

## MASSES— 24th to 31st Dec 2023



Sun	24	10.00am	Deceased members of Keeney family , Mary Nash (RIP)
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Children of the parish</b>
		<b>8.30pm</b>	<b>People of the parish</b>
Mon	25	9.30am	Sr. Emmanuella (B'day)
		11.30am	people of the parish
Tues	26	10.00am	Naomi Menezes (B'day), Altar Servers (Thanksgiving)
Wed	27	9.30am	Maria McFeely (Spl int)
Thurs	28	9.30am	Clare Dickson (Spl int)
Fri	29	9.30am	Josephine McGrove (Spl int)
		10.30am	Funeral service
Sat	30	9.30am	Olivia Murphy (RIP)
Sun	31	9.30am	Eucheria Ifeoma (Thanksgiving)
		11.30am	People of the parish
		10.00pm	Thanksgiving Adoration
		11.00pm	Eucharistic celebration

### Lectors

#### 24/12/2023

**10.00am** Florence K. , Anthonia A. (R)

**6.00pm** Daluchi, Gabriella (R)      **8.30pm**      Kenneth, Karen (R)

#### 25/12/23

**9.30am** - Elizabeth H., Cath Slatter (R)      **10.00pm** - Honorine, Patricia K., (R)

**11.30am** - Tasha, Mary (R)

### Eucharistic Ministers

#### 24/12/2023

**10.00am** Sr. Leera      6.00pm— Sr. Leena      **8.30pm** Lilian, Patricia (E)

**25/12/2023** **9.30am** Sophie (E)      **11.30am** Serso (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.** James McDonald, Gerald McGoran, James McEnery, Len McCoy, Joe Dunleavy, Patrick Flynn, John Allen, Paul Allen , Thomas Travers, Teresa Mawn, Denis McGrath, Pat Kinsella, Mary McClean, Patrick Joseph Wright, Bridget Margaret Theresa Sloan, John Ferry, Patrick McLaughlin, Margaret Moore, D. Stafford, Michael Murphy, Eddie Branfield, Myra Scott, Larry Mawn, Mary Woollett, Sammy Dowling.



*Dear parishners, a blessed Christmas to you! May Joy be your gift at Christmas and may Faith, Hope, and Love be your treasures in the New Year 2024. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may His light illuminate your path and His peace fill your heart. Wishing you a Christmas filled with heavenly blessings.*



Ss. Mary & Benedict RC Church, Coventry

Apostles of Jesus Mission



**Parish Newsletter – Nativity of our Lord -Year B: 24th Dec to 7th Jan 2024**

## The First Christmas



The simplicity of the first Christmas was awe-inspiring! Everything about it was so ordinary that it speaks to our situations: Mary and Joseph; the decree by Caesar Augustus for the census of all people, the obedience of Joseph and Mary who trailed the hill country of Judea to participate in the census; the absence of accommodation in the inn of Bethlehem, the Baby Jesus in the manger, and the shepherds at the rounds of keeping their sheep in the depth of the night.

That was the setting of the fulfilment of God's long-term plan, and it happened as if shrouded in errors of poor planning: in the darkness and coldness of the night, and in the wilderness of the savanna. That was the first Christmas.

As if nothing was happening in the hustle and bustle of Bethlehem and Judea, an Angel appeared and announced to the simplest class of the Jews – the shepherds: “Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people: Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” (Luke, 2:10 -12). The shepherds knew the geography to one that was free at that moment and thus hurried towards it. But this was after they had seen more angels singing: ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to people he favours’ (Luke 2:14).

This is the event that we are celebrating today which is also defining our very existence and our lives. It is a point of reference to the history of humanity. In the light of Christmas, we make judgments about the events of our times, as we pray for the end of war and destruction and that Christ, the Prince of Peace, will reign over all peoples.

**Fr. Aloysius, his confreres, the Apostles of Jesus in Coventry, and the Sisters of the Parish wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**



**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**

**17/12/23: Gift Aid : £129.60 Dona: £ 202.00 Non-Gift Aid: £ 516.31 Total: 847.91**

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

**2nd collections :**

**Bonus Ball :** No.

**Mass Attendance :** 301

**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.

**Archbishop Bernard's Annual Christmas Message 2023**

*We pray to the Prince of Peace especially at this time of year for the gift of peace in our own hearts, in our families, and in our communities across the world. We ask the Prince of Peace to influence those who can bring peace.*



**CHURCH NOTICES**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR 2023 SUPPORT TO THE PARISH COMMUNITY**

I thank you for supporting the following activities: the Holy Mass as Choir Members, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers; Instructions for Children preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation; Counting and Managing the Sunday Collections, Repairs in the parish structures, Providing for the Monday Club, Cleaning, and Decorating the Church for Sundays and Feasts, Contributions to support worthwhile causes and charities. You do these without seeking recognition, but as service to God. As a parish community we have achieved a lot in the year 2023, and particularly because of the voluntary services that you render to our Parish Church. May God reward you abundantly.

**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 EUCHARISRTIC 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** is your opportunity for a personal gift to the parish priest. You can also use the contactless machine for the same purpose. I thank you in advance.

**Altar Servers will renew their commitment** in the Holy Mass on Tuesday 26th December, Feast of their Patron Saint, St. Stephen; this will be followed by refreshments in the parish hall.

**Gifts at the Crib (money)** will go towards the support of training of future priests in the Religious Missionary Institute of the Apostles of Jesus. We thank you for all the prayers you offer for the perseverance of our seminarians and novices at Nairobi in Kenya and Moroto in Uganda.

**Sunday, 31st December:** Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. It is within the Octave of Christmas, and we shall pray for all human families, and particularly Christian families. We shall present to the Lord those who are preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

**Sr. Leena:** Please, pray for our Parish Sister, Sr. Leena Matthias who, in the first week of January, will travel to India for her holidays and to thank God for her 50 years of Consecrated Life.

**MASSES— 1st - 7th January 2024**

Mon	01	10.00am	Eucheria Ifeoma (Thanksgiving)
Tues	02	9.30am	Tommy Hennessy (RIP)
Wed	03	9.30am	Patsy O'Neil (RIP)
Thurs	04	9.30am	Sr. Leena (Safe journey)
Fri	05	9.30am	Ida Wood (Good health)
Sat	06	9.30am	Mary Nash (RIP)
Sun	07	9.30am	Betty & Emmanuel Osagie (Thanksgiving)
		11.30am	Pooja Chotai (Good health)
			People of the parish



**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024, THE YEAR OF PRAYER.**

