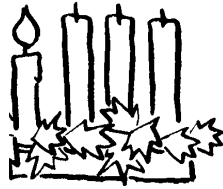




Metropolitan Cathedral & Basilica of St Chad

St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6EU



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Fr Ray Corbett (Universities): r.corbett@aston.ac.uk Catholic Student Societies: www.cathchaps.co.uk
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Organiste Honoraire: John Pryer; Organ Scholar: Dylan McCaig.
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Junior Choir/Choral Outreach: stchadschoraloutreach@rc-birmingham.org

Mrs. Margaret Harrold (Parish Safeguarding Representative) Tel: 07798 837684
Kath White - Lourdes Pilgrimage Office: 0121 230 6288
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



First Sunday of Advent

1st December 2019

Divine Office: Psalter week

First Sunday of Advent

Year C. Psalter Week 1

- 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** I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'
- 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.



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Newsletter available online – <http://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/newsletter>
You can read our privacy policy at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>

Mass Times: 30th November – 8th December 2019

Sat 30 St Andrew
10.00am James Madden RIP
Vigil for First Sunday of Advent
**‘Launching of the Year of the Word –
The God who speaks’**
Celebrant – His Grace Archbishop Bernard Longley
4.30pm Nelissa Dionela Sp. Int.

Sun 1 First Sunday of Advent
9.00am People of the Parish
11.00am Lauren O’Connor
Followed by meet & greet

Mon 2 Advent Feria
12.15pm Sean Regan RIP

Tue 3 St Francis Xavier
12.15pm Kevin McWilliams Sp. Int.
12.30pm Mass in the Children’s Hospital

Wed 4 Advent Feria
12.15pm Mrs Gill RIP

Thurs 5 Feast of St Birinus
12.15pm Eileen Sheehy Int.
1.15pm Monthly Organ Recital

Friday 6 Advent Feria
7.45am Mr Pat Shortt RIP (**Mass in Crypt**)
12.15pm Kevin Harte RIP
1.15pm Choral Outreach Concert

Sat 7 St Ambrose
10.00am Cora Hynes Int.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Vigil for Second Sunday of Advent
‘Bible Sunday’
4.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 8 Second Sunday of Advent
9.00am Clare Capewell Int.
11.00am O’Connor Family & Mary & Michael
Hession
12.30pm Baptism

The 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. There is also an opportunity for Confession after the 10.00am Mass on Saturday during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Please check newsletter for changes.

Meet & Greet every first Sunday of the month following the 11.00am Mass in the Grimshaw Room. **The next Meet & Greet will take place on Sunday 1st December 2019**

Seeking Meaning from the Catholic Faith – (RCIA) Are you – or somebody you know – interested in becoming a Catholic? We have set up an opportunity to help people find this meaning in life, in conjunction with our neighbouring parish of St Catherine’s, Bristol Street. If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Fr Tim at dean@rc-birmingham.org

Cathedral Collections Last Week

Main £782.58 Restoration Fund £408.02 (inc. £317 One off Gift aid) Catholic Youth Service £390.30

Cathedral Site Statistics:

17th – 23rd November 2019
Hours we were open **106**
Liturgies & Meetings **138**
Number of Visitors **2925**

Second Collection: Next weekend there will be a second collection for **Poor Parishes of the Diocese.**

Holy Father’s Prayer Intention for December: Universal – That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

Those who are ill: Tony Kavanaugh, David Tooth, Annie Byrne, Ken Halford, Liz Wainhouse, Joseph Barrett, Christopher Dunn, Philomena Laird, John Dunn, Abigail, Robert Scott-Putock, Ann Wassell (Redmond), Maria Garofalo and Fran McKearney.

Cathedral Prayer List

Lately Dead: Philomena O’Connor, John Keane, Mary Connolly, Bridget Broom, Jonny Boyle and Michael Browne.

For those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Archbishop Edward Ilsley. Frs.: Liam McFarlane, Horace Relph and Michael Knight. Also: Nora Finn, Philip Dolphin, Frank Kane, Joan Bashford and Bridie Ryan.
Eternal Rest grant unto them O, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

The Year of the Word – The God Who Speaks
This Advent sees the beginning of an important year in the Catholic Church in England and Wales: a Year of the Word. As the Church’s focus turns to Year A, St Matthew’s Gospel, we are asked to consider the many ways in which God speaks to us: through the Bible, through Prayer, through other people. To launch the Year of the Word in our Archdiocese, Archbishop Bernard Longley will celebrate the 4.30pm Mass in St Chad’s Cathedral on Saturday 30th November – the Vigil of the First Sunday of Advent. Everybody is welcome.

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.

Cathedral Organ - We are pleased to inform you that the organ restoration is now complete. Due to some last minute unexpected repairs we incurred additional costs which means that thanks to the generosity of various benefactors and grants, less than £7,900 is still needed to pay for the restoration. If you would like to make a donation, or organise a fundraising event, please contact Margaret Regan, St Chad's Cathedral finance secretary, by email: margaret.regan@rc-birmingham.org

Welcome:

In addition to our regular meetings, this week we welcome the Y6 children from St Anthony's, Leamington Spa and St Wulstan's who join us for a tour of the Cathedral. This forms part of their Confirmation Preparation. Welcome also to the children who will be taking part in the Choral Outreach concert on 6th December. Welcome also to their families who I am sure will enjoy the event greatly.

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.

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.

All Readers and Eucharistic Ministers – When ascending the Sanctuary, please approach the steps at the centre as usual but kindly use the handrails on either side. The Lectern side for readers and divide in either direction for Eucharistic Ministers.

Christmas & New Year Masses – Please collect separate sheet which will be available next week.

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

St. Paul's Bookshop 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.

FIRST FRIDAYS OF THE MONTH: An additional Mass will take place at **7.45am in the Crypt** on the First Friday of each month.

Cathedral Flowers -

We are now taking floral tribute requests. Please see the list at the back of the Cathedral. If you wish to have a floral tribute in remembrance of a loved one or for a special intention, please complete the booking form at the back of the Cathedral and hand over your donations to a member of staff or at Cathedral House Reception. Thank you to all who have supported this initiative.

New Candle System – We have had new candles at our Cathedral. St. Killians is a revolutionary Candle Burning System that was invented to stop ongoing problems such as smoke damage to walls, ceilings and artwork and the more alarming issue of fire hazard in Cathedrals, Shrines and Churches. With this Patented Glass System, the flame is protected at all times. These candles are made from the highest quality of paraffin wax with all of the impurities removed leaving just 100% refined paraffin.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at St Chad's Cathedral each Friday following the Mass at 12.15pm until 5.00pm.

St. Chad's Cathedral Carol Service – **5.00pm on Sunday 22nd December 2019** – followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Grimshaw Room. 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 readings from the scriptures. **All are welcome. NO CHARGE.**

The Recitation of the Angelus – PLEASE NOTE

From the beginning of Advent this year, the Angelus Prayer will be prayed after the Sign of the Cross and Greeting at 12.15pm Mass.

The traditional Angelus bell will still ring at 12 noon, but as the Angelus is going to be prayed at the beginning of Mass, there is no reason for anybody to stand or to pray the prayer at 12 noon.



For more information on the Year of the Word - please visit: <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

Poor Box: We are particularly grateful for the donations we receive through the Poor Box. Be assured that we keep a strict record of how we disperse any funds. Your generosity helps to bring something of the joy into the homes of our poor families. On their behalf: 'Thank you!'

Tabor House: With the cold nights setting in, Tabor House night shelter is providing a safe place for people experiencing homelessness in Birmingham. To support their work, you can buy a beautiful 2020 calendar online at <http://bit.ly/WASPSCalendar2020>. At £10 each, the calendars make excellent Christmas gifts and all proceeds go to the project.

Oscott College, the diocesan seminary for the formation of our future priests, will be joining us for Sunday morning Mass at 11am for various weekends during the academic year. We look forward to welcoming them to the Cathedral. Please keep them in your prayers.

Diocesan e-newsletter - Please subscribe via the website <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/> Remember to share with anyone you think will benefit, and encourage them to subscribe too. If you have any news, events or information you'd like to share this way please email it to communications@rc-birmingham.org marked 'For Newsletter'.

All University Students: New & Old - If you are a Catholic student at university and would like to meet with other students for prayer, socials and support. Please email Fr. Ray Corbett, Chaplain to Aston University (r.corbett@aston.ac.uk) University students are invited to register their emails with Fr Ray Corbett, who is the chaplain to Aston University. It is the hope that activities can be arranged in the near future. Please email Fr Ray at: catholic-chaplaincy@aston.ac.uk

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.

Vigil Praise – St. Mary's College, Oscott – 8.00pm – 9.30pm 7th December 2019. All welcome to attend a night of prayer, praise and adoration. Confessions available throughout the night.

St Chad's Junior Choir - The choir has grown out of our Choral Outreach Programme. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings during term time from 5.00pm-6.30pm. For more information please contact David and Alexander Wynne at choraloutreach@rc-birmingham.org

St. Chad's Primary School - During the winter months, some of the staff and pupils of our parish school will be braving the cold to feed some of the city centre's growing homeless population a hot breakfast. They plan to take the minibus around helping where they can as part of the 'Caritas in Action' work in which they put their faith into action. They will be appealing at the two Sunday Masses 9am & 11am on the 1st December and the Saturday 4.30pm Mass on the 7th Dec. If you can spare some change in order that they buy provisions, there will be retiring collections at each of those Masses.

Our Appeal Fund - With personal sponsorship, including our 'In Memoria' scheme, your generosity has enabled us to keep up a rolling program of restoration for many of our cathedral artefacts. How indebted we are! Thank you for the care and affection you show for our Cathedral.

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. This will help towards renovating particular items. Holy Mass will be offered for the intention of all of our Benefactors.

Faith Instruction for your Children: Please leave names and contact details with Sr. Therese.

The Sisters of Charity of St. Paul the Apostle Part-time Domestic Assistant required. See noticeboard for details.

CATHEDRAL SECURITY - For your interest and safety, we ask you to be understanding of the occasions when we have to increase security in and around the Cathedral. We ask your co-operation when we have to conduct security checks on regular parishioners as well as on our visitors. We do ask that you never leave any bags unattended while you are in the Cathedral. If anyone asks you for money, please do not give them anything but direct them to the Reception. Genuine people are never turned away. Also, we do not have toilets that are open to the public. The toilets will be opened just before Mass when the sanctuary is being prepared, and they will be closed after Mass once the sanctuary is cleared unless there is a concert or event in the Cathedral.

The CCTV System operates 24 hours a day. This is in place for the safety of people, protection of property and crime prevention.

Inquiries: 0121 230 6216 / 0121 230 6201

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>



Please switch off mobile phones when in Church.



An Induction Loop System is provided. Please switch your hearing aid to the 'T' position.



THE ARCHBISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER

Thank you for the responses we received to the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).

The letter is still available on the Archdiocese website:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>.

The Archdiocese believes that the work being done by IICSA is of great significance and supports the aim of strengthening and improving safeguarding practises and cultures within the Church.

The welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is a fundamental priority for the Archdiocese. Fostering a culture which has safeguarding at its very heart remains a key part of our work.

If you would like to speak to someone about safeguarding and the Church's work, please call **0121 230 6240**.

If you would like to speak to someone independent of the Church you can contact the NSPCC on **0800 800 5000**

Shadwell Street Development: The one way system on Shadwell Street is now in effect. A permanent fenced pit lane has been erected, reducing the street to a single lane and there are no longer any parking bays. The one-way system with traffic flow from Princip St running up to Old Snowhill means it is not possible to turn into Shadwell St from Old Snowhill/Constitution Hill or to exit the car park to the right. To enable access to the Cathedral Car Park, vehicles will have to drive past the front of the Cathedral, turning left onto Newtown Row then left on to Princip St & Shadwell St.

St. Joseph's Home, Coleshill - Offers residential care to older people and those living with dementia in a Catholic setting. Respite bedrooms are also available for those who could benefit from a short stay. If you or someone you know might benefit from the care offered at St. Joseph's, please call 01675 434500 for an informal chat or to arrange a visit.

Second Saturday Catholic Convention & Mass: Held every 2nd Saturday of the month from 8am – 4pm at Bethel Convention Centre. For details visit www.sehion.net

The Charity Bike Ride from St Mary's College, Oscott to Lourdes – COMPLETED! Seminarians from our Diocesan Seminary have been cycling (virtually) the mileage from Birmingham to Lourdes in order to raise money for the ACROSS Trust, sending people with disabilities to Lourdes in a purpose-