



Metropolitan Cathedral & Basilica of  
St Chad  
St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6EU



## Fourth Sunday of Advent *Day of prayer for Expectant Mothers*

### 21<sup>st</sup> December 2014

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Fr. Noel Bisibu N'tungu (Chaplain to the French Speaking Community). Contact at Cathedral House as above  
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Sister Margaret Walsh (St. Chad's Sanctuary Mon.-Fri. 10.30am-3.00pm) Tel: 0121 233 3127  
Cathedral Bookshop (Society of St Paul) Lorenzo Torri (Manager) 0121 236 6336  
St. Chad's Catholic Primary School: Matthew Tehan ( Head teacher) 0121 464 6554

### LARGE PRINT LITURGY OF THE WORD AVAILABLE FROM THE SACRISTY

Sundays of Advent (Year B) Weekdays of Advent Divine Office: Psalter Week 4

**Entrance Antiphon:** Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**Responsorial Psalm:** I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.



St. Chad's Cathedral is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Reg. Charity No. 234216  
Newsletter available online – <http://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/newsletters.asp>



## Mass Times 20<sup>th</sup> December – 28<sup>th</sup> December

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Sat 20<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Advent Feria</b>  |
| 10.00am                    | Rosie Bartle RIP   |
|                            | <b>Vigil for Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>                   |
| 4.30pm                     | Mrs. Juliana Donoghue RIP                                  |
| <b>Sun 21<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>                             |
| 9.00am                     | Martin & Margaret Harrold                                  |
| 11.00am                    | People of the Parish                                       |
| <b>5.00pm</b>              | <b>Cathedral Advent Carol Service</b>                      |
|                            | <i>Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Crypt</i> |
| <b>Mon 22<sup>nd</sup></b> | <b>Advent Feria</b>  |
| 12.15pm                    | Deceased of the Reid Family                                |
| <b>Tue 23<sup>rd</sup></b> | <b>Advent Feria</b>  |
| 12.15pm                    | Deceased of the Kennedy Family                             |
| <b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Advent Feria</b>  |
| 12.15pm                    | Mary Daly  |

*Confessions will be available after the 12.15pm Masses from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December*

### THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

#### **Vigil of the Solemnity of the Nativity**

4.30pm\* Private Intention

#### **The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

*Please Note: The Mass for Midnight will begin with Carols at 11.30pm followed by the Blessing of the Crib. Entrance to the Cathedral is through the Cathedral House Reception.*

**12.00 midnight\*** *Blessing of the Crib followed by:*  
Mass at Midnight with His Grace, Archbishop Bernard Longley

*The Collection at all Masses is your Christmas Offering for the Cathedral Clergy. There are envelopes available if you wish to use them. Thank you.*

**All Masses marked with \* fulfil your Christmas obligation.**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**  
9.00am\* People of the Parish  
11.00am\* Zakariya Jude Dooner

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Feast of St. Stephen**  
12.15pm Katie Murphy

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Feast of St. John**  
10.00am Holy Souls  
**Vigil for the Feast of the Holy Family**  
4.30pm People of the Parish

**Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
9.00am Private Intention  
11.00am The Little Sisters of the Poor

#### **CCTV IN OPERATION FOR YOUR SAFETY & SECURITY**

**Cathedral Site Statistics: Week: 7<sup>th</sup> December – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

Hours we were open : 120  
Liturgies & Meetings : 148  
Number of Visitors : 5256

**Please see other Sheet for the following week.**

## **Cathedral Collections**

### **Last Week:**

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| <b>Loose</b>            | £429.06 |
| <b>Gift Aid</b>         | £118.00 |
| <b>Restoration Fund</b> | £ 25.17 |

**Christmas Offerings for the Cathedral Clergy :** Envelopes are available at the back of the Cathedral for your use.

**Cathedral Flowers:** The Flowers at Christmas are in memoriam of Margaret Harrold & family and Helen Bethell & family.

**Gift Aid** can be taken out at any time of the year. Thank you to everyone registered as it is a valuable source of additional income to the Cathedral at no extra cost to the parishioners. Anyone currently registered who changes their address please would you ensure that you amend your address with us so we can continue to claim Gift Aid on your behalf.

Please contact Margaret Regan at Cathedral House 0121 230 6208 for details on Gift Aid and other finance matters.

