



Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

ADVENT SUNDAY

1st/2nd December

Day	Aston	Nechells	Intention
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	People of Parish Gertie O'Neill
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Anna Lievens
Monday		9.30 am	Mary Leroy
Tuesday			No Mass
Wednesday (school)		9.30 am	Sr. Eileen Mass in St. Joseph's school
Thursday (school)	9.30 am		Ivy Bent Mass in Sacred Heart school
Friday Day of Abstinence	9.30 am 10.00 am	11.45 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Buckley & Doyle families Eucharistic Service
Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Immaculate Conception	6.30 pm		Jane Jones

ADVENT II

8th/9th December

Day	Aston	Nechells	
Saturday	12.30 pm	6.00 pm	People of Parish Pat Wall
SUNDAY	10.00 am		Alice Seaton

Please Pray for the sick; Mary Levell, Peter McKernan, William Parish, Michael O'Reilly, Julie Gallagher, Anne Robinson, Maura Greene, John Mullen, Jimmy Armstrong, Pat Davis, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, Michael O'Connor.

The collection last weekend came to £264.99

Last weekend the collection for the Diocesan Youth Services came to £182.20

This weekend we shall have our **November Fiver a month** collection (a bit late)

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Poor Parishes

ADVENT starts the new Christian year and the Sunday readings leave St. Mark's Gospel and move to St. Luke's Gospel

MISSIO BOXES All boxes need to be returned by next Sunday.

CAROL SERVICE AT SACRED HEART This year we shall be having a special Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday 16th December at 4.30 pm. Please spread the news.

THE RENEWAL TEAM will meet after Sunday Mass every Sunday. Do come along, if you would like to join the team.

THE FIRST FRIDAYS OF FAITH

We are planning to make every first Friday something special for all our parishioners. It will start on Friday 7th December at 7.30 pm in the Undercroft with a DVD about the Fatima Apparitions.

As that Friday is the eve of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception this meeting will be preceded by a Mass at 6.30 pm. Tell all your friends about it.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sacred Heart: 7.30 pm Vigil Mass, 10am Mass of the Day
St. Joseph's: 7.00 pm Vigil Mass

SICK LIST If you or someone you know wishes to be on the sick list which is on the newsletter and hence on the website, then get a form from Sheila McKernan or Fr. Stephen and when signed return it to them.

The RCIA group meets on Thursdays at 6.30 pm in the Presbytery at Sacred Heart. We are just starting the part on Life in Christ and so it would be a good time for those who are already Catholics to join the group.

ENGLISH PRAYER TIME You are specially invited to come to the prayer time in Sacred Heart Presbytery on Monday nights 8 -10 pm. when everything will be in English. You can check that it is happening by phoning Sr. Meena on 07957342742.

DAILY EXPOSITION There is normally exposition in the Presbytery every day 10 am – 5 pm and 8 pm – midnight. To check phone Sr. Meena on 07957342742.

THE KINGDOM WARRIORS meet on Tuesdays at 6.30 pm at St. Vincent's Church, Nechells Parkway. This a group for young adults (18+) and involves the study of the Bible.

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information visit www.catholicsingles.org.uk or tel. 0161 941 3498.

ORDER OF MALTA PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES Friday 3rd May – Thursday 9th May 2019. The Order subsidises sick, disabled and older pilgrims. Please see notice in Church for details.

BOOKS Here are two books which make essential reading to enable you to pass on the faith in the present climate:

Made this Way – *How to prepare kids to face today's moral issues* by Leila Miller with Trent Horn.

Christian courtship in an oversexed world by Tom Morrow

A Day for Practising Catholics Aspiring for Leadership Positions in Catholic Schools across the Archdiocese of Birmingham 8.30am – 3.30pm on Saturday 19th January 2019 (no cost for this course) Don Bosco House, Coventry Road, Coleshill, B46 3EA. Please use this link to book a place on this course: <http://w.pfrms.co/2lttp>

ASTON & NECHELLS FOOD BANK looking for volunteers. See notice on board in Church or go to www.astonnechells.foodbank.org.uk

First reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The-Lord-our-integrity.’

Responsorial Psalm

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor.

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and law.
The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant.

Second reading 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

Reflection

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed.

Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength.

The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair.

Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.