

MASSES—3rd to 10th Dec 2023

Sun	03	9.30am	Peter Miranda (RIP), Stancy D'Souza (B'day) Feast of St. Francis Xavier (Goan community)
		11.30am	People of the parish
Mon	04	12.00noon	Leo & Conceicao Joaanes (RIP)
Tues	05	9.30am	Juliet Lobo (RIP)
Wed	06	9.30am	Josefa & Rozada Fernandes (RIP)
Thurs	07	9.30am	Michael Woods (Anniv), Jan & Emilia (RIP) Deceased members of Salecki family
Fri	08	9.30am	Maureen Curtis (RIP), Bernadette Doran (90th B'day remembrance)
Sat	09	9.30am	William & Winifred Busby (RIP), Andrew D'Souza (RIP)
Sun	10	9.30am	People of the parish Deceased members of Sean & Felex Menezes families
		11.30am	Patricia West (Spl int) Deceased members of Rodrigues family



Lectors

	03/12/2023		10/12/2023
9.30am	Children (R)		Cath Slatter, Nicholas (R)
11.30am	Children (R)		Honorrine, Emmanuella (R)

Eucharistic Ministers

	26/11/2023		03/12/2023
9.30am	Sophie D. (E)	11.30am	Lilian (E)

Readings— Is. 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8; 1Cor.1:3-9; Mk. 13:33-37

The sick of the Parish: Rose Hogan, Norah Griffith, Mary Mulroney, 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: Dennis Doran, Kathleen Wilson, Robert McGorman, Charles Ward, Ita Howe, James Gaffy, Margaret McSorley, Sean Kiely, Tony Mulroney, Bridie Collins, Michael Kapusta, David Paul Waters, Breda Byrne, Jean Cartwright, Christine Fitzgibbons, Edward McGinn, Frederick George Scrivens.

Reflect on... The message of Advent is both an invitation and a challenge. It invites us to look forward, be ready, and wait in joyful hope; it challenges us to stay awake. The message of Jesus in today's gospel is 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you do not know the time when the Lord will come. What I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!' This message will help us to get what Advent is really about. As Jesus' followers, let us prepare as best as we can and get ready. **"COME LORD JESUS!"**



Ss. Mary & Benedict RC Church, Coventry

Apostles of Jesus Mission



Parish Newsletter—First Sunday of Advent, Year B: 3rd - 10th Dec 2023

ADVENT: A JOYFUL EXPECTANCY

We have at one time expected the arrival of a beloved guest: it could be a member of the family who had travelled or a bishop visiting our parish to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. I remember a time when my parents invited guests to our home. Weeks leading to the day were exciting, as I looked forward to the D-day, my attention was focused to the future. For us Christians, waiting has rich meanings attached to waiting in hope.

This first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year 2023 - 2024, Cycle B for Sunday readings, and Cycle II for weekdays. In the spirit of joyful gratitude, I bring to each one of you 'Happy New Year Greetings'. Our Year has four Christ-centred seasons: Advent, Christmastide, Lent, Eastertide, and Ordinary Time (in two parts).

The English word 'Advent' is derived from the Latin term 'Adventus' and in (Greek Apantesis) which means 'the arrival' or 'the coming'. In the period of the late antiquity of the Roman Empire, adventus was a ceremony that celebrated the arrival to a city of the Roman Emperor or another dignitary; it also celebrated the blessings of the imperial presence to the city's security. It was an occasion worth waiting for with much hope. The people of the city thoroughly prepared for the day.

For us the baptised, the season focuses us on the three comings of the Lord: the first coming at Bethlehem; the second is the last day or end of time, the day of judgment, and the third is in-between, the coming of our Lord in our lives now in the Church and Sacraments. As people who wait for the coming of the Lord, we must pay attention to our spiritual life. Today's Gospel reading focuses our attention on the coming of the Lord whose arrival time we do not know. To those who are prepared, he will bring blessedness to their lives. It is only those who are ready to receive him that will benefit from his arrival, but because we do not know when he is coming, therefore the caution, 'Stay awake' (Mark, 13:37).

