



Ss. Mary & Benedict RC Church, Coventry



Apostles of Jesus Mission

Parish Newsletter –Second Sunday of Advent, Year B: 10th to 17th Dec 2023

MASSES—10th to 17th Dec 2023

Sun	10	9.30am	People of the parish, Srs. of St. Ann (Spl int), Deceased members of Sean & Felex Menezes families K.O. Syrioc (RIP)
		11.30am	CWA& Legion of Mary –Thanksgiving, Patricia West (Spl int) Loveness (Thanksgiving) Deceased members of Rodrigues family
Mon	11	12.00noon	Smith & Donovan family (RIP)
Tues	12	9.30am	Luiza D’Souza, Bernadette Doran (RIP)
Wed	13	9.30am	Martin Traverse (RIP), Birthday thanksgiving
Thurs	14	9.30am	Nora Dickson (RIP)
Fri	15	9.30am	Deceased members of Almeida family
Sat	16	9.30am	George Lobo (B’day)
Sun	17	9.30am	Martin Conconon (Anniv), Anna & William Mara (RIP) Emmanuel & Betty (37th Wed Anniv)
		11.30am	People of the parish

Lectors

<u>10/12/2023</u>		<u>17/12/2023</u>
9.30am	Cath Slatter, Nicholas (R)	Anthonia A., Cosmos (R)
11.30am	Honorine, Jacintha (R)	Emma, Sharon (R)

Eucharistic Ministers


<u>10/12/2023</u>		<u>17/12/2023</u>
9.30am	Felix (E)	Ann M. (E)
11.30am	Lilian (E)	Serso (E)

Readings– Is. 40: 1-5, 99-11; 2Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

The sick of the Parish: Rose Hogan, Norah Griffith, Mary Mulrone, Gerard Griffith, Maria Clear, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Jarek, Bridie McAndrew, Teresa McAffer, Chinasa Okosi, John Crowford, Mr. Tran, Damian Curristan, Owen Darroch., Lucia Drabik.

Anniversaries during the week: Patrick Noonan, Annie Corrigan, Dennis James McCann, Albert Shorthose, Anne Plunkett, Norah Bernadette Hanbury, Margaret Kinsella, Jack Sheehan, John Cain, Andy McHugh, Jozef Conka, Josephine Battles, Patrick Meehan, Nora Herbert, Allen Leslie Randall, Michael Oliver Hickey, Cornelius John Morris, Edward Donnelly, Don McCaffer, Francis Morrinssey, Catherine Dunnion, Tom Heavey, John O’Reilly, Bridget Hayden, Kathleen Gill, Bridget Agnes Rafferty, Rita O’Sullivan .

Reflect on... The message of Advent is both an invitation and a challenge. It invites us to look forward, be ready, and wait in joyful hope; it challenges us to stay awake. The message of Jesus in today’s gospel is ‘Be on your guard, stay awake, because you do not know the time when the Lord will come. What I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!’ This message will help us to get what Advent is really about. As Jesus’ followers, let us prepare as best as we can and get ready. **“COME LORD JESUS!”**



IT FEELS LIKE A WILDERNESS

The prophet Isaiah (Chapter 40) invited his congregation to prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. The message was announcing the end to the captivity that the Israelites had suffered in the Babylonian exile. That period of humiliation was coming to an end. They were to prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord to welcome their redeemer.

Wilderness takes a centre stage in today’s readings because Mark presents John the Baptist as a prophet in the wilderness who proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He invited his listeners to look out for and welcome the Messiah, the promised one. There is something about wilderness that we in cities and developed areas need to appreciate, the call to embrace the spiritual simplicity. Quite often we associate the wilderness with thorny bushes, isolation, deafening silence, hostile creatures, and impenetrable realities that cause anxiety.

Oftentimes, we feel like we are in the wilderness of our lives in a body with sicknesses and weaknesses due to age; fears and anxieties due to economic uncertainties; unstable relationships that arouse a deep sense of insecurity and low self-esteem; and at a global scale insensitive destruction of human lives and property which cause a sense of hopelessness and a dark future. In our experiences of the wilderness, we get an impression that God is far away from us.

In those moments, the Advent message invites us to renew our faith, and that God cares and that he is interested in our wellbeing. All we must do is take a conscious step to prepare in our wilderness for his saving coming. St Peter assures us that the Lord is not slow to carry out his promises, but he is being patient with us because he does not want anyone to get lost. We are to consciously choose to be holy and saintly if we are to experience the salvation that God brings to us at this moment in our lives. Remember, there is discomfort in the wilderness, and we are to face it.

Running away from our discomforts, weaknesses, points of embarrassment, and pretending that all is well by not facing them, is not helpful. It is by courting our ugly selves that we gain the courage to honestly present ourselves with the required confidence that God, the powerful redeemer will save us. That is faith. Pay attention, prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord, by deciding to pray, receiving the sacraments, reading the Scriptures, and doing acts of mercy. God will bless you.

