

MASSES 13th to 20th Dec 2020

Sun	13	9.30am	John Dunleavy (Thanksgiving), Roy Loxon & family (Good health)
		11.30am	Mama Magdalene Akenji (RIP), Georgina Kimani (Spl int) Obinna Osuagwu (Thanksgiving),
Mon	14	9.30am	Geraldine Clarkson (Spl int), Holy souls, Sr. Angelia (RIP)
Tues	15	10.00am	Requiem Mass– John Philip Curristan
Wed	16	9.30am	Caetano & Cecilia D’souza, John Curristan (RIP)
Thurs	17	9.30am	Ena Dunleavy (Thanksgiving)
Fri	18	9.30am	Jean Lanigan, Elizabeth (Spl int)
Sat	19	9.30am	Mrs. Tran (RIP), Deceased members of Ward family & John & Valana D’souza family
Sun	20	9.30am	Urbani & Drabik family (RIP), Albert & Marjorie Hunt (RIP) Emmanuel & Betty Osagie (Wed. Anni)
		11.30am	Obinna Osuagwu (Thanksgiving)

Lectors

13/12/2020

9.30am Neetha, Desma (R)
11.30am Mary, Florence E. (R)

20/12/2020

Filomena & Anthonia O.

Please pray for the sick of the Parish: Norah Griffith Laetitia Matemadumbo Tony Groogan, Mary Mulrone, Gerard Griffith, Maria Drabik, Kath Muldoon, Michael Clear, Maria Clear, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Jarek, Benny MacAndrew, Patsy Lesley.

Anniversaries during the week: 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, Ann Dunnion, James McMenus, Denis Joseph Buckley, Robert McGorman, Bridie Mooney, Jack McCullough, Frank Martin, Daniel Prosser, John Masterson, Ann Plunkett, Anne Creed, Margaret Elizabeth Younger.

The four traditional Advent themes for the four advent Sunday’s are:

- 1. God’s people—candle of Hope : As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.***
- 2. The Old Testament prophets—Candle of Peace : As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus.***
- 3. John the Baptist—Candle of Love : As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in Jesus.***
- 4. Mary Mother of Jesus—candle of Joy : As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.***

The fifth candle represents the birth of Christ. The flame of this candle remind us that He is the light of the world and that if we follow Him, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.



A.J. Missions



St. Osburg



Ss. Mary & Benedict



St. Elizabeth

Parish Newsletter 3rd Sunday of Advent - 13th to 20th Dec 2020

“BE HAPPY AT ALL TIME PRAY CONSTANTLY”

The third Sunday of Advent is a Sunday of joy (Gaudete). Having come this far in our journey, the Church like the prophet Nehemiah tells us “Go and enjoy...*Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength*” (Neh 8: 10). However, after today, we shall continue our Advent journey with new zeal and expectation because the Lord is near.

In our first reading, Isaiah busts with Joy as he experienced the divine presence God at work in his life and in his mission: “*The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me...*” This is a song of joy from a person who has recognised his vocation. He recounts what God has done in his life.

It is three weeks since we began Advent. We rejoice because, we have been filled with the Spirit of God. God has anointed us to take the Good news of his salvation to all. We are strengthened for the last phase of our journey of hope. So, in appreciation for this, we shout for joy to the Lord. This is the joy that Gaudate Sunday provokes. That is, the joy that our Saviour is near.

The second reading is an exaltation from Paul, that as followers of Christ, we should be happy at all times, pray constantly, and for all things give thanks to God...” In this brief exaltation, we find a wonderful progression. First, it is an exaltation to be happy, joyful and cheerful because our journey so far has been so good. Yes we have had crosses but the Lord has not abandoned us.

Paul gives us another exaltation: “Pray at all time, be vigilant”. Therefore, for Gaudate Sunday to be truly meaningful, it must provoke a feeling of joy and thankfulness, for what we were, for what we are and for what we shall be when the mercy of God is revealed. Advent is a time of hope in the great future.