In our parish we have several activities laid out for our spiritual preparation, which include: the Christmas Concert to take place on Saturday 16th December (5pm – 8pm); a penitential service to take place on Wednesday 20th December 2023, (7pm). Confessions will be available thereafter; additionally, confessions will be available on Tuesdays to Saturdays of Advent at 10am – 11am (after the Holy Mass). Plan to take advantage of these moments for a personal repentance. I also invite you to use those moments to discuss difficult questions and dilemmas about situations that trouble your Christian and prayer life. Our gentle prayer is: 'Lord, increase our strength of the will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming. Amen'.

THIS IS THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR A, 2022-2023.

St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church

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

Parish email: stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com

Website: www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk

Web cam: www.menmedia.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.mydona.com/ss-mary-benedict-church>

Priest in the Parish. Fr. Aloysius L. Bukenya, AJ

E-mail : 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

26/11/23: Gift Aid : £ 226.10 Dona: £ 125.00 Non-Gift Aid: £ 535.06 Total: £ 886.16

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

2nd collections : 10/12/23 - Poor parishes

Bonus Ball : No.

Mass Attendance : 361

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 6.00pm

Legion of Mary: Meet every Sunday after 11.30am Mass

SAFEGUARDING

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses 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 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I thank you for making the thanksgiving day for Fr. Jimmy inspirational. It was indeed a celebration of our communion as a Family of God here at St. Mary and St. Benedict Catholic Church, Coventry.



CHURCH NOTICES

Advent: Today we begin the great Season of Advent and the new ecclesiastical year, liturgical Cycle B for Sunday readings and Cycle II for weekdays. Purple is the colour of the season.

PREPARING FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025: In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', Pope Francis has designated 2024 a "Year of Prayer". With its particular focus on the Our Father, it is an opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer.

Blessing of the Crib: There will be ceremonies for the **Blessing of the Christmas Crib at city centre** near the Godiva Statue today Sunday at 4.00pm. You are all invited.

Christmas Bazaar: Saturday 9th December at 1.00pm in the parish hall. Please come to this event with your friends and neighbours. Your support for this fund raising is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank the parishioners who have sponsored the raffle prizes. May God bless you. Bottles, bric-a-brac items, food hamper items and cash donations are welcome. Kindly bring back the stubs which we shall draw to get the prize winners. **Today's Second Collection will go towards the Christmas Bazaar.** Thanks for your support.

Catholic Women Association (CWA) The members of the Cameroon Chapter will celebrate their day on 8th December Feast of Immaculate Conception. They will renew their vows as 'foot soldiers' of Mary Mother of God and Mother of the Church. All are invited to celebrate with them on Sunday 10th December at 11.30am Mass, and thereafter to the parish hall for a joyful sharing.

Ordinations to Diaconate of seven Apostles of Jesus Missionaries on Friday 8th December at Nairobi, Kenya. Please, pray for candidates who have started their spiritual retreat in preparation.

LEGION OF MARY RECOGNITION AND COMMITMENT: Sunday 10th December, at the 11.30 Mass. The members of the Association will renew their commitment.

Christmas Concert: Thursday, 16th December 2023; Time 5.00 to 8.00pm. You are all welcome to this spiritual, moral, and intellectual preparation for Christmas. Thanks to our Parish Choristers.

Parish Advent Penitential Service to take place on Wednesday, 20th December, at 7pm, this will be followed by private confessions. Please, also note that confessions will be available during weekdays after the 9.30 Mass.

MARRIAGE COURSE TO START IN SECOND WEEK OF JANUARY 2024. Couples intending to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage are invited to register for the Marriage Course in the parish office. Lessons will commence on Thursday 11th January 2024, at 6pm.

Death announcement : Mr. James Joseph Smith brother to Tony Smith whose requiem Mass will take place on 19th December at 9.30am at St. Mary's. The committal will take place at Lentons Lane cemetery.

Pope's prayer intention for December: for persons with disabilities