



## THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

WOOD STREET, SOUTHAM CV47 1PP

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The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216



### 06.12.2020 – Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

#### Preparing the Way for the Lord

In today's liturgy we celebrate the Good News of God's incredible love for all his people as we hear again the lonely voice of John the Baptist calling us to prepare a way for the Lord. This involves finding time in our busy lives and space in our busy hearts, for the Lord. Let us offer that time and space to the Lord as we welcome him into our lives.

#### Masses & Intentions

<b>Saturday 05</b>	<i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>
5.30pm	Douglas Tanner RIP (100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday)
<b>Sunday 06</b>	<b><i>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i></b>
10.00am	Bryan Thomas Grist (RIP)
<b>Monday 07</b>	<i>St. Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</i>
	People of the Parish
<b>Tuesday 08</b>	<i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
	Amalorpava Mary & Amelia Anthony (Ints)
<b>Wednesday 09</b>	<i>Advent feria</i>
6.30pm	Eucharistic Adoration
7.00pm	Anne Marie Isaacs (Birthday)
<b>Thursday 10</b>	<i>Advent feria</i>
	November List
<b>Friday 11</b>	<i>Advent feria</i>
	People of the Parish
<b>Saturday 12</b>	<i>Advent feria</i>
5.30pm	Bernard & Kathleen Mayman RIP (Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 13</b>	<b><i>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i></b>
10.00am	Enid & Albert Brown

**Baptism for Conversion (Mark 1:1-8):** Each Advent has two 'John the Baptist' Sundays: the first when we see John preparing a community for the Messiah, the second when he points out Jesus as the Lamb of God. Today is the first of these. John chose a point where the busy road from Jerusalem to the East crossed the Jordan River. There he button-holed all the busy financiers, merchants and other travellers and tourists, warning them to change their ways - and to change them now, before it was too late. 'I am too busy,' no doubt they said. 'I have other things to worry about; I have a wife and family to feed.' John was forming a community of repentance; but not so much a community which wept 'Boo-hoo!' about their sins, as a community of people determined to set their scale of values right. He meant them to stop going in one direction, to turn round and go in a different direction – towards God. Do we give ourselves a moment to pause and ask whether we have our priorities right? Where on that list of priorities does the entry of Christ into our lives come?

**John expected Jesus to baptise with fire. Does that mean burning something away? Or warming something up? Or a shining light? What does your baptism mean to you?** Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

**Walk With Me (Advent 2020):** The Season of Advent begins in two week's time. To help us prepare and spend prayerfully for this holy season leading to Christmas, our diocese has produced prayer books and Advent Calendars. Please take your copies.

#### Churches open for Mass

After nearly a month of 'second lockdown', we gather as a community of believing people to celebrate the Eucharist together. A warm welcome back to you all! While we thank God and the authorities for this opportunity, let us not forget observe the new restrictions.

We continue to pray for all who are and have been affected by the pandemic and the families. We remember in our prayers especially whose employment and job securities have been affected. We thank our NHS staff, care home staff and all who have been part of getting the vaccine ready to combat the pandemic. May all their efforts and our cooperation bring healing and renewal to our life and well being.

There will be Masses in our church as usual on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. I very much hope that there could be Masses with parishioners on the rest of the weekdays as well, but this depends on the availability of stewards to assist. Volunteers are always welcome to help.

#### Masses for Christmas in our Parish

##### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> - December - Christmas Vigil

5.30pm Christmas (Vigil) Mass

8.00pm Christmas (Midnight) Mass

##### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> - December - Christmas Day

8.30am Christmas (Dawn) Mass

10.00am Christmas (Day) Mass

Covid 19 restrictions and government guidelines demand that hand sanitizing, face covering and social distancing are strictly followed.

There is also restriction on the number of people attending each Mass. Hence, it is very important that parishioners and visitors alike book their places to any of the above Masses.

Sheets of paper are made available in our church to fill in the details required. Please speak to one of the stewards and make sure you book your place/s.

For the benefit of those parishioners who have not been able to attend Masses in recent times, but wish to be present for any of the Masses over Christmas, and for anyone from among your family, friends and well wishers who wish to be present for any of the above Masses, please contact Peter Guy on tel. no. 01926-814436 / 07495006232 and book you place/s. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

#### Readings at Mass for the Year

The new Liturgical Year began with the Vigil Mass for the First Sunday of Advent.

The Sunday Mass Readings are from 'Year B'

The Weekday Mass Readings during the 'Ordinary Time of the Year' are from 'Year 1'

**Pope's Prayer Intention for December – For a life of prayer:** We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

**Sick:** Please pray for all those who are unwell at this time, especially all those who are affected by Covid-19, those who are in isolation and all who help / take care of them as well as all those who serve our communities in frontline jobs.

**RIP:** Please pray for **Kathleen Healy** and all those who died recently and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

**New Parish Email Address:** Parishioners are kindly reminded that from this weekend we will be using our Diocesan wide Email System and our parish email will be: [stwulstan.southam@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stwulstan.southam@rcaob.org.uk) Please adjust your contact list accordingly. We will continue to monitor our current email account but gradually this will cease.

