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| <p><u>PARISH CLERGY:</u></p> <p>PARISH PRIEST Fr. Craig Davies</p> <p>PARISH DEACON Rev. Peter Crosby</p> | <p>ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS</p> <div>  <div> 39 Whetstone Lane Aldridge Walsall WS9 0JD Tel:01922 452316 </div>  </div> | <p>This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.</p> <p>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><u>Parish Website:</u> www.catholicaldridge.co.uk</p> <p><u>Parish Email:</u> smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk</p> <p><u>Fr. Craig's Email:</u> fr.craig.davies@rcaob.org.uk</p> |  |

DATE
Sunday 3rd December 2023

SUNDAY
**First Sunday of Advent
Year B**

DIVINE OFFICE
Week 1

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

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| <u>Saturday 2nd Dec</u> 1 st Mass of Sunday | 6:00pm | People of the Parish |
| <u>Sunday 3rd December</u> First Sunday of Advent | 9:30am 6:15pm | Michael McMahon RIP ^(FS) Holy Hour for Vocations |
| <u>Monday 4th Dec</u> Advent Feria | 9:15am | Int. of Sheila Brayford ^(FH) |
| <u>Tuesday 5th Dec</u> St. Birinus Bishop ^{Feast} | 9:15am | Eliz McCabe RIP ^(MD) |
| <u>Wednesday 6th Dec</u> Advent Feria | | No Services Today |
| <u>Thursday 7th Dec</u> St. Ambrose Bishop, Doctor of the Church Memorial | 7:00pm | Private Intention |
| <u>Friday 8th Dec</u> Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary ^{Solemnity} | 9:15am 6:15pm | Doley Walker & Columba Fitzpatrick RIP ^(J&RL) Lectio Divina |
| <u>Saturday 9th Dec</u> Advent Feria (1 st Mass of Sunday) | 9:30am 10-11am 6:00pm | Rosie McDonnell RIP ^(AH) <i>Exposition, Confessions & Benediction</i> Daniel Durkin RIP ^(HD) |
| <u>Sunday 10th December</u> Second Sunday of Advent | 9:30am 6:15pm | People of the Parish Holy Hour for Vocations |

Pope Francis

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten us so that we may be able to give an account of our faith and hope to today's world with words and, above all, with the testimony of our lives.

This Week's Prayer

CAF⁺D

First Sunday of Advent

Father in heaven, may we follow your ways and act with integrity, so that you will guide us and make us ready for the feast of the birth of you Son.

Recently Deceased

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the soul of **Steven Brooke** & **Elizabeth Kiernan**, on whose souls Sweet Jesus have mercy. May they rest in peace.

Wednesday Friends

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

Craft & Natter

Craft & Natter will have their last session on **Tuesday 5th December**, before the Christmas break. We will return 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 on the weekend of **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, Morris Moseley, 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.

50/50 Club Winners

The winners of the draw for October entrants drawn on 19th November:

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| 1st Prize | EM | 59 | £150.00 |
| 2nd Prize | AC | 57 | £75.00 |
| 3rd Prize | FS | 79 | £37.50 |

Total prize money this month: £262.50

If you would be interested in joining our monthly draw (£5 per ticket) please speak to Sue W or Fr. Craig.

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.

Urgent Request for a Volunteer(s)

We are in desperate need of a volunteer(s) to help with the mowing of the grass around the church. If you are able, and willing to help, please speak to Dawn M.

Walsall Life Annual Fundraiser

Our Life Fund-Raiser for the Walsall Help Station is **this Sunday, 3rd December**, after Mass. **Please come**, our funds provide help and practical support to young mothers adrift and away from home at this Christmas time.

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 on 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.

Rosary for the Unborn



This Thursday, **7th December at 6:30pm**, we pray the Holy Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament for the protection of all babies in the womb, and for their families. This month's intention is: **'For those facing a crisis pregnancy at this time'**.

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.

Collections:

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| Last Weekends Offertory: | £281.06 |
| Weekly Standing Orders: | £870.00 |
| Catholic Youth Services: | £312.75 |

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

PARISH DUTIES THIS WEEKEND: 2ND/3RD DECEMBER 2023

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| 6:00PM VIGIL MASS | READERS: | John H & Pat H |
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| 9:30AM SUNG MASS | MUSIC: | Choir |
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| READERS: | Mark H & Martin B |
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Duties During the Week: 4TH – 9TH DECEMBER 2023

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| CLEANERS: | Team C |
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| FLOWERS: | No Flowers |
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PARISH DUTIES NEXT WEEKEND: 9TH/10TH DECEMBER 2023

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| 6:00PM VIGIL MASS | WELCOMERS: | Dawn M |
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| WARDENS: | Brian L |
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| READERS: | Hugh D & Cathy S |
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| MUSIC: | Folk Group |
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| 9:30AM SUNG MASS | WELCOMERS: | Margaret L, Helen A & Elena S |
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| WARDENS: | Pat & Sally S |
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| READERS: | Helen C & Christine L |
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| COFFEE: | The Reynolds Family |
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And finally:-..This weekend, we enter into the season of Advent and into a new liturgical year in the Church. Advent has a twofold character of preparing the faithful to meet Christ. The readings leading up to, and including this Sunday, have been preparing us for the coming of Christ as Judge at the end of time. This Second Coming of Jesus is indeed a certainty and moreover, it is not something we ought to dread but eagerly hope for. The Church sees Advent as preparation time before Christmas, where Christ's First Coming to us is remembered and celebrated; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation. An eager expectation means that one is not asleep, but awake and steadfast. The *Rorate Caeli*, the "tear the heavens open and come down" from Isaiah, expresses the people's longing for God. Notice that this is more than an expectation, it is a calling down of God Himself.

May God bless you all, Jithin