



Metropolitan Cathedral & Basilica of St Chad
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 Awaiting appointment (Chaplain to the French Speaking Community). Contact at Cathedral House as above
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 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

First Sunday of Advent

29th November 2015

Divine Office: Psalter Week 1

First Sunday of Advent

- Entrance Antiphon:** To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.
- Responsorial Psalm:** To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!
- Communion Antiphon:** The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



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>




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Mass Times: 28th November – 6th Dec 2015

Sat 28 Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am John Cunningham
12.00noon Mass for Deceased members of the
Knights of St. Columba

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Vigil for the First Sunday of Advent

4.30pm Don Smith

Sun 29 First Sunday of Advent

9.00am People of the Parish
11.00am Holy Souls
12.30pm *Baptisms*

Mon 30 Feast of St. Andrew

12.15pm Ellen Purfield
4.00pm Mass – Teachers & Governors of
St. Chad's Catholic Primary

MONTH OF DECEMBER

Tue 1 Feast of St. Edmund Campion

12.15pm Patrick Cunningham
7.30pm Ordinariate Mass

Wed 2 Advent Feria

12.15pm Caitlin Griffin & Katie Byrne

Thu 3 St. Francis Xavier

Migrants' Day

12.15pm Sweeney Family Deceased

Fri 4 Advent Feria

9.15am Mass in St Chad's School (Holy Souls)
12.15pm Patrick Mannion
1.10pm *Choral Outreach Concert – St. Joseph's
School.*

Sat 5 Feast of St. Birinus

10.00am James Madden RIP
**Vigil for the Second Sunday of
Advent**
4.30pm Patricia Mulvey

Sun 6 Second Sunday of Advent

9.00am People of the Parish
11.00am Mr. Kinsella
Followed by Meet & Greet
12.30pm *Baptisms*
2.30pm Messe en Français

**PLEASE DO NOT leave any personal property
unattended, even when going to receive Holy
Communion. Also, please switch off your mobile
phone unless you are on-call. Thank you.**

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

THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

Announced by Pope Francis on the Feast of Divine Mercy, the Holy Year of Mercy begins on December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception with the Opening of the Holy Door in Rome. On December 13th, 3rd Sunday in Advent, cathedrals and churches around the world will welcome the Year by opening a Door of Mercy for the faithful.

On Tuesday December 8th, the Archbishop will celebrate Mass at 12.15pm with the Cathedral Chapter for our diocesan celebration of the Immaculate Conception., The following Sunday, December 13th, His Grace will formally open our Door of Mercy and inaugurate our Cathedral Pilgrimage at the beginning of our 11am Mass. Please make sure you are here by 10.45am.

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. Please check newsletter for changes.

Enquiries for the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation and Marriage; and anyone interested in Adult Instruction please contact Canon Gerry Breen.

Journey in Faith: for non-Catholic adults, or adults wishing to be Confirmed. An opportunity to learn more about the Catholic Faith. Meeting in Cathedral House **Monday 30th November at 7.00pm**. Please come to the Cathedral House Reception entrance. Anyone interested please contact Canon Gerry.

Cathedral Site Statistics

15th November – 21st November 2015

Hours we were open : **110.5**
Liturgies & Meetings : **161**
Number of Visitors : **3994**

Cathedral Collections Last Week:

| Main | Gift Aid | Restoration Fund |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| £301.50 | £68.50 | £845.79 |

Restoration of the Sacred Heart Statue £18.74

The 2nd Collections :

This week – Aid to the Church in Need.

Next week – Poor Parishes of the Diocese.

Recent Donations: both great and small. Apologies for not having addresses to send our thanks to all of our benefactors. Thank you for all the financial support we receive in these difficult times.

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.

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 or margaret.regan@rc-birmingham.org for details on Gift Aid and other finance matters.