**Wills & Bequests** – Our Cathedral has benefitted greatly in the past from the thoughtfulness of parishioners who have remembered the Cathedral in their Wills. Some have funded particular projects in Memoriam of loved ones. God bless you for your kindness.

**Recent Donations:** both great and small. Apologies for not having addresses to send our thanks to all of our benefactors.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Confessions are available after the 12.15pm Mass during the week, Monday to Friday, and following the 4.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday afternoon. Also, there is an opportunity for Confession after the 10.00am Mass on Saturday during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Anyone seeking baptism for their children or themselves, please contact Canon Gerry or Sr. Thérèse. Fr Noel Bisibu N'tungu conducts baptisms for the French Speaking Community every First Sunday. Please contact Canon Gerry.

**Prayer Intentions:** Frs. Peter Jones, Tony Haycock, Pat Farrelly, Peter Rogers, Paul Chavasse C.O., & Tony Sims; Deacons: David McCarroll & David Pranauskas. Also: Marjorie Moses, Margaret Measey, Jim Matthews, Stephen McClean, Brian Gregory, Remo Forcellini, Eva McNair, Phyllis McCullion, John O'Donoghue, Marie Southall, Godwin Anisiobi, Sheila Barr, Lorraine Grant, Alwen Griffiths, Gwen Morris, Bridie Kearney, Elaine Harvey, Rita Bevan, Margaret Hynes, Bridie Dunne, Louise Davis, Bernadette O'Halleron, Bridie & Pat Connolly, Eileen O'Halloran, Elaine Harvey, Shirley Ward, Hayley Martin, Maureen Daly, Bridget Casey, Jane Goodyear, Ernie Cannon, Chelsea Reeves, Sarah Presswood, Mark Correia, Gill Goodfellow, Oliver Crocock, Stephen Birch, Maureen Birch, Ingrid Abrahams; youngsters: Ronav Paul, Zach McEniff, Sevan Zegue, Nuwen Bantara, and all the children in the Children's Hospital.

**All who have died recently:** the children in Pakistan and Australia; also: Curnal Molten Duncan, David Crockett, Roy Gillespie, Mary Hayes, Kathleen Leahy, Patrick Wolfe and those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Bishop Francis Thomas; Mgr. Canons: William Flint, Thomas Gavin; Frs.: Patrick Wall, Anthony Ireland, Thomas Meagher, Denis Murphy, Colum McCabe, Seamus McInerney, David O'Callaghan, Katie Murphy, Zak Dooner & Imelda Dowling. **May they rest in peace. Amen.**

**Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father for the Month of December: Universal: *Christmas, hope for humanity*** - That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will. **For Evangelization: *Parents*** - That parents may be true evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

**Christmas Masses** – Please note the first Mass of Christmas will be at **4.30pm**. Please see separate sheet.

**Wednesday Word Plus** + a great resource for prayer and preparation for the Sunday scriptures. Why not make a special effort to use this FREE resource. Available at the back of the Cathedral.

**School Educational Visits: Christmas Holidays.** We wish all of our Staff a well-earned rest!

**A Word of Welcome to our Cathedral:** to all of our visitors this week, especially if this is your first visit. You may have just wandered in for a few moments' quiet prayer or reflection. In addition to the regular groups who meet here, we welcome all those attending the Cathedral Carol Service. A special welcome to the Muziekcentrum Dutch Choir who will be singing at our 11.00am Mass on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December. You are all most welcome. If we can be of any assistance to you, please ask a member of staff.

**The Season of Advent & Christmas:** once more we are in this beautiful time of the Church's calendar. The **Advent Wreath** next to the lectern illuminates the word of God proclaimed from Holy Scripture which has led us through this season to the Light of the Christ Child. The circular wreath symbolises eternity and eternal life; its evergreen foliage signifies enduring life reminding us of the persistence of life in the midst of winter and the darkness in our world that would seek to overcome us. The **Jesse Tree**, an ancient Christian symbol, represents the Family Tree of Jesus 'springing from the root of Jesse' and is decorated with symbols of Old Testament people who looked forward in hope to the coming of the Messiah.

**The Stations of the Cross** were originally framed. The 10<sup>th</sup> Station has a temporary surround to help us re-design a new set for the cathedral. We shall keep you informed on progress and how we hope to fund this project.

