

A visitor Fr. Frederic Otieno AJ the Vicar General of the Apostles of Jesus Missionaries arrived in the country on Wednesday 14th December for an official visit. It is him who deals with the sending of priests to missions and withdrawing them. Please take the opportunity to speak to him about the needs of our mission here.



Advent Penitential Services:

St. Mary' on Monday December 19th at 7:00pm

St. Elizabeth Thursday 22nd December at 7:00pm.

Masses for Holy Souls: As I mentioned in the newsletter some weeks ago, the Masses requested for Holy Souls will be sent to the missionaries of the Apostles of Jesus who are working in Cuba. I wish to thank you for requesting for Mass

Fire extinguishers of St. Osburg: I was surprised to learn that the 14 fire extinguishers we have here are hired from Chubb at the tune of £39.65 per month. It cost the parish £475.80 to hire them annually. I have stopped and cancelled the contract with Chubb, instead I have bought 14 new fire extinguishers owned by the parish at the cost of £791.64, a new company will service them when the time is due. The parish will recover this money within one year and six months. This will be a huge saving and I consider it a wise decision.

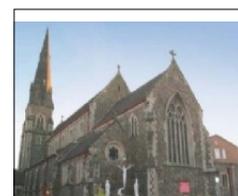
Archbishop's concluding remarks: the Jubilee Year of Mercy has just ended and I want to thank you for all the wonderful initiatives inspired by and responding to the Holy Year. I am particularly grateful to all the clergy and Religious who "held open" the Doors of Mercy for so many pilgrims in pilgrimage churches and shrines across the Archdiocese. Thank you for generously making yourselves available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation: please continue the celebration of this Sacrament as part of the Holy Year's legacy. It will be important for us to reflect as a Diocese and as Deaneries on how the blessings of the past year can be built upon. As Advent comes to a climax we set our feet once again on the road to Bethlehem, may the Lord for whose coming we look to continue to bless you and all those you serve.

Thought on marriage: Should marriage be Public or private, why does the Catholic Church require that the faithful contract marriage according to the ecclesiastical form? Well, sacramental marriage is a liturgical rite and a liturgical act. It is therefore appropriate that it should be celebrated in the public liturgy of the Church. Marriage introduces the baptised into an ecclesial order, and creates rights and duties between couples and towards their children as God gives them. Since marriage is a state of life in the Church and in the society, certainty about it is necessary (hence the obligation to have witnesses); The public character of the consent protects the **"I do"** once given and helps the spouses remain faithful to it.. Marriage is a noble calling by God himself who consecrates couples in love and fidelity.

Christmas best wishes: It is our second Christmas with you as Apostles of Jesus Religious Missionaries since we took over this parish. Fr. Moses and I wish to thank you all for your fidelity and hard work to keep the parish. We look forward to receiving two priests who will reside here at St. Osburg and be responsible for the ay-today running of the parish. Fr. Sunday Bazirake submitted his papapers on Thursday while Fr. Pontius Bandua will submit his papers on Monday. Please pray that getting the two priests for our parish becomes one of the gifts we receive from the Lord on Christmas day.



AJ Missions



St. Osburgs



St. Marys



St. Elizabeth

Parish Newsletter—4th Sunday Advent YEAR A -18th to 25th Dec 2016

"I WANT TO LOOK AROUND"



There is no doubt that the excitement of Christmas is in the air. If you want to know the power of Jesus Christ and of his reign, just watch how everything takes up a new look during this time; houses are decorated with lights, shops get new commodities, supermarkets stock more goods, the Post Office is overwhelmed by the number of letters and parcels to deliver. There are no faith based events that are celebrated universally and with such great consistency than the Christian festivals. This is another way that assures me of the truth of the Christian beliefs. If the events we celebrate about Jesus Christ, were invented myths, we would already have felt bored by them; instead, every Christmas is anticipated and longed for as if no other has come before!

Jesus Christ the true reason for Christmas is being taken out of it. He is not a seasonal man that we should fall so much in love with him at a certain time of the year. How sad that churches get packed on Christmas day and yet they are the best wildness you would wander into during the year? Where are the crowds that fill churches to capacity on Christmas but not on Sunday—the day of the Lord? I'm sure you are not one of those who go to church only at Christmas. I commend you for your faithfulness to the Mass.

I'm opposed to the idea that people can visit the church **"just to look around."** When someone comes to me and wants to go into the church "just to look around" my usual answer is **No** for the simple reason that , the church has no tourist attractions to be seen and it is not a museum. Just walking into the church and "look around" is very common in Anglican church buildings such as cathedrals. The consequences of this are disastrous in a sense that the sacredness of once-upon- a -time holy places is lost. Beside I don't think that entering the church to 'look around' will bring about conversion.

Let us translate this into Christmas and all the fuss that goes with it. Surely to limit going to church only on Christmas as many people do does not make one a Christian. Christian living is like flying in an aeroplane or riding a bicycle—when you stop, you fall! The world demands fidelity, constancy and full grasp of what we believe. We live in a world where everything is superficial and where truthfulness carry no much meaning. Correctness has replaced truthfulness! Someone will not see any problem with opening sacred spaces like Catholic churches for people to wander around, but the truth is that the Catholic church building is a Holy Place housing Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Sacred Host—the Eucharist. Here his name is invoked and honoured.

