



Ss. Mary & Benedict RC Church, Coventry



Apostles of Jesus Mission

**Parish Newsletter –Third Sunday of Advent, Year B: 17th to 24th Dec 2023**

**MASSES—17th to 24th Dec 2023**

Sun	17	9.30am	Martin Conconon (Anniv), Anna & William Mara (RIP) Emmanuel & Betty (37th Wed Anniv)
		11.30am	People of the parish
Mon	18	9.15am	<b>Mass in School</b>
		6.00pm	Reception—James Smith
Tues	19	9.30am	Requiem Mass—James Smith
Wed	20	9.30am	Bernadette Doran (RIP), Pauline McDonald (Spl int)
Thurs	21	9.30am	Mary Costello, Tony Mulrooney (RIP)
Fri	22	9.30am	For the homeless
Sat	23	9.30am	Michael O’Shea (Anniv), Prescilla (Spl int)
Sun	24	10.00am	Deceased members of Keeney family
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Children of the parish</b>
		<b>8.30pm</b>	<b>People of the parish</b>



**Lectors**

**17/12/2023**

9.30am	Anthonia A., Cosmos (R)	<b>10.00am</b>	Florence K. , Anthonia A. (R)
11.30am	Emma, Sharon (R)		

**24/12/2023**

	<b>24/12/2023</b>		<b>25/12/23</b>
6.00pm	Ivan, Gabriella (R)	9.30am—	Elizabeth H., Cath Slatter (R)
8.30pm	Kenneth, Karen (R)	11.30am	Tasha, Frank K. (R)

**Eucharistic Ministers**

	<b>17/12/2023</b>	<b>24/12/2023 (10am)</b>	<b>25/12/2023</b>
<b>9.30am</b>	Ann M. (E)	Sr. Leera	Ann M. (E)
<b>11.30am</b>	Serso (E)	<b>24/12/2023 (8.30pm)</b>	Frank K. (E)
		Lilian, Patricia (E)	

**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.

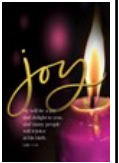
**Anniversaries during the week.** Ann Dunnion, James McMenus, Denis Joseph Buckley, Robert McGorman, Paula Moore, Bridie Mooney, Jack McCullough, Frank Martin, Daniel Prosser, John Masterson, Ann Plunkett, Anne Creed, Margaret Elizabeth Younger, Josephine & Tom Boylan, Ann Martin, Thomas Fox, Agnes Stanford, Mary Teresa Costello, Rose & Jim Hogan, Mary McCullough , Hughie Gill , James McDonald, Gerald McGoran, James McEnergy, Len McCoy.

**Dates for your diary**

- 1. Parish penitential service—20th Dec at 7.00pm**
- 2. Altar Servers day - 26th Dec at 10.00am**
- 3. Induction of Fr. Aloysius Bukenya- Thursday 18th Jan 2024 at 7.00pm**
- 4. Marriage course - Second week of January 2024**

**GAUDETE! REJOICE!**

Today, St Paul is telling us, ‘Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near’ (Phil. 4.4). Today’s Liturgy evolves around the theme of joy: the entrance antiphon, the Word of God, and the prayers. Today we are lighting the third candle which is pink in colour to highlight joy. In Luganda, my mother tongue, the word joy translates as *essanyu* which means happiness and contentment that are all priceless.



When St. Paul invited his Christians to be happy always (2 Thess), he was not telling them about a one-off experience but a constant state of mind: a state of being in this world; a constant life of rejoicing in the Lord. This is the meaning of salvation that we look forward to on the last day when we will meet the Lord in eternal glory. It is also the joy that we celebrate on the Christmas Day. Indeed, we shall joyfully sing: ‘*Joy to the World the Lord has come...!*’

St Paul’s appeal to rejoice in the Lord can also be a prayer that is asking God to grant JOY to the Christian believers. Joy is an outcome of an encounter with God, who is full of compassion and love, and a gift of the Holy Spirit.

The full sense of joy comes from embracing the Lord in our moments of personal prayer. This is what St Augustine witnessed upon his conversion when he made the confession of joy, he exclaimed, “You stir us to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you”.

The Lord is near, and he will give joy to all who listen and obey him in simplicity of heart. Those who choose the narrow way of prayerful discipleship experience the joy that the Lord Jesus brings to the world. May our hearts be filled with joy as we wait with sure hope for coming of the Lord. Amen.

**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:** [www.mcmedia.tv/camer/st-mary-and-st-benedict](http://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](mailto: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**

**10/12/23:** Gift Aid : £ 141.80 Dona: £ 210.00 Non-Gift Aid: £ 292.08 Total: **643.88**

SO (Nov) : £ 1245.00 Second collection : £216.11 May God bless you all.

**2nd collections :**

**Bonus Ball :** No.

**Mass Attendance :** 365

**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.

**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.**

**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.

**Our Parish Christmas Bazaar:** Thank you for supporting our Christmas Bazaar; it was a great success and we raised a total of **£4025.17**. I thank each and everyone who contributed towards it and those who worked hard not only on that day but throughout the year. May God bless you all.

**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](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

**Christmas Programme**

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

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 Sunday there will be two Masses **9.30am & 11.30am**

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

**1st Jan 2024** Mass will be at **10.00am**

**DAY FOR LECTORS :** Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> January at Christ the King starting at 9.30am, Fr. Marco Egawhary will speak; both old and new readers are invited.

**DAY FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> March at Christ the King starting at 9.30am, Fr. Cecil Rogerson will speak; both old and new Eucharistic ministers are invited.

**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. I thank you in advance for your support.

**First Holy communion** classes will resume on 13th January 2024.