St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church

52a, Raglan Street Coventry, CV1 5QF. Tel 02476258901

Parish email: stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com

Website: www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk

Web cam: www.mcmedia.tv/camer/st-mary-and-st-benedict

Youtube: [st mary and benedict church coventry](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1)

Donations to the parish : <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-online>.

<https://donate.myдона.com/ss-mary-benedict-church>

Priest in the Parish. Fr. Aloysius L. Bukenya, AJ

E-mail : aloysius.bukenya@gmail.com

Parish Sisters: Srs. of St. Ann of Providence

Leena and Leera 02477045457

Sunday School: Perpetua Sam & Emmanuella

Parish School: St Mary & St Benedict's, Leigh Street CV1 5HG

Tel: 02476 229486 Head teacher - Mrs Pauline McDonald

The Parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg. Charity No. 234216

YOU ARE MOST WELCOME to our Parish Church. If it is your first time here or probably you have been here before, your presence with us at this moment at our community worship is greatly appreciated. Our Parish Church is the second to be built in Coventry after the Protestant Reformation. It was built in 1893, the pews have never moved since then! Our Musical Pipe Organ was inaugurated in 1898, it was the best of its kind at the time. Our Parish has had eleven Parish priests since 1889, the present one being a Religious Missionary from the Institute of Apostles of Jesus in Uganda. Our Parish welcomes and promotes the initiatives by everyone to build up and sustain our faith community.

Parish Development

03/12/23: Gift Aid : £ 177.60 Dona: £ 251.00 Non-Gift Aid: £ 426.67 Total: £ 855.27

SO (Nov) : £ Second collection : May God bless you all.

2nd collections : 10/12/23 - Poor parishes of the Diocese

Bonus Ball : No.

Mass Attendance : 303

Choir practice : Fri- 7.30pm

Church cleaning: 7.30am

Confessions: Saturday- 10.10-11.00am (& by appointment)

Pious Devotions : Divine Mercy - Last Thursday of every month at 6pm

Legion of Mary: Meet every Sunday after 11.30am Mass

SAFEGUARDING

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Perpetua Sam & Asipita Iroko. They can be contacted at: sg.stmary-stbenedict.covty@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.

TODAY, AS WE LIGHT THE SECOND CANDLE OF THE ADVENT

WREATH, WE INVOKE TO LORD TO INCREASE OUR FAITH IN THE

LORD WHO COMES TO REDEEM US: MARANA THA, COME LORD JESUS.

CHURCH NOTICES

YEAR OF PRAYER: This is to invite you, dear people of God, to turn your attention to the basics of prayer by focusing on the 'Our Father' which comes from our Lord Jesus Christ. At the start of this year, I invite you to use available opportunities to pray with devotion; allow the Lord to speak to your heart, cultivate a spirit of meditation and family prayer, remembering that a family that prays together stays together. I recommend that you take time, at least once a week, to pray with the Scriptures.

AS A PARISH COMMUNITY, WE CONGRATULATE UPON THEIR DAY, THE MEMBERS OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND LEGION OF MARY, LET US JOIN THEM FOR REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE SECOND MASS.

Christmas Concert: Thursday, 16th December 2023; Time 5.00 to 7.30pm. You are all welcome to this spiritual, moral, and intellectual preparation for Christmas. Thanks to our Parish Choristers.

MARRIAGE COURSE to start in the Second week of January 2024. Couples intending to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage are invited to register for the Marriage Course in the parish office. Lessons will commence on Thursday 11th January 2024, at 6pm.

Parish Advent Penitential Service to take place on Wednesday, 20th December, at 7pm, this will be followed by private confessions.

Christmas Bazaar: Thank you for supporting our Christmas Bazaar; it was a successful celebration of our family spirit, please, look out for details in the next Sunday's notices. Kindly collect your prizes from the piety stall.

Christmas Programme

24th Dec Sunday there will be only one Mass at 10am

24th Dec Vigil Mass for children 6pm followed by Carol singing at 8.00pm

24th Dec Vigil Mass for adults 8.30pm

25th Dec Christmas Day Masses at 9.30am and 11.30am

31st Dec Sunday there will be two Masses 9.30am & 11.30am

31st Dec Thanksgiving Adoration at 10pm followed by solemn Mass at 11pm

Altar Servers will renew their commitment to serving at the Altar on Tuesday 26th December Feast of their Patron Saint, St. Stephen. After the Mass, refreshments will be served in the parish hall.

INDUCTION OF THE NEW PARISH PRIEST: Thursday, 18th January, Holy Mass at 7pm, during which Msgr. Tom Farrell will induct Fr. Aloysius L. Bukenya to the office of parish priest of St. Mary and St. Benedict R C Church, Coventry. It is our parish celebration. All are invited to join in the hall for light refreshments.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 14th April 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Feasts during the week: 12th Dec—Our Lady of Guadalupe; 13th Dec—St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr; 14th Dec. St. John of the Cross, priest, Doctor of the Church.