

<p><u>PARISH CLERGY:</u></p> <p>PARISH PRIEST Fr. Craig Davies</p> <p>PARISH DEACON Rev. Peter Crosby</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>39 Whetstone Lane Aldridge Walsall WS9 0JD Tel:01922 452316</p> </div>  </div>	<p>This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Registered Charity Nº:234216</p>
<p><u>PARISH REPS:</u></p> <p>SAFEGUARDING: Mr Gerry Wintrip sg.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk</p> <p>HEALTH & SAFETY: Mr Phil Probert hs.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Parish Website:</u> www.catholicaldridge.co.uk</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Parish Email:</u> smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fr. Craig's Email:</u> fr.craig.davies@rcaob.org.uk</p>	

DATE
Sunday 10th December 2023

SUNDAY
**Second Sunday of Advent
Year B**

DIVINE OFFICE
Week 2

Live-stream: All of our services are now Live-streamed.

<p><u>Saturday 9th Dec</u> 1st Mass of Sunday</p>	<p>6:00pm</p>	<p>Daniel Durkin RIP ^(HD)</p>
<p><u>Sunday 10th December</u> Second Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>9:30am 6:15pm</p>	<p>People of the Parish Holy Hour for Vocations</p>
<p><u>Monday 11th Dec</u> Advent Feria</p>	<p>9:15am</p>	<p>Bert Margetts RIP ^(EM)</p>
<p><u>Tuesday 12th Dec</u> Advent Feria</p>		<p>No Services Today</p>
<p><u>Wednesday 13th Dec</u> St. Lucy Virgin, Martyr Memorial</p>		<p>No Services Today</p>
<p><u>Thursday 14th Dec</u> St. John of the Cross Priest, Doctor of the Church Memorial</p>	<p>7:00pm</p>	<p>Private Intention</p>
<p><u>Friday 15th Dec</u> Advent Feria</p>	<p>9:15am 6:15pm</p>	<p>Vera & Reg Yates RIP ^(MD) In SMA School Lectio Divina</p>
<p><u>Saturday 16th Dec</u> Advent Feria (1st Mass of Sunday)</p>	<p>9:30am 10-11am 6:00pm</p>	<p>Int. of Paul Corbett ^(SVP) <i>Exposition, Confessions & Benediction</i> People of the Parish</p>
<p><u>Sunday 17th December</u> Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) O Sapientia</p>	<p>9:30am 6:15pm</p>	<p>Int. of Dimpna Dillon ^(FS) Holy Hour for Vocations</p>

Pope Francis

God chose poverty when He took on our human condition. We too are called to return to what is essential in our lives, to discard all that is superfluous and can become an obstacle on the path to holiness.

The **CAF+D** Prayer Second Sunday of Advent

May peace flourish upon our earth! Flourish it will, Lord, if we all heed your call to justice. Help us to respond to your call, in our thoughts, in our words and in our actions, diligently.

Recently Deceased

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of **Steven Brooke** and **Morris Moseley** on whose souls Sweet Jesus have mercy. May they rest in peace. **Steven's Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St. Anne's, Streetly, at 1pm on Thursday 14th December.**

Wednesday Friends

The next meeting of the Wednesday Friends is this Wednesday, **13th December**, at 10am. Why not come along, you will be most welcome.

Craft & Natter

We are now having our Christmas Break & will return to our usual gatherings on Tuesday, **9th January**, at our usual time of **11am – 3pm**. As usual everyone is welcome. For more information call Christine W on 07900604902.

Craft Stall

Our Craft & Natter group will be doing a small Christmas Stall at the back of church this weekend, **9th/10th December**, – after the weekend Masses. Come and have a look and get your Christmas decorations, gifts etc. All money goes to Church funds.

Pope's Prayer Intention

The Pope's prayer intention for **December** is:- **For persons with disabilities**. We pray that people living with disabilities may be the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

Sick in the Parish

Pray for the sick in the parish, remembering especially:

Marian Mathews, Marie Wilson, Ian Phipps, Sister Ann-Marie, Carol Facer, Oscar Wordsworth, Nichola Woodhall, Paul Corbett, Carmel Fekete, Lynn Stanley, John Green, Roy Allsopp, Janet Chambers, Jo Hawker, Alison Welton, Louise Morgan, Margaret Davis, Mary Brough, Joe Bannister, Margaret Healy, Juliet Woodhall, Luke Smith, Catherine Shepherd, Jim Smith, David Goodwin, Antonio Bigongiari, Olivia (Dotty) Cutler, Ann & Keith Allford, Anna Morgan ^{née Meehan}, Holly Brady, Mike Mander, Jo Cooke, Anne Humphreys, Theresa Chandler, Fr. Paul Chamberlain, Cath Breen, Max Lewis, David & Sheila Piggott, Clare Cooksey & Áine McDonagh.

Please remember also in your prayers those who carry the burden of their illnesses privately and those who care for them.

Second Collections

This weekend, **9th/10th December**, there will be a retiring collection for the **Poor Parishes Fund**. This collection enables the Archdiocese to support parishes that are struggling financially.

