

MASSES 20th to 27th Dec 2020

Sun	20	9.30am	Urbani & Drabik family (RIP), Albert & Marjorie Hunt (RIP) Emmanuel & Betty Osagie (Wed. Anni)
		11.30am	Obinna Osuagwu (Thanksgiving)
Mon	21	9.30am	Fr. Pat Downy (RIP), Mick & Rose Hogan (Thanksgiving)
Tues	22	9.30am	Brendan Hyland (Getwell) , SSA (Spl int) Cepta & Paddy Geraghty (Thanksgiving) Maria Vaughan (B'day)
Wed	23	9.30am	John Ferris (RIP), Celine Ferris (RIP)
Thurs	24	6.00pm	People of the parish
		8.30pm	People of the parish
Fri	25	9.30am	People of the parish
		11.30am	People of the parish
Sat	26	10.00am	Sally Dunleavy (Thanksgiving), Ms. McFeely (Spl int)
Sun	27	9.30am	People of the parish
		11.30am	Cora Lanigan (Spl int)



Lectors

20/12/2020

9.30am Filomena & Anthonia O. (R)
11.30am Mary, Patricia K. (R)

27/12/2020

9.30am Anthonia A., Noah A (R)
11.30am Maame, Kisaneth (R)

24/12/2020 : 6.00pm Nicole, Naomi A. (R)

8.30pm Ashley, Joane (R)

25/12/2020: 9.30am Elizabeth H., Bakhita (R)

11.30am Perpetua, Florence K. (R)

Please pray for the sick of the Parish: Norah Griffith Laetitia Matemadumbo Tony Groogan, Mary Mulrone, Gerard Griffith, Maria Drabik, Kath Muldoon, Michael Clear, Maria Clear, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Jarek , Benny MacAndrew, Patsy Lesley, Gabriel Gwatirisa. Josephine Scoles.

Anniversaries during the week : Anne Creed, Margaret Elizabeth Younger, Josephine & Tom Boylan, Ann Martin, Thomas Fox, Agnes Stanford , Rose & Jim Hogan, Mary McCullough , Hughie Gill , 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 .

Christmas Greetings

**"God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ."** **Merry Christmas and grace filled New year 2021 !**



A.J. Missions



St. Osburg



Ss. Mary & Benedict



St. Elizabeth

Parish Newsletter 4th Sunday of Advent - 20th to 27th Dec 2020

IN SPITE OF OUR BEST INTENTIONS IT IS GOD WHO HAS THE PLAN

When I was in year three, my English teacher said something which took me years to understand. He said: *"Man proposes, God disposes"* We are in the final days to Advent; our readings today remind us that in spite of our good intentions, or in spite of the fine plans we may have for ourselves or for others, it is God who has the best plan.

Since the time of wandering in the desert, the people of Israel had made a wooden box in which was kept the two stone tablets on which was written the ten commandments. The wooden box was kept in a small tent made of goat skins. King David having defeated all the enemies of Israel, united the 12 tribes of Israel and built a magnificent palace for himself. But he realised that the Law of Yahweh was kept wrapped in goats skins. He was ashamed and sent for his Chaplain Nathan: *"see I'm living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent."* David set himself to build a temple where the Ark of God would dwell but as we have heard it is God who had a better plan.

In the gospel, we are given another proposal, Mary the daughter of Joachim and Anne had had a big plan, she had fallen in love with a young carpenter from Bethlehem. Families had met, presents had been exchanged, papers had been signed and a wedding date had been set. This was the plan but God comes with his own plan and sends Gabriel to communicate it. In Judaism when the agreement had been entered into, it was definite and binding upon both groom and bride, who were considered as man and wife in all legal and religious aspects, except that of actual cohabitation.

Human beings have plans, things which they are convinced they need to do but only God knows exactly what he wants to do for us and with us. In spite of the good intentions for King David to build a temple fit for Yahweh, it was Yahweh who was to build a temple for Davidic dynasty. In spite of Mary's good intentions to make a family with Joseph, it was God who knew the kind of child that was to be born.

Brothers and sisters many times our life is a struggle against elements which appear as if to disrupt our own plans. Mary the mother of the Lord struggled with the message of the angel Gabriel; *but how can this be since I'm a virgin?* Joseph too would struggle to put up with loss if he decided to divorce Mary his betrothed informally. But it is good to remember that in spite of the good intentions we may have, it is God who has the plan.