**Telephone support:** Some of our parishioners are supporting each other by telephone. Please phone 811703 (Shirley) or email ([shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com](mailto:shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com)) if you want a chat or to receive calls or if you would like to join those who are calling others.

**Missio Calendar 2021:** Thank you to all who help the Missions through your prayers and generous contributions. The calendar for the new year is available in our church. Please remember to take your copies.

**Poor Mission Fund:** This Fund exists to help our poorer parishes, many of which will have been particularly badly hit this year and the second collection is due to be taken in their support on **6 December**. Donations can also be made directly and electronically to the fund via the diocesan website with the added advantage of Gift Aid for those who are eligible at <https://www.mygiving.online/appdonation/DonateNow/197597ae-b53e-430f-be0a-a78281e94aa8> (After completing their details on the form donors will be taken to the next page which has the PMF preselected as the fund to donate to.)

### Home Mission Sunday

We celebrate Home Mission Sunday next weekend (Gaudete Sunday) enabling people to experience the joy of coming closer to Christ this Christmas.

Each year the Church in England and Wales celebrates *Home Mission Sunday*. Normally this would take place in September, but this year September held so many challenges for everyone that it was moved to Gaudete Sunday. It is hoped that this is a better time of year to focus on Evangelisation.

Our Mission is to help the local Church share the joy of the Gospel so the connection Gaudete Sunday. Preparing for Christmas gives us several opportunities to share our faith with the people we love. Let us do our best to share the Good News during these turbulent times. There will be a retiring collection next week for this purpose.

**CAFOD World Gifts:** CAFOD's range of virtual gifts make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6.00 and the Vegetable Garden gift for 10 are just two gifts that help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Thank you very much for your support and prayers. Visit: [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts) for more information.

**St. Ambrose (Dec. 7):** Around the year 333 Ambrose was born at Trier, the child of a noble Roman family. After his father's death he went to Rome, and was soon appointed consul with residence at Milan. While attempting to settle a dispute between the Arians and Catholics over the choice of a bishop,

he himself was chosen, although only a catechumen at the time. Thereupon he devoted himself wholeheartedly to the study of theology, and gave his possessions to the poor. He was an illustrious preacher, and through his sermons brought Augustine to the faith and baptized him.

Candid and fearless no matter how strong the opposition, Ambrose was directed to confront Maximus, the murderer of the Emperor Gratian. When Maximus refused to do penance, Ambrose excommunicated him. Later he denied Emperor Theodosius entrance into church for his massacre of the inhabitants of Thessalonica. It was on this occasion that allusion was made to [King] David as a murderer and adulterer, and Ambrose retorted: "You have followed him in sin, now follow him in repentance." Humbly, Theodosius accepted the penance imposed.

We often meet this saint in the Divine Office as a teacher and as an inspired composer of hymns (fourteen of the hymns attributed to him are definitely authentic, true pearls of religious poetry). His writings are vibrant with ancient Christian liturgical spirit, for his life was wholly rooted in mystery and sacrament. We can profit greatly by reading Ambrose's works. He is one of the four great Latin Doctors of the Church.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch  
<https://www.catholicculture.org/>

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8)

*Virgin Mary, all nature is blessed by you*

Blessed Lady, sky and stars, earth and rivers, day and night – everything that is subject to the power or use of man – rejoice that through you they are in some sense restored to their lost beauty and are endowed with inexpressible new grace. All creatures were dead, as it were, useless for men or for the praise of God, who made them. The world, contrary to its true destiny, was corrupted and tainted by the acts of men who served idols. Now all creation has been restored to life and rejoices that it is controlled and given splendour by men who believe in God. The universe rejoices with new and indefinable loveliness. Not only does it feel the unseen presence of God himself, its Creator, it sees him openly, working and making it holy. These great blessings spring from the blessed fruit of Mary's womb.

Through the fullness of the grace that was given you, dead things rejoice in their freedom, and those in heaven are glad to be made new. Through the Son who was the glorious fruit of your virgin womb, just souls who died before his life-giving death rejoice as they are freed from captivity, and the angels are glad at the restoration of their shattered domain.

Lady, full and overflowing with grace, all creation receives new life from your abundance. Virgin, blessed above all creatures, through your blessing all creation is blessed, not only creation from its Creator, but the Creator himself has been blessed by creation.

To Mary God gave his only-begotten Son, whom he loved as himself. Through Mary God made himself a Son, not different but the same, by nature Son of God and Son of Mary. The whole universe was created by God, and God was born of Mary. God created all things, and Mary gave birth to God. The God who made all things gave himself form through Mary, and thus he made his own creation. He who could create all things from nothing would not remake his ruined creation without Mary.

God, then, is the Father of the created world and Mary the mother of the re-created world. God is the Father by whom all things were given life, and Mary the mother through whom all things were given new life. For God begot the Son, through whom all things were made, and Mary gave birth to him as the Saviour of the world. Without God's Son, nothing could exist; without Mary's Son, nothing could be redeemed.

Truly the Lord is with you, to whom the Lord granted that all nature should owe as much to you as to himself.