



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

ADVENT IV 23rd/24th December

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Derek Davis Deceased of O'Neill family
Sunday Advent IV	10.00 am		People of Parish
CHRISTMAS EVE	7.30 pm	7.30 pm	Irene Nelson / Deceased of Wall & Redmond families
CHRISTMAS DAY	10.00 am		Patrick McCarron/Betty O'Connor
St. Stephen's Day	11.00 am		B. Murphy
St. John's Day		9.30 am	Kay Healy
Holy Innocents' Day	10.00 am		James Greaney
St. Thomas of Canterbury		9.30 am	Maggie Mendy

HOLY FAMILY

30th/31st December

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Rachel Johnson People of Parish
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Gretta Slivinski
Monday Mary, Mother of God	11.00 am		Betty O'Connor
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday		9.30 am	Kay Healy
Thursday	10.00 am		Special intention
Friday	10.00 am		Ann Marie Bernadette Sarr

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6th/7th January

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	Marron & Hurley families Get better after cancer
SUNDAY	10.00 am		People of Parish

Please Pray for the sick; Anne Stapleton, Sheila O'Reilly, Marion Levell, Peter McKernan, Mary Joyce, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, Teresa Francis, Michael O'Connor, Marie Parish, William Parish, Michael O'Reilly, Julie Gallagher, Pat Hayes, Jimmy Armstrong.



The collection last weekend came to £274.15

According to custom, the Christmas collections are a personal gift to the Parish Priest.

MISSIO BOXES If you have a Mission box, please bring it to Church and hand it in so that all the money for 2017 can be sent off asap.

THE DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES FOR 2018 have arrived and are on sale at £2.75.

Sunday 24 December 2017

4th Sunday of Advent



First reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm 88(89):2-5,27,29

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Second reading Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

Monday 25 December 2017

Christmas Day - Mass during the Day

First reading Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem.
The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Psalm 97(98):1-6

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Second reading Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, worship the Lord,

for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



Sunday 31 December 2017

The Holy Family

First reading Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

Psalm 104(105):1-6,8-9

He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.



Second reading Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past

and in various different ways,

God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;

but in our own time, the last days,

he has spoken to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

What's going on in the Diocese

ABLAZE 2018, 6 JANUARY 2018 A concert for young people, Ablaze 2018, organised by the Sehion Ministries, will take place on Saturday 6 January 2018 from 12-5pm at the Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, B70 7JW. The focus of this gathering is to share the Gospel through music and includes live worship, theatrical performances and personal testimonies of faith. For more information or to purchase a ticket please email: ablazemusicconcert@gmail.com or register directly at: www.sehionuk.org/retreatregistration.

CARE Life Fertility Care offer treatment for infertility and miscarriage. There are leaflets about it at the back of church. If you know anyone needing help, please take a leaflet or visit www.lifefertilitycare.co.uk

Tabor House - Birmingham's only permanent night shelter is looking for volunteers. Could you help as a Hospitality Volunteer, Shift Leader or Volunteer Mentor? If interested, please contact Mairead Shaw 07387 418318 or Laura Jovicich 07387 418319 or email laurajovicich@fatherhudsons.org.uk"

A Lifeline for Marriages Is your marriage stressed, unloving, cold? Do you want to improve your communication? Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking of doing so? Do you want to try again? The Retrouvaille programme may be just what you need! Next programme commences with a weekend 16th – 18th March 2018 Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire For Further information Contact Frances and Michael Tel or Text 0788 7296983. or Julie and Gearoid Tel or Text 0797 3380443 Email; info@retrouvaille.org.uk Or visit website : www.retrouvaille.org.uk .

Congratulations to Anne Stapleton who will be 100 on 1st January!

Parish News

Second Saturday Convention - Every 2nd Saturday of the month from 8am - 4pm at Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, B70 7JW (including a Rosary procession, Holy Mass, Confession, talks, spiritual sharing, testimonies, praise and worship and Eucharistic Adoration).

Bible Sharing Class - Every Tuesday here at 85 Prestbury Road from 8pm - 10pm. For further details, please visit the Sehion UK website at www.sehionuk.org

SOME ONLINE RESOURCES: CHURCHPOP Have a look at the website <https://churchpop.com/> . It contains all sorts of material of a Catholic nature set out in a fun way. Something for all the family to enjoy. **Wordonfire.** <https://www.wordonfire.org/> Bishop Robert Barron. **Catholic Answers** www.catholic.com. **Strangenotions.** <https://strangenotions.com/> **Rational Evangelisation** <https://www.magiscenter.com/>

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR COMPLETION OF ROOF REPAIRS

The Archbishop will be coming to Sacred Heart for a Special Mass on Sunday 14th January at 11.00 am. The Mass will be followed by a meal, exhibitions and entertainment in the Sacred Heart School.

Please mark this off in your diary.



*I would like to wish you
all a very blessed, peaceful
and joyful Christmas.*