As we move towards Christmas, we are taught by the Blessed Mother to let God's plan to prevail over all our plans and wishes. *I'm the handmaid of the Lord, let what the Lord has decreed be done to me.*



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.

St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church

52a, Raglan Street Coventry, CV1 5QF. Tel **02476258901, 07906124756**

www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk

Web cam: **www.mcnmedia.tv**

Parish Priest. Fr. Jimmy Lutwama, AJ

E-mail **lutwajim@yahoo.com**

Parish Sisters: Srs. of St. Anne of Providence

Leena, and Leera 02477045457

Safeguarding Rep: Veronica Carroll—Tel no. 07980506620

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

Tel: 02476 229486 Head teacher Mrs McDonald



The Parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg. Charity No. 234216

Parish Development

Collection: Gift Aid : £ 110.60 SO (Nov) : £ Non-Gift Aid: 182.55 Total : £293.15

Thank you for your generous contribution during this pandemic. I'm particularly thankful to those who have set up Standing Orders with your banks which has enabled your parish church to continue receiving your support. May God Bless you.

Hall Hire: Bonus Ball : No.

Counters :

Mass Attendance for the week : 135

2nd Collection :

Pious Devotions

Prayer for priests

Divine mercy prayers

Rosa Mystica

Parish Rosary group

Choir practice

Church cleaning:

RCIA Sessions:

Catechism for FHC :

Church Cleaning:

Dates for your diary:

Confessions:

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the joy of Mary, the faith of Joseph, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and every greeting. May Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, ready to share your love with everyone, especially those most in need of help, for Jesus' sake. Amen

Mass Intentions

Please if you have requests for Mass for your intentions envelopes are available at the back of the church please pick one, write your intention, place it in the box provided with minimum £5 for each Mass or request by calling Tel. 07547242375. The Masses you request will be celebrated on the day or as much close to the day as possible.

MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

A Blessed Christmas to you all , the Sisters and I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and to thank you for taking care of us throughout the year. This year has been very difficult for every person no matter who they are or where they live. God has been good. We send our condolences to all who have lost their dear ones and we pray that God may protect us all in the New Year 2021.

Sacrament of Baptism: Parents who have attended the baptism classes or those who desire to baptise their children can approach the parish priest or the Sisters. to finalise the date for baptism. The next baptism preparation classes will begin on Monday **14th Dec at 5.00pm** in the Parish hall.

Parish Penitential service at St. Mary's: Sacrament of Confession. By appointment only. Call Fr. Jimmy on mobile number 07906124756

New year programme: there will be no annual Public End Year thanksgiving Mass instead there will be a prayer of thanksgiving and adoration starting from 8:00-9:00pm. At 9:10pm there will be Holy Mass to thank the Lord for the year 2020 and to welcome a new one. These services will be broadcast live on our parish website.

Guild of St Stephen Mass: Altar servers across the Archdiocese are invited to join the live streaming of the Guild of St Stephen Mass in March. The Mass will be at St Chad's Cathedral at 10am on Saturday 6th March 2021. As part of the celebration servers (young and old, whether at home or in church, vested or not) are encouraged to send a picture of themselves holding their Guild Medal, so the Vocations team can create a montage poster in lieu of the annual official photo at the Mass.

Invitation of Altar Servers: for the feast of St. Stephen on **Saturday 26th December** after Christmas Day. Mass will start at **10:00am**. Parents of Altar Servers are asked to accompany them as they will renew their Commitment to serve at the altar. Alter servers please remember to put on your Altar Servers vestments and medals.

Reading the Lives of Saints: takes place everyday from our parish church at 8:45 broadcast over the internet. Please tune in for the livestream of this reading fifteen minutes before our daily rosary. The purpose of the reading is to help us find strength in our daily difficulties since we discover that the Saints had the same challenges of faith as we have.

Gift Aid Claim: I would like to thank you all for your generosity towards the Church during these difficult times. The diocese has communicated to us letting the parish know that HMRC will pass on to our parish **£4930.88** in tax returns from Gift Aid Scheme. I thank all our parishioners who give their Sunday donations through Gift Aid Scheme. The diocese will not send letters to individual contributors, however if any one wishes to know their total contribution in the tax year please contact Sr. Leera who manages Parish Gift Aid Accounts.