Prayer Intentions for the Sick: Mgrs. Paul Watson; Canons: Mervyn Tower, Peter Gilsenan & John Gunn; Frs.: Peter Jones, Tony Haycock, Pat Farrelly, Paul Chavasse C.O., David Bazen, Ivor Morris & David Condon. Deacons: David McCarroll, Tony Janew & David Pranauskas. Pray also for Robert Moore, Peter Minister, Barbara Donnellan, David Symonds, Jerzy Paszkowski, Margo Conlon, Linda Clarke, Lucy Ryan, Alwen Griffiths, Roddy Devlin, Mary Baines, Sally Testeo James, Clare Capewell, Alexis Brant, Andrew Oldnall, Francis Platt, Albert Nacey, Sarah James, Nora Brandon, Annie Conneely, Charles Brooks, Margaret O'Donovan, Carol Bertie, Paul Whitson, Verta Gorton, Teresa Condon, Michael Breen, Nonie Collins, Talitha Leigh, Edwina Cownley, Patrick Costelloe, Mary Pearson, Mr Haywood, Remo Forcellini, Thomas Ashe, Margaret Hardy, Barry Lynch, Gio Shep, Maria Nguyen, Kathleen Ahern, Francis Burke, Michael Kennedy, Nora Connor and Jo Higgins; also, Tilly McGranaghan, Babies Freya Appleby, Cara McCourt & Adam Gorski.

For those who have died recently; Sr Monica Dwyer, Teresa Condon, Christine Dordes, Nuala Mulholland, Pat Laughery, Verda Gorton; and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishops: Joseph Masterson, Edward Ilsley; Frs: Joseph du Moulin Browne CO, Reginald Anwyl, Norman Millard and Liam MacFarlane. Also, Mr. Kinsella.

Eternal Rest grant unto them O, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

Our Sacred Heart Statue: has been sensitively restored and graces our cathedral once more. We are grateful to all who have donated to the restoration which has cost £1,400.00. There are 'before and after' photograph's showing why the restoration was needed. Your generosity will be remembered in the Mass for Our Benefactors. God bless you!

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.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for November –

Universal: Dialogue That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from our own.

Evangelization: Pastors That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their flocks, may accompany them and enliven their hope.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December –

Universal: That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

Evangelization: That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

Cathedral Deanery Visitations: Please pray for the parishes of the Cathedral Deanery during this time of Visitation.

This week we welcome:

Mr. Tony Stevens from Aid to the Church in Need, one of the Holy Father's charities. Tony will be here to talk to parishioners at the weekend Masses on 28th & 29th November 2015 on behalf of this remarkable Catholic Charity. You are encouraged to visit their website www.acnuk.org to keep up to date with news of the oppression of Christians worldwide.

We also welcome: the Lourdes Doctors & Nurses, those attending the Mass for deceased members of the Knights of St. Columba, the Lay Dominicans, Teachers & Governors of St. Chad's Catholic Primary-New Town, those attending the Ordinariate Mass, the MAJENTA Choir, those attending the Union of Catholic Mothers Christmas Social, the Lay Carmelites and the children from St. Joseph's – Wolverhampton.

We welcome the many students from around the world who have come to Birmingham to study at our universities and colleges. If you are new to the parish, please introduce yourself to one of the priests. If you have wandered into our cathedral for the first time to simply look around or spend time in quiet prayer you are most welcome. If we can be of any assistance, please speak to one of our cathedral staff or call at Reception.

The Season of Advent: once more we enter this beautiful time in the Church's calendar. You will notice in the Cathedral the colour **purple**, a royal colour as we await the coming of the King. We do not use flowers in Advent, but our focus is the **Advent Wreath** next to the lectern to illuminate the word of God proclaimed from Holy Scripture which leads 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 that would seek to overcome us. Each week of Advent we light an additional candle on the wreath as Christmas draws

ever near. The **Jesse Tree**, an ancient Christian symbol, represents the Family Tree of Jesus 'springing from the root of Jesse' decorated with symbols of Old Testament people who looked forward in hope to the coming of the Messiah. Throughout Advent the children of the parish will decorate our Tree. These rich symbols along with our Scripture, the Walk with Me Booklets and Calendars will guide and help us to encounter and deepen our relationship with the person of Christ that we may truly celebrate his birth at Christmas.

St. Chad's Cathedral Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at 5.00pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Crypt. All are welcome, 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.

School Visits this week:

Wednesday 2nd - St. Martin de Porres, Moseley.

Cathedral Flowers: Remember, if you wish to have a floral tribute in remembrance of a loved one or for a special intention please call to Reception or speak to a member of staff. Thank you to all who have supported this initiative which enables us to afford flowers for the cathedral.

Messe en Français every first Sunday with the West Midlands French Speaking Community. The next date for your diary is Sunday 6th December 2015 at 2.30pm.

Meet & Greet every first Sunday of the month following the 11.00am Mass in the Grimshaw Room. The next Meet & Greet is on Sunday 6th December 2015 in the Canons' Dining Room.

The Cathedral Book Shop will open on Sunday mornings after the 9.00am Mass till around 1.00pm during this Advent Season. This will allow parishioners who attend on Sunday mornings the opportunity to buy Catholic newspapers, books, piety and religious gifts. Please support this initiative.

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.

Congratulations to: Bishop David McGough and Canon Gerry Breen who were installed as Ecumenical Canons of Lichfield Cathedral.

Advent Retreat Day – "Day of Prayer" – led by the team at St. Mary's Convent, Handsworth on Saturday 12th December from 10.00am. Please see noticeboard for details.

"TUCUNDAM VETUS MUSICAM" an early music group of Birmingham Conservatoire students present their debut concert of French Baroque Christmas and Sacred music in the **Cathedral on Friday 11th December at 7.00pm.**

Their aim – to bring the music of this era to life in Pugin's wonderful Cathedral. It will be a short concert of 30-40 minutes and entrance is free.

All are welcome.

Christmas Music from St Chad's Cathedral: a recently released limited C.D. of traditional Christmas music featuring our own choir recorded at St Chad's in collaboration with Aid to the Church in Need, with ALL profits going to support their missionary work. The C.D. costs £11.50 (you may give more if you wish?) and is available from the Cathedral Reception and Sacristy, as well as from St Paul's Bookshop. It would make an ideal Christmas gift.

St Chad's Junior Choir has grown out of our **Choral Outreach Programme** Normal rehearsals have resumed with practice on Thursday evenings during term time from 5.00pm-6.30pm. For more information please contact David & Alexandra Wynne at choraloutreach@rc-birmingham.org We welcome the students from St. Anthony's who are taking part in a concert at the Cathedral on Friday at 1.10pm.

Looking for hope in today's world? Keen to support young people in their faith journey?

On Wednesday 2nd December 7.30 pm at The Elgar Hall, Birmingham University, Edgbaston, B15 2TT the international performing arts group **GEN VERDE** presents **START NOW**, a 2-hour performance of song, dance, drama and percussion. It is a great event for confirmation and youth groups, however Gen Verde appeals to all ages. Further information and tickets (£10 & £7.50) online: <https://gen-verde-start-now-birmingham.eventbrite.co.uk/> or from can be reserved and collected at the door: contact patriciawhitney@gmail.com Tel: 07790 716887

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 un-authorized 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

Cathedral Flower Festival Notelets: are available after Masses costing £5 for 10.

Second Saturday Catholic Conventions: Held every 2nd Saturday of the month from 8am – 4pm at Bethel Convention Centre. Please see noticeboard for details or visit www.sehion.net

World War 1 Centenary Cathedral Repair 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 Stations of the Cross used to be framed. The 10th & 11th Stations have temporary surrounds to help us re-design a new set for the cathedral. We are grateful for the support we have received for this project, as well as the many suggestions for design. A third frame is being designed to your specifications. We shall keep you informed on progress and how we hope to fund this project.