

PARISH CLERGY:

Fr. Craig Davies
(Parish Priest)

Rev. John Higgins
(Parish Deacon)

PARISH REPS:

SAFEGUARDING:

Mr Gerry Wintrip
(01922 457471)

HEALTH & SAFETY:

Mr Phil Probert
(01922 458406)

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS



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This Parish is
part of the
Archdiocese of
Birmingham
Registered
Charity
N^o:234216

Parish Website:

www.catholicaldridge.co.uk

Parish Email:

smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk

Fr. Craig's Email:

fr.craig.davies@rcaob.org.uk

THE YEAR OF THE WORD



DATE

**Sunday 20th December
2020**

SUNDAY

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
Year B**

DIVINE OFFICE

Week 4

Live-streamed Masses: Sunday at 9.30am, and all weekday Masses.

Saturday 19th Dec (1 st Mass of Sunday)	6.00pm	Int. of John Hayes ^(F&MP)
Sunday 20th December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> <i>O Clavis David</i>	9.30am 11.30am 4.30pm	People of the Parish Int. of Deidre McLeary & Family ^(SVP) Denis McCarthy ^{RIP (BO'B)}
Monday 21st Dec <i>Advent Feria – O Oriens</i>	9.15am	Brian Joseph Hornblower ^{RIP (AH)}
Tuesday 22nd Dec <i>Advent Feria – O Rex Gentium</i>	9.15am	Int. of Gerard Cassidy ^(BO'B)
Wednesday 23rd Dec <i>Advent Feria – O Emmanuel</i>		No Services Today
Thursday 24th Dec Christmas Eve	5.00pm 7.00pm 12midnight	Nicolette Atonasio ^{RIP (YD)} People of the Parish Int. of John O'Neill ^(JO'N)
Friday 25th Dec Solemnity of the Nativity	9.00am 10.30am	People of the Parish For all who are never noticed ^(SK)
Saturday 26th Dec <i>St. Stephen First Martyr</i> ^{Feast} (1 st Mass of Sunday)	9.30am 6.00pm	Alice & John Murphy ^{RIP (S&JW)} Int. of Emma Jones ^(AH&MJ)
Sunday 27th December Feast of the Holy Family	9.30am 11.30am 4.30pm	People of the Parish Int. of Sheila Kerrigan ^(CK) Int. of Cath & the Weir Family ^(SVP)

Pope Francis:

To pray is to light a candle in the darkness. Prayer rouses us from the tepidness of a purely horizontal existence, lifts our gaze to higher things, makes us attuned to the Lord, allows God to be close to us; it frees us from our solitude and gives us hope.

Data Protection – Live-streaming

Sunday 9.30am Mass, and all weekday Masses will continue to be live-streamed for those who at this time cannot be with us in church. The camera is situated at the front of the church so that only the Sanctuary is visible. If, however, you are sitting on the right side of the church you will become visible, in a way in which you might be recognisable, for a brief moment as you return from receiving Holy Communion. If you do not wish to appear on the live-stream please inform one of the stewards who will ensure that you are seated on the left of the church.

Christmas Services



There is now a page on the Parish Website called “Christmas Masses”. On this page you are now able to complete a ‘booking in form’ to secure a place at one of the Christmas Masses. Public Masses will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 7.00pm & 12midnight. On Christmas Day there will be Mass at 9.00am and 10.30am. I will also be celebrating Mass at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve, which will be live-streamed. At this Mass only the choir will be present in the church enabling us to have a sung Mass with carols. The live-stream will commence at 4.30pm with a Carol Service.

Pope’s Prayer Intention

The Pope’s prayer intention for the month of December: **For a life of prayer.** We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

CAFOD

Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Live Simply Prayer – Week 4

Lord, pour forth, we pray, your spirit into our hearts, for soon you are to come to bring us forgiveness and the promise of resurrection to life eternal with you.

Disaster in Lebanon

As you will recall, earlier in August, two large explosions at the port in Lebanon’s capital city sent enormous shockwaves across the city. Homes and livelihoods were destroyed. More than a hundred people were killed. CAFOD continues to ask us to help the people in Beirut by supporting their Beirut Emergency Appeal to supply medical supplies, emergency food, hygiene kits and shelters. Through local experts, our Church network reaches survivors and their families **directly**. Obviously, this disaster added to existing critical issues there: the impact of Coronavirus, ongoing shortages of vital medical supplies, an ineffectual government, social disruption and loss of employment. Please pray for everyone still being affected by these terrible explosions. With your help CAFOD is tackling these problems and will be able to go on doing so. If you are able, please make a donation to CAFOD using this address:

<https://cafod.org.uk/donations/one-off>
or post a cheque to: CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB.

