Conlon and McHugh families

Crib Offering
This year, through Advent and Christmas, our crib offerings will be for Helping Hands in Leamington and, at the request of the Archbishop, to support persecuted Christians in the holy land.

THE COMING WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun: 2nd Collection: Parish Maintenance
Bacon Sandwiches, after 8.00am Mass
After 5.30pm Mass, Celebration in hall

Mon: 10.00am and 6.30pm School Carol Concert, in church
No Dancing until 8th Jan

Tues: 10.00am Tuesday Club

Wed: *No Art Group until 3rd Jan*
7.30pm Choir Practice

Thurs: Church Cleaning—Team 2
No Music Group
7.00pm Weight Watchers

Fri: 10.00 Advent Lectio Divina, Hall
No Karate

Sat: 7.30, 9.30 +11.30am Slimming World

LAST WEEK
10.12.17

Offertory Collection:
£274.84
Many thanks.

2nd Collection: The Poor Parishes £74.18

Attendance
105 