

MASSES— 18th to 25th Dec 22

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|-------|----|---------|--|
| Sun | 18 | 9.30am | Emmanuel & Betty Osagie (Wed Anni) |
| | | 11.30am | People of the parish |
| Mon | 19 | 9.30am | Bernadette Doran , Felipe Da Costa (RIP) |
| Tues | 20 | 9.30am | Mary Galligan (RIP) |
| Wed | 21 | 9.30am | Mary Costello (RIP), Rubertina Dias (70th B'day) |
| Thurs | 22 | 9.30am | Veronica (Spl int) |
| Fri | 23 | 9.30am | Kemi Abifade (Safe delivery) |
| Sat | 24 | 6.30pm | People of the parish |
| | | 9.00pm | People of the parish |
| Sun | 25 | 9.30am | People of the parish |
| | | 11.30am | People of the parish |

Lectors

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | <u>18/12/2022</u> | | <u>25/12/2022</u> |
| 9.30am | Anthonia A, Elena A. (R) | Elizabeth H. , Cosmos (R) | |
| 11.30am | Morgan, Florence K. (R) | Emmanuel E., Florence E. (R) | |

Eucharistic Ministers

9.30am Betty O. (E) **11.30am** Serso, Patricia (E)

24th Dec

Lectors

6.30pm- Tasha, Maraobim (R) 9.00pm - Ernest, Filu Miranda (R)

24th & 25th Dec.–

Eucharistic Ministers

6.30pm - Cath Slatter 8.30pm - Serso, Lilian
9.30am - Sophie 11.30am - Vera, Frank

The sick of the Parish: Rose Hogan, Norah Griffith, Mary Mulrone, Gerard Griffith, Maria Clear, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Jarek, Benny & Bridie McAndrew, Teresa McCaffer, Andrea, Chinasa Okosisi, John, Mr. Tran, Damian Curristan, Owen Darroch.

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.

Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people. We await your coming. Come, O Lord.

Today we celebrate the fourth and final week of Advent, our annual spiritual preparation for our celebration of Christmas. As we celebrate the Eucharist this weekend, let us thank the Lord Jesus for his real presence among us, not only in the bread and wine which will become the body and blood of Christ, but also in ourselves and in one another as together we receive the Body of Christ in Holy Communion. During this last week of Advent, and throughout the Christmas Season, let us be ready, willing, and able to be surprised .let us surprise one another by really making an effort to reveal and recognize Christ's presence in ourselves and in one another



A.J. Missions

St. Osburg

Ss. Mary & Benedict

St. Elizabeth

Parish Newsletter 4th Sunday of Advent— 18th to 25th Dec 2022

'IT IS MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS WHO TOLD US...'

The fourth Sunday brings us to meditate upon what I could call, the Gospel according to Mary. Unlike Easter, Christmas is centred on things that took place without independent witnesses except the person who tells the story. What we know about the public ministry of Jesus, his passion, his death and his resurrection were brought to us by the people who saw them happen, or who heard the word spoken, but the stories about the engagement between Mary and Joseph, the visit of the angel to Mary and Joseph and the discovery that Mary was carrying a baby in her womb, were private, what we know about them, must have been told by someone who was involved first hand: Mary. So, today and during the whole Christmas time, the Blessed Mother will speak to us, to help us to understand that Jesus is a special person

Among the many things she speaks to us today, is the integrity and respect of her husband Joseph. As a man set on marrying a girl by the name of Mariam, Joseph was not expecting to hear the story she was telling him. His family was in full swing preparing for his wedding to her, the villagers were aware that a wedding was unfolding. Things were moving on well, then the news broke, that the girl he was engaged to was pregnant. Joseph had many options at hand; he would have exposed her and have her publicly stoned to death, or he would himself bear public shame by taking home a wife who was unfaithful from the start. Joseph like Jesus chose to bear shame by taking the matter calmly.

This is where husbands and dad's in the homes need to ask themselves: 'How do I handle disappointing moments between me and my spouse?' Mary tells us today, that her husband Joseph was a man who commanded respect. What concept does your spouse have about you? Like Mary can she say, my husband is a man of honour, or he is someone ready to pounce on me, to make me feel small in public or who will not believe anything I tell him. The story Mary came up with, could hardly be believed but Joseph did.

Christmas puts men into the spotlight, just as the first Christmas did for Joseph. We honour him because he has something to teach us, namely that we should trust in God and trust others. When a man puts his trust in his wife, nothing can ruin his home or break up family. When spouses trust each other, children learn how to be honest and how to respect others.

As we approach Christmas let us learn from Joseph to be calm , and to listen to the full story before we go out of way. Family life will always demand that we trust in each other. Mary teaches wives and mothers in the home, to tell the truth no matter how hurtful it might be. She knew that Joseph would be hurt by her story, but there was no shortcut, or quick way out, she did not seek for an abortion, instead she was willing to bear shame and to risk her life.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas as it comes along. Let us celebrate it with simplicity and in purity of heart. Jesus is the person we honour during this time, take him home with you, speak about him to your children and neighbours. Love him with all your heart because he is our Emmanuel, God with us. Rejoice and be glad for he has saved us.

St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church

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Parish email: stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com

Website: www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk

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

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

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

Parish Priest. Fr. Jimmy Lutwama, AJ

E-mail : lutwajim@yahoo.com

Parish Sisters: Srs. of St. Ann of Providence

Leena, and Leera 02477045457

Safeguarding Rep: Perpetua Sam & Asipita Iroko

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

Parish Development

Gift Aid : 132.00 £0 **SO (Nov) : £ 1568.00** **Non-Gift Aid:** 419.53 **Total: £. 2119.53**

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings: Is: 7:10-14; Rom. 1:1-7; Mt. 1:18-24

2nd Collection :

Bonus Ball :

Mass Attendance : 300

Pious Devotions

Prayer for priests

Divine mercy prayers

Parish Rosary group

Choir practice : Fri- 7.30pm

Church cleaning:

Confessions: Saturday-
10.10-11.00am.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel, we read the story of how God intervened in human history, through the faith and courage of one woman. Through the annunciation made to Mary, we are reminded that Christ is not born amid pomp or fanfare but at a moment in history when people had every reason to be afraid. And it is in our woundedness, our fear, our shame, our callousness towards the poor that God visits us and turns our world around, yes, turns the world upside down. This is why we are told "Do not be afraid." It is people of humility and faith like Mary, that can trust in God's justice and love. And those who live in this way are favoured by God, sheltered by the Holy Spirit and are fruitful. They will live forever. This is the promise that was made to King David, to our Blessed Mother Mary and now to us.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK Are we ready and do we welcome Christ to the dark and broken areas of our lives?

MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

Christmas & New Year Mass Times :



24th Dec Vigil Mass for children 6.30pm

24th Dec Carol singing at 8.30pm followed Vigil Mass for adults 9.00pm

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

31st Dec Thanksgiving Worship, Adoration to end the year at 10.00 - 10.55pm;
Holy Mass at 11.00pm

1st Jan 2023 Mass at 9.30am & 11.30am

Thank you for a successful bazaar: Very sincere thanks to all who organized, prepared and purchased items for our Christmas Bazaar. The day was a great success! Money raised from various stalls is given below:

Food stalls: £746.80; **Wheel :** £450.90; **Bottle stall:** £590.00; **Bric a Brac:** 231.55;

Piety: £70.00; **Irish coffee:** £92.00; **Youth dance & Violin :** £66.00;

Santa: £35.00; **Cakes** £125.00; **Face painting:** £60.00; **Big Food hamper:** £379.00;

Raffle tickets: £1400.00; **Cash donations:** £1064.00 **Catholic Men Association (Kenya)** £170.00 **Total net income : £5480.25**

Raffle prize winners : Vth prize - 2695.

Food hamper : 1st prize—Pink ticket—serial No. 761-765

Winners kindly collect your prizes at the piety stall from the sisters.

Message from Archbishop Bernard Longley following the incident at Babbs Mill Lake Kingshurst on Sunday 11 December: *"My heart goes out to all those affected by this tragedy and on behalf of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham I offer my deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the Kingshurst community at this deeply distressing time. "What has happened is truly devastating and hard to comprehend. "The Catholic community is here to support and comfort all those affected. Prayers are being said at our churches and should anyone wish to take some time for quiet prayer and reflection St Anthony's Catholic Church at Kingshurst will be open and all are welcome."*

Invitation of Alter Servers to evening tea/Coffee: The Archbishop of Birmingham has sent a Certificate of recognition to the Altar Servers of St. Mary's both present and of the past, for 60 years of their service at the altar. On behalf of the Guild of St. Stephen, I would like to offer my congratulations to all Altar Servers of St. Mary's on the 60th (Diamond jubilee) of their ministry at the altar. St. Mary's Guild of St Stephen was established on 14th December 1962. I invite all who have served Mass at the altar of St. Mary's to come for a thanksgiving Mass on 28th January 2023 at 10.00am.

Christmas donation for your priests: Birmingham Archdiocese has a long standing tradition that the donations made on Christmas and Easter are given to the parish clergy as a collective appreciation for their ministry over the year and to support him to have a holiday. I thank you in advance. It is now 5 years since our parish priest had a holiday. You can use **Dona** machine under "Priest Christmas Offering" at the back of the church if you wish to give your Christmas gift. Envelopes are also available.

Death announcement: I regret to announce the death of Mr. Anthony Groogan a faithful member of our parish who passed on during the week. Mr. Groogan was the gentleman who used to sit in the corner on the chair on the righthand side of the church upon entry.

For Sale: Electric wheelchair - Quantum Aspen, great for indoor and outdoor use and can go 15 miles on one battery charge, in good working order, serviced and maintained. Further information contact Lisa Judge on 07930897799 for price and pictures. Collection will be from CV6 Radford.