

**MASSES— 15th to 22nd Dec 2024**

Sun	15	9.30am	Tran family (Spl int), Stany Mathias (RIP), Lois Parker (Get well)
		11.30am	Salvator Semuswi (RIP)
Mon	16	12.00noon	John & Mary Brogan (Spl int)
Tues	17	9.30am	McEntee family (RIP)
Wed	18	9.30am	Martin Concannon (RIP)
Thurs	19	9.30am	Stephen Mangwa (RIP), Fr. Brendan Byrne (Anniv)
Fri	20	9.30am	Stany Mathias, Tony McCafferty (RIP)
Sat	21	9.30am	Mary Costello (Anniv)
Sun	22	9.30am	Tran family (Spl int), Emmanuel & Betty (Wed Anniv) Theresa Parker (Spl int)
		11.30am	Salvator Semuswi (RIP)

**Lectors**

	<b><u>15/12/2024</u></b>	<b><u>22/12/2024</u></b>
9.30am	Cath Slater, Cosmos	Jean P. Clinton
11.30am	Ann Marie, Tasha	Evania, Rosalyn

**Eucharistic Ministers**

	<b><u>15/12/2024</u></b>	<b><u>22/12/2024</u></b>
9.30am	Sophie	Felix
11.30am	Patricia, Lilian	Loveness, Serso

**LET US PRAY TO THE LORD**

**The sick of the Parish:** Norah Griffith, Gerard Griffith, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Bridie McAndrew, Teresa McAffer, Chinasa Okosi, John Crawford, Mr. Tran, Owen Darroch, Lucia Drabik.

**Anniversaries during the week** : 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, Paula Moore, Bridie Mooney, Jack McCullough, Frank Martin, Daniel Prosser, John Masterson, Ann Plunkett, Anne Creed, Margaret Elizabeth Younger, Josephine & Tom Boylan, Ann Martin, Thomas Fox, Agnes Stanford, Mary Teresa Costello, Rose & Jim Hogan, Mary McCullough.



**Third Sunday of Advent**

**TODAY, AS WE LIGHT THE THIRD CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH, WE INVOKE THE LORD TO GIVE US JOY AS WE LIVE OUR FAITH IN THE LORD WHO COMES TO REDEEM US: MARANA THA, COME LORD JESUS.**



**Ss. Mary & Benedict RC Church, Coventry**



**The Parish is in the Care of the Apostles of Jesus Missionaries**

**Parish Newsletter— Third (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent—15th to 22nd Dec 24**

***GAUDETE! Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice!***

We declare today the joy of salvation! Joy is the outcome of an encounter with God's mercy. It is expressed in ways that include shouting, singing and dancing, and even in the silence of a joyful heart there is a sense of optimism and+ feeling good. Such joy is like light - it brightens those who witness it in an individual. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit, and St Paul names it among the fruits of the Spirit alongside love, peace forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). It is also an effect of innocence, an expression of genuineness of a person and a quality of sanctity.

Sin takes joy away from a person since it severs the soul from God. In brief, a life that excludes God experiences gloom and a sense of despair. This is the way we could interpret incidents of social traumas, destruction, divisions, war, violence and all forms of abuse against human persons. These situations, however, can be reversed, once a people acknowledge their state of sinfulness and need for God.

To experience joy, every generation of people must seek union and reunion with God in acts of repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness and mercy. This was true too for the crowds of the first century that that listened to John the Baptist as he preached the baptism of repentance. Various categories of people went to him with the question: What then shall we do? John responded to each according to their statuses in the community: tax collectors, soldiers, farmers, shepherds, priests, builders and others in the crowds. The bedrock of the prophet's message to all was the call to repentance from acts of greed and exploitation of the poor and to adopt acts of generosity and mercy.

Throughout our lives, as Catholics, we have many opportunities to approach the sacrament of reconciliation in which we confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness. This sacrament is powerful indeed; penitents confess their sins as a sign of their determination to do things differently. They express their intention to turn to God's ways, they receive God's forgiveness which showers them with immense joy and peace; it also frees them to be ambassadors of God's mercy to others. It is that experience of forgiveness that highlights our awareness of the powerful God that is in our midst and therefore the reason for great rejoicing. We shall always rejoice in the Lord who saves us. We shall therefore sing aloud, shout with exaltation because your powerful and merciful God is in our midst (Zephaniah 3:17).

*Fr. Aloysius*

**St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church**

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

Parish email: [stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com](mailto:stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk](http://www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk)

Web cam: [mcn.live/camera/st-mary-and-st-benedict](http://mcn.live/camera/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>

Parish Priest: Fr. Aloysius L. Bukenya, Apostles of Jesus.

E-mail : [fr.aloysius.bukenya@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.aloysius.bukenya@rcaob.org.uk)

Assistant Parish Priest: Fr. Reginald Agapiti Tarimo, Apostles of Jesus.

E-mail : [fr.reginald.tarimo@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.reginald.tarimo@rcaob.org.uk)

Parish Sisters: Srs. of St. Ann of Providence

Leena and Leera Tel. 02477045457

Sunday School: Perpetua Sam & Emmanuella

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

Tel: 02476 229486 Head teacher - Mrs Pauline MacDonald

*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 even if 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 and 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 thirteen parish priests since 1889. Our Parish welcomes you to promote initiatives that build up and sustain our faith community.

**Parish Development**

**08/12/24: Gift Aid :£160.00 Dona: £263.00 Non-Gift Aid: £ 282.63 Total: £ 705.63**

**SO (Nov): £ Second collection - 179.02 Thank you and may God bless you all.**

**2nd collections : 179.02**

**Bonus Ball :** No.

**Mass Attendance :** 274

**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 Archdiocesan 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](mailto:sg.stmary-stbenedict.covty@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

**CHILDREN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE :** must be accompanied by an adult if they need to leave the church to use the toilets during Mass or other Church services. Also, please do not let children of this age go near the votive candle stands unaccompanied, and do not let them run around the car park. It is important that we do everything to ensure that children are safe.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**Advent Penitential Services (Sacrament of Reconciliation):**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at St Anne's Coventry and Our Lady of the Angels Nuneaton, **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at St Mary and St Benedict**, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at Sacred Heart and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December at St John Fisher.

**Parish Safeguarding Representatives** We are recruiting three volunteers from our parish community to minister as safeguarding representatives. If you are interested, please contact your parish priest for further information.

**Christmas Programme**

24<sup>th</sup> Dec Vigil Mass for children 6pm followed by Carol singing at **8.00pm**

24<sup>th</sup> Dec Vigil Mass for adults **8.30pm**

25<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Day Masses at **9.30am and 11.30am**

31<sup>st</sup> Dec 9.30am

31<sup>st</sup> Dec Adoration at 10pm followed by Thanksgiving Mass at 11pm

**1st Jan 2025** Mass will be at 10.00am

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS FOR YOUR PARISH CLERGY:** At each of the four Christmas Masses, there will be only one collection which is for your parish clergy. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church for this purpose. You may also use the Dona Contact machine at the back of the Church. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Our parish Christmas Bazaar** was indeed a great success raised an amount of **£3979.10** I thank all who contributed towards it and all those who worked very hard not only on the day but through out the year. May God bless you all. Congratulations to the winners of the Christmas raffle and food hamper. Winning raffle tickets are being displayed on the notice board.

**Parish Mass Books Available for Your Use:** Following the introduction of the new lectionaries, we have in our stock the old version Parish Mass books that are available for your use. They have similar Sunday Readings as the New Lectionary, but a different English expression. Each set contains six volumes that you must take in unison. You are welcome to take and use these books, one set per family.

**The Jubilee Year 2025 -** The *2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope'* is fast approaching. The Jubilee Year will run from the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, on Tuesday 24 December 2024 to the Feast of Epiphany 2026. Archbishop Bernard will celebrate the Holy Mass for the Solemn Opening of the Year, at St Chad's Cathedral on Sunday 29 December 2024. Please, pick up a copy of the Jubilee Year booklet at the back of the Church, a donation of £1 per booklet is highly appreciated.

**Catechism for FHC-** Children of our parish will resume on 14th January 2025 at 11.00am in the Lady's Chapel.