



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



20.12.2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent– Sea Sunday

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

Mary, The Ark of the Covenant

Today's Mass is a great song to the everlasting love of God revealed in his covenant (love-pact) with his people. We praise the mystery of his love kept secret for endless ages, but now revealed through a new ark of the covenant, Mary of Nazareth.

Masses & Intentions

Saturday 19	Feria in Ordinary Time
5.30pm	Maureen & Jim Stewart (Intentions)
Sunday 20	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10.00am	Tony Varney RIP (15 th Anniversary)
Monday 21	Advent feria
	Sr. Mary Paul (Intentions)
Tuesday 22	Advent feria
	Shirley Rush (Intentions)
Wednesday 23	Advent feria
6.30pm	Eucharistic Adoration
7.00pm	Beryl Whelton (Intentions)
Thursday 24	Advent feria
	Chris Johnson (Intentions)

The Season of Christmas

Thursday 24 December – Christmas Eve

5.30pm	Christmas Vigil Mass Joan Ballinger (Ints)
8.00pm	Christmas (Midnight) Mass Priest's Intentions

Friday 25 December - Christmas Day

8.30am	Christmas (Dawn) Mass Sr. Anne pcj RIP
10.00am	Christmas (Day) Mass Private Intentions
Saturday 26	Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr
11.00am	Altar Servers, Volunteers & Families
5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 27	FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
10.00am	Canon Peter Taylor RIP

Christmas in our Parish

Thursday 24th - December - Christmas Vigil

5.30pm Christmas (Vigil) Mass

8.00pm Christmas (Midnight) Mass

Friday 25th - 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.

Forms 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.

Sea Sunday

This year, due to Covid-19, Sea Sunday has been re-arranged for the **20th December**

Every year churches around the world celebrate Sea Sunday as a day for people to come together to pray for seafarers and fishers and thank them for the vital role they play in our lives. This year, more than ever, seafarers and fishers are making huge sacrifices to ensure food, medicine, and vital equipment continues to be delivered globally. Many have been away from home for a long time. But they are tired, anxious about the future, and they miss their families.

Our church can show our support for seafarers and fishers next Sea Sunday and raise vital funds to ensure support to everyone who needs our help. There will be a retiring collection next Sunday. Your support will be much appreciated.

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 Please adjust your contact list accordingly. We will continue to monitor our current email account but gradually this will cease.

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.

The Annunciation (Luke 1: 26-38): As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, the final Sunday of Advent always focuses on Mary. What was the young girl Mary doing when the message came? Kneeling in prayer? Feeding the sheep? Fetching water? Sweeping the mud floor? What was she thinking? Engaged to be married, surely about her approaching wedding to Joseph and about the children she would mother. Then came the message which she could accept or refuse, the message on which hung the future of the world: her child would be different from all others. How 'different'? Her thoughts were turned back to the promise to David. It had been read to her so often in the Bible, and now the words echoed in her mind as she listened to the angel say 'His reign will have no end'. This would all be the work of the Spirit which she had so often heard about in Isaiah: 'the Holy Spirit will come upon you', the Spirit which was to come upon the Servant of the Lord, the Spirit of Emmanuel, 'God with us'. Her young body was to grow, nourish and develop this child. Then she would have the child in her arms to cherish and shape as both Son of God and her own son.
What sort of person was Mary? Would you have liked to get to know her? What is God's plan for you?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Kay Griffin RIP: We are very sad to learn that Kay died on Monday 7th December at Warwick Hospital, surrounded by her family. May she rest in peace. We offer our sympathies and prayers to the bereaved family. Kay's funeral arrangements have yet to be confirmed.

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.

We hear that the number of people infected with Covid in our local hospitals and in our area is on the increase and as it is across various parts of the country. This makes us feel very uneasy and fearful. Let us hope and pray that it will be kept under control and that everyone will take all necessary precautions and preventive measures!

RIP: Please pray for **Kay Griffin, 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.*

Sanctuary Lamp: The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of the late **Maurice Griffin RIP.** May God be grant him eternal rest!

Telephone support: Some of our parishioners are supporting each other by telephone. Please phone 811703 (Shirley) or email (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.

Mass for Altar Servers, Volunteers & Families: It is long held tradition across the Catholic Parishes that on 26th of



December, the Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr, Mass is celebrated with and for all those who serve on the Altar. Accordingly, we shall be celebrating Mass on Saturday 26th December at 11.00am to which all are welcome and Altar Servers, Volunteers & their Families are specially invited.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

The song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" started life as a way of teaching young English Catholics the central elements of faith during the years of persecution in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Partridge in a Pear Tree	One God
Two Turtle Doves	Old and New Testament
Three French Hens	Father, Son, Holy Spirit / Faith, Hope, Charity
Four Colley Birds	Matthew, Mark, Luke & John
Five Gold Rings	The Pentateuch / Books of Moses
Six Geese a Laying	The days of Creation
Seven Swans a Swimming	Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Eight Maids a milking	Beatitudes
Nine Drummers drumming	Fruits of the Holy Spirit
Ten Pipers piping	Ten Commandments
Eleven Ladies Dancing	Faithful Apostles
Twelve Lords a Leaping	Articles of the Creed.

Mary's Meals wishes to thank our parishioners for your faithful and generous support. Please access its founder Manus MacFarlane-Barrow's message on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/jyTQtQUUB1M> Their new match funding campaign 'Double the Love' goes even further. Donations made until 31 January 2021 will be doubled by the UK government – meaning they can reach even more hungry children in Liberia with life-changing school meals. Thank you for your generosity.

Act now and ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide: The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

From a homily In Praise of the Virgin Mother
by Saint Bernard, abbot (1090 – 20 August 1153)



You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a son; you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion; the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us.

The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God, we all came to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life.

Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise. Abraham begs it, David begs it. All the other holy patriarchs, your ancestors, ask it of you, as they dwell in the country of the shadow of death. This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race.

Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word.

Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. This is no time for virginal simplicity to forget prudence. In this matter alone, O prudent Virgin, do not fear to be presumptuous. Though modest silence is pleasing, dutiful speech is now more necessary. Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. *Behold the handmaid of the Lord, she says, be it done to me according to your word.*

Hom. 4, 8-9: Opera omnia, Edit. Cisterc. 4 [1966], 53-54



Wish you all a Merry Christmas and A Blessed New Year!