The Gospel revolves round the prophecy and person of John the Baptist. Jesus spoke of him as the greatest of all people born of women. Last week we heard of John we hear about him today. The difference between these accounts is that one is from Mark, the other from John the evangelist but their message remains the same “*prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.*”

Why is this call repeated this joyful Sunday? It is for the purpose of emphasis. It is to remind us that, though we are given a little time to relax and rejoice the call is still there: “*Make a straight way for the Lord.*” So, our preparation continues, let us not lose focus of where we are going or where we wish to be as followers of Christ.

Brothers and Sisters, as we rejoice today, let us say a loud amen to the prayer of Paul: “*May the God of Peace make you perfect and holy, and may you all be kept safe and blameless... for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...God has called you and he will not fail you.*” Surely, God will not fail us until we have received Christ, the fullness of our joy and salvation.

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 taken by everyone for the building up and sustenance of our faith community.

St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church

52a, Raglan Street Coventry, CV1 5QF. Tel 02476258901, 07906124756

www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk

Web cam: www.mcnmedia.tv

Parish Priest. Fr. Jimmy Lutwama, AJ

E-mail lutwajim@yahoo.com

Parish Sisters: Srs. of St. Anne of Providence

Leena, and Leera 02477045457

Safeguarding Rep: Veronica Carroll—Tel no. 07980506620

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

Tel: 02476 229486 Head teacher Mrs McDonald

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

Parish Development

Collection: Gift Aid : £ 409.00 **SO (Nov) :** £ 1638.00 **Non-Gift Aid:** £399.30 **Total :**£2446.30

Thank you for your generous contribution during this pandemic. I'm particularly thankful to those who have set up Standing Orders with your banks which has enabled your parish church to continue receiving your support. May God Bless you.

Hall Hire: **Bonus Ball :** No.

Counters :

Mass Attendance for the week :

2nd Collection :

Pious Devotions

Prayer for priests

Divine mercy prayers

Rosa Mystica

Parish Rosary group

Choir practice

Church cleaning:

RCIA Sessions:

Catechism for FHC :

Church Cleaning:

Dates for your diary:

Confessions:

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness- James 1:2-3
This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.- Psalm 118:24
A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones- Proverbs 17:22
For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. - Romans 14:17



Mass Intentions

Please if you have requests for Mass for your intentions envelopes are available at the back of the church please pick one, write your intention, place it in the box provided with minimum £5 for each Mass or request by calling Tel. 07547242375. The Masses you request will be celebrated on the day or as much close to the day as possible.

MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

Gaudete Rejoice: the term refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath. "Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us.

Sacrament of Baptism: Parents who have attended the baptism classes or those who desire to baptise their children can approach the parish priest or the Sisters. to finalise the date for baptism. The next baptism preparation classes will begin on Monday **14th Dec at 5.00pm** in the Parish hall.

Parish Penitential service at St. Mary's: Due to Covid 19, **there will be no** Parish Advent Penitential Service in preparation for Christmas. Fr. Jimmy is available for anyone who would like to celebrate the Lord's mercy through the Sacrament of Confession. Please call his mobile number 07906124756 to make an appointment.

New year programme: there will be no annual Public End Year thanksgiving Mass instead there will be a prayer of thanksgiving and adoration starting from 8:00-9:00pm. At 9:10pm there will be Holy Mass to thank the Lord for the year 2020 and to welcome a new one. These services will be broadcast live on our parish website.

Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph" With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

Guild of St Stephen Mass: Altar servers across the Archdiocese are invited to join the live streaming of the Guild of St Stephen Mass next March. The Mass will be celebrated at St Chad's Cathedral at 10am on Saturday 6th March 2021. As part of the celebration servers (young and old, whether at home or in church, vested or not) are encouraged to send a picture of themselves holding their Guild Medal, so the Vocations team can create a montage poster in lieu of the annual official photo at the Mass.

Christmas Masses: There will be 2 Masses on 24th Dec at 6.00pm and 8.30pm and on Christmas day Masses will be celebrated at 9.30am and 11.30am. Please book a place for yourself or for your family as soon as possible so that we can celebrate Christmas together.

Invitation of Altar Servers: for the feast of St. Stephen on Saturday 26th December after Christmas Day. Mass will start at 10:00am. Parents of Altar Servers are asked to accompany them as they will renew their Commitment to serve at the altar. Altar servers please remember to put on your Altar Servers vestments and medals.