**World War 1 Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund:** as you are aware, we were awarded a grant of £227,000 to carry out some necessary structural work to our Cathedral. You will notice on all of our publications the logos for the Department for Culture Media & Sport; ChurchCare alongside the Imperial War Museum's logo for this special centenary. Our War Memorial, which was dedicated on Armistice Day 1921, recalls the 200 men and boys from the Cathedral Parish who fell in the Great War (1914-1918). In memory of their ultimate sacrifice, which has enabled our presence here today, the Memorial will remain decorated throughout this time of prayer and reflection.

**Fr. Gerry Hughes, SJ** a Mass of thanksgiving for the life and work of the late Fr. Gerry Hughes SJ will take place at St Chad's Cathedral on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 12 noon.

**Poor Box Offerings:** These are used to fund the hungry and those in genuine need, for example: provisions for the Sanctuary; 100+ hot meals once a month for the city homeless; and families or individuals in need of emergency assistance. On behalf of all beneficiaries: Thank You!

**Walk With Me For Advent:** Books and Calendars are now available. These are great companions for Advent, especially for the housebound. We have limited copies. Please place your donations in the wall box marked Books.

#### **Parish & Deanery Events**

**Journey in Faith (JiF)** a series of informal talks on the Catholic Faith for non-Catholics who would like to learn more about Catholicism. If you, or someone you know would like to attend please contact or send details to Canon Gerry.

**Meet & Greet** every first Sunday of the month following the 11am Mass. Our next gathering will be on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in the Grimshaw Room. You are welcome to join us for refreshments.

**Messe en Français** every first Sunday of the month with the West Midlands French Speaking Community. The next Mass will be on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 2.30pm in the Cathedral.

**CAFOD Volunteer** - Do you have good public speaking skills and want to help tackle poverty and injustice? To find out more call CAFOD on 01922 722944 or email

[birmingham@cafod.org.uk](mailto:birmingham@cafod.org.uk)

**APF Little Red Mission Boxes.** These are due for collection and counting. Please bring them the sacristy after Mass; or contact us if this is difficult. Many thanks!

**Fr. Hudson's 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Ball** - on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 at the National Motorcycle Museum at 7.30pm.

Please see noticeboard for further details.

**St Chad's Sanctuary** -Are in need of men's shoes (size 8) and men's slim trousers. These could be delivered directly to the Sanctuary which is open Monday to Friday from 10.30am to 3.30pm, closed on Saturday & Sunday.

**Wedding Congratulations to:** Martin & Margaret Harrold who celebrate their Ruby Wedding (40<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary. Our prayers and best wishes.

**Catholic Today:** our diocesan newspaper. Latest edition available in the Cathedral. Lots of information from around the diocese.

**Second Friday Group: The Witnesses for Christ** – Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in the Grimshaw Room with the rosary at 7.30pm and finish at 9.00pm.

Next meeting will be on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014. For information contact Ben Thatcher on 07885 505115 or [ben.thatcher@ymail.com](mailto:ben.thatcher@ymail.com)

**St. Chad's Cathedral Carol Service** this Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 5.00pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Crypt. All are welcome, there is no charge. Please come along and listen to our magnificent Cathedral Singers under the direction of Professor David Saint sing a variety of Christmas songs and carols interspersed with reading from the Scriptures.

**The Cathedral Book Shop** is open this Sunday morning 9am – 1pm.

**Christmas Opening Times:** Closes at 3pm Christmas Eve. Re-opens Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> until 3pm. It re-opens Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

#### **Second Saturday Catholic Conventions –**

Held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month from 8am – 4pm at Bethel Convention Centre. Please see noticeboard for details or visit [www.sehion.net](http://www.sehion.net)

**Cathedral Car Park:** Please note: for reasons of security, all access to the Cathedral Site and Car Park will be secured once the Cathedral is closed and Meetings have finished. Any unauthorised vehicles will be locked in until the car park opens again. Cars are parked at owner's risk. The Cathedral accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to any vehicle or persons.

Please visit our website for additional information: [www.stchadscathedral.org.uk](http://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk)

**On behalf of Archbishop Bernard, Canon Gerry, Fr. Gerry, Fr. Chris, Fr. Dominic, Fr. Noël, Sr. Thérèse, Sr. Luke & Sr. Florence, our thanks for your presence and support throughout 2014. We wish you every joy and blessing during this Christmas Season and for the New Year of 2015.**