Sick in the Parish

Please pray for all the sick in the parish, that God will bless and comfort them.

Please remember especially:

Maureen Carr, Pat Hopley, Leo Jones, Luke Smith, Catherine Shepherd, Keiron Sanders, Jim Smith, David Goodwin, Nancy Levell, Antonio Bigongiari, Olivia ^(Dotty) Cutler, Ann & Keith Allford, Deacon John, Joan Hart, Emma Jones, Anna Morgan ^{nee Meehan}, Margaret Cooper, Holly Brady, Mike Mander, Jo Cooke, Anne Humphreys, Pat Gray, Paul Mott, Theresa Chandler, Evelyn Hawkley, Fr. Paul Chamberlain, Cath & Paddy Breen, Max Lewis, Marguerite Baxendale, David Piggott, Clare Cooksey & Áine McDonagh.

Christmas Eve 5.00pm Mass

Last year for the first time we introduced a Family Mass at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve. This Mass proved to be a huge success with over 40 children dressed in their Nativity Costumes, and a church packed to the rafters. Sadly this year, due to the restriction on numbers in the church, it will not be possible for us to repeat this event. The 5.00pm Family Mass will be live-streamed with only the Choir and Folk Group in the church, enabling us to have a 'normal Christmas' with the singing of Christmas Carols. The live-stream will begin at 4.30pm with a Carol Service. **The Hymn Sheet can be downloaded from the 'Christmas Masses' page of the parish website.** Families are invited to take a picture of their children joining in with the Mass in their Nativity Costumes, which can then be emailed to me at the Parish Email Address. We will then, with your permission, upload the pictures to our Parish Facebook Page.

Congratulations



We offer our prayers and our congratulations to **Kaitlyn Georgia H** who was baptised here at St. Mary of the Angels last Sunday. We pray also for her parents and Godparent as they take on the great responsibility of raising her in the practice of the faith.

Praying for the Unborn

We pray at this time for all expectant mothers. We pray for a overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be given by their family, friends and local communities, as they journey through this life changing experience.

50-50 Club

The winners of the draw for November entrants drawn on 16th December:

1st Prize	MC 77	£150
2nd Prize	MM 25	£60
3rd Prize	YB 27	£37.50
4th Prize	MB 112	£20

Total prizes this month £267.50

Christmas Offering

This Christmas, due to Covid-19, it will not be possible to put out 'Christmas Offering Envelopes' in the Church. This is an important collection, and makes up a large part of your priest's income. If you are attending one of the Christmas Masses your offering can be placed in the basket at the back of Church. If, however, you are not attending a Christmas Mass you can place your offering in an envelope marked 'Christmas Offering' and pop it through the letterbox at the Presbytery. Many thanks.

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.

Second Collection

There will be a Second Collection this weekend, 4th **Sunday of Advent**, for the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). This is our annual parish collection to support our Parish SVP group, and the work that they do.

Walsall Life Group

We thank those who have sent donations of equipment and money. The girls in the Walsall Life Home have also thanked us for their Christmas Meal.

Assisted Suicide

Act now and ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide.

The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign putting pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation

of assisted suicide. It is vital that it is made clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from the assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands. Right to Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsidered this important piece of legislation. It only takes 30 seconds to email you MP by visiting the link below:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

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.catholicdridge.co.uk/baptismal-enquiries.html>

Here you can complete a 'Baptism Enquiry Form'.

And finally: A Christmas like no other – and yet the message remains the same! Who would have believed, having first entered into lockdown mid-Lent, that we would have reached our celebration of the Lord's birth still battling with the effects of Covid-19. For so many families, including our own families and our Parish Family, this Christmas is going to be strange and difficult. Unable to gather in large groups as we normally would, separated from those who we love and care for in accordance with Government legislation, and having to pull crackers at a safe distance will all feel wrong in this time of celebration. Yet, in the midst of it all, we can perhaps encounter Christmas, and its true meaning, in a new way. On that first Christmas Eve, let us not forget, Mary & Joseph were separated from their loved ones because of a legislation requiring everyone to travel to the city of their birth to be registered. In that moment, with nowhere to rest except a cold dark stable, no doubt a night filled with fear and uncertainty, something wondrous happened. The angels sang to shepherds, a star like no other lit up the night sky, and the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us. May the love of God revealed in Christ, the message of hope and joy which He came to bring, dispel the darkness and uncertainties of these times, and fill your hearts and homes anew this Christmas.

May God bless and protect you all. Fr. Craig