Next weekend, **16th/17th December**, our **Parish SVP Group** will be holding their annual retiring collection to purchase gifts and Masses for the sick and housebound.

Safeguarding Notice

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Mr. Gerry Wintrip. Gerry can be contacted at: sg.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk or on 0121 230 6240 if you have any concerns.

Mass for Life

On **Tuesday, 12th December at 12:15pm**, His Grace the Archbishop will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Patron Saint of the Unborn Child – at St. Chad's Cathedral. This is the first ever Mass celebrated specifically for this intention. Please do put the date in your diary and go along to pray for the Unborn.

Cleaners Rota

The new cleaners rota is now available on our website at www.catholicaldridge.co.uk/parish-duty-rotas. Printed copies are at the back of church for those who have requested them.

Walsall Life – Thank You

Walsall Life thanks everyone that helped and contributed to their successful coffee and cake morning last Sunday. The generous sum of **£725.61** was raised to assist with their work in Walsall. Have a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Journey in Faith

We meet on **Mondays at 6:30pm** during Term-Time in the Parish Meeting Room. This course is open to all members of the parish who are interested in learning more about the faith, and the teachings of the Church. Coming along to these sessions not only helps us to grow in our faith, but it is also an opportunity to support those who are preparing to be received into the Church this Easter.



Children's Liturgy takes place every Sunday at the 9:30am Mass. At the start of the Mass the children will be invited to go out to the Meeting Room for their Liturgy. All children are welcome to come along.

Thomas Project Christmas Presents

This year, instead of sending presents to St. Joseph's, Nechells, we are going to donate presents via the Thomas Project. The Thomas Project have, so far, identified 150 families, working with 5 local schools & those who use the food bank, including children at risk. In the past we have donated present solely for children, however, the Thomas Project feel that moms and dads need to be considered as well. We are therefore being invited to donate gifts labelled with Boy/Girl and age group, Man/Woman. **Please could all donations of presents be brought to church by no later than Thursday 14th December.**

Whetstone Over 50's Group

Our next meeting is this Monday, **11th December, at 1pm**. This is our Christmas Party Meeting. Please don't forget your food for the party and also your Secret Santa present to the value of £5. We will be welcoming some of the children from our Primary School who will be entertaining us.

Christmas Services

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4:30pm – Carol Service

5:00pm – Family Mass

(Children are invited to wear nativity costumes)

12 midnight – Solemn Mass

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

9:30am – Mass of the Day

Sacrament of the Sick

Please remember to inform Fr. Craig **directly** in case of sickness, especially if it requires hospital treatment or a prolonged absence from Mass. If you cannot inform the clergy yourself it is then your family who should take on this responsibility.

Baptism Enquiries

If you would like to have your child Baptised here at St. Mary of the Angels, please visit the 'Baptismal Enquiry' page of the parish website using the following link: <https://www.catholicaldridge.co.uk/baptismal-enquiries.html> Here you can complete a 'Baptism Enquiry Form'. The next available dates for Baptism Preparation are:

7pm Tuesday 23rd January 2024

7pm Tuesday 26th March

7pm Tuesday 4th June

Collections:

Last Weekends Offertory: £194.89

Weekly Standing Orders: £870.00

Christmas Fayre: £1,023.42

PARISH DUTIES THIS WEEKEND: 9TH/10TH DECEMBER 2023

6:00PM VIGIL MASS	READERS:	Hugh D & Cathy S
9:30AM SUNG MASS	MUSIC:	Folk Group
	READERS:	Helen C & Christine L

Duties During the Week: 11TH – 16TH December 2023

CLEANERS: Team D

FLOWERS: No Flowers

PARISH DUTIES NEXT WEEKEND: 16TH/17TH DECEMBER 2023

6:00PM VIGIL MASS	WELCOMERS:	Ann & John T
	WARDENS:	Peter H
	READERS:	Gerry W & Brian L
9:30AM SUNG MASS	MUSIC:	Choir
	WELCOMERS:	Jonathan & Jenson G
	WARDENS:	John O'N & Elaine A
	READERS:	Alice G & Will B
COFFEE:	The Probert Family	

And finally:-..The Gospel this week invites us to think about St. John the Baptist. Firstly, through the insights he received about the Old Testament (OT), he was able to hear the footsteps of the One Who was to come; he sensed the nearness of Christ. What about us? Do we dedicate time and effort to read the Sacred Scripture? Are we able to see foreshadows and references about Christ in the Prophets and the rest of the OT? Secondly, as we approach Christmas, we can particularly notice and imitate St. John's humility. Notice his words in particular when many were coming to him – "I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of His sandals." Humility leads us to realise our own unworthiness when approaching God. St. John was strict toward himself in his lifestyle and was a righteous man. Nevertheless, he claimed himself to be unworthy and in another Gospel where we read how he steps aside and says that "He (Jesus) must increase but I must decrease." Great lessons for the week ahead!

May God bless you all, Jithin