As you go to Christmas services this time don't just look around but try to capture the presence of God and worship him there. Remember! Jesus Christ is not a seasonal man, He is, He was and He will be forever.



The Most Holy Sacrament and St. Osburgs

Barras Lane, Coventry, CV1 4AQ. Tel 024 76220402

Fr. Jimmy Mobile. 07906124756 Home 02476258901

Fr. MosesTel.:024 76688536

Parish Sisters: Sr. Philomena and Sr. Theresa (PBVM)

(St. Osburgs Primary School, Upper Hill Street Coventry CV1 4AP. Tel 02476227165

Headteacher Mrs Nicola Rynott.

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Ann Collins 02476670304

St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church

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

www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk

Parish Priest. Fr. Jimmy Lutwama AJ

Mobile: 07906124756.

E-mail lutwajim@yahoo.com

St. Elizabeth's R.C. Church

St. Elizabeth's Road, CV6 5BX Tel.:024 76688536

Website: www.stelizabethcoventry.co.uk

Parish priest: Fr. Moses Pitya David AJ

E-mail: mospitya@yahoo.co.uk

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

Parish development

1st collection.....

Gift aid.....£ 74.00 Loose..... £327.99 Total..... £401.99

Heating our Church £ 60.26 Thank you for generosity.

2nd collection Fr. Hudson Society total.....£214.14

Christmas & Easter collections are your personal gift to your priests.

Christmas Mass Timetable:

St. Osburg Vigil Mass 5:30pm Christmas day Mass 10:30am

St. Mary's Vigil Mass for families with little children 6:00pm

Vigil Mass for adults 8:00pm preceded by carols at 7:30pm

Christmas Day 9:00am and 11:30am

St. Elizabeth Vigil Mass 7:00pm and **Midnight Mass**

Christmas Day 9:00am and 11:30am

Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor celebrated his Diamond Jubilee of priestly ordination on 28 October. We offer him our warm congratulations for his fidelity to the Lord as a priest and pastor to his people.

Winners of St. Osburg "300 Club" Dec. 2016 Double Draw

First Prize 641 P Cross 427 R. Smith

2nd Prize 702 A Fenton 618 G Daly

3rd Prize 87 C Wilson 473 M Logan

4th Prize 40 M Chuter 152 B McShane

5th Prize 133 Y Trickett 414 N Foster

Congratulations to the winners!

Hearing Aid Users—Please switch your hearing aid to 'T'

4th Sunday of Advent

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK from 18th to 25th Dec 2016

Sat	17	11.45am	Bridie Shina (Anni)
		5.30pm	Fr. John O'Sullivan (Anni)
Sun	18	10.30am	Moran Michael, Nora & family (Spl int)
Mon	19	12.10pm	Bridget Jane McGreth (Spl int), Jill Nicholson (Get well)
Tues	20	12.10pm	Moran Kett Ann (Spl int), Betty Carey (Get well)
Wed	21	12.10pm	Rose Dolan (RIP)
Thurs	22	12.10pm	Ted Chapman (Anni), Michael McGrane (Anni)
Fri	23	12.10pm	Bridie & Rick Donaley (Anni)
Sat	24	11.45am	Dillion, Eva & Joe Anne (Spl int)
		5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sun	25	10.30am	People of the Parish



Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers

Weekend 17th/18th Dec 2016

5:30 pm Bernadette, Ann E (R)

Maggie

10.30am Charles, Janet (R)

Catherine, Zen

Please pray for the sick of the parish: Josie Kennedy, Eileen McHugh, Laurence Gallen, Ron Hamilton, Garry Hobbs, Teresa Rynne, Cameron Reilly, Carla Lawrence, Josie Kennedy, Terence Harris, Patrick Connolly, Mark Correvisgandis Anne, Bacia, Colin Hipperson, Kathleen Tierney, Diane Cunningham, Kieran Connell, Ahmed Musa, Carol Sparks, Ruth Glithero, Jan Carusso, Nadia Faruk Hannah, Tom McDermott, Winnie McDermott, Gerald Douglas, Shirley Hartnett, Stephen Bayliss, Jackie Buckley, Dave Riliott, Alan Davis, David Horley, Margaret Ghen, Bridie & Benny McAndrew. Christine Strong, Hilda Gibson, Sheila Biggs,

Please pray for those whose anniversary occur about this time Forde Marjore, Cumbercidge Gerald David, Gaffney Gerard, Chappell Ann Catherine, Monaghan John, Mannion Michael, Sandbrook Victor, Sullivan Mary, Morgan Patricia Mary.

Pargetter Funeral Directors: I received a note from them with the following information: "Dear Fr Jimmy Lutwama, we enclosed to the value of £233.80 being donations received in memory of Mrs Margaret McGee for St. Osburg Restoration Fund." As a parish we have benefited greatly from Margaret's generosity while she was alive. Thanks to Tony her husband who directed that donations in McGee's memory be directed to St. Osburg. Thanks to the Pargetters too for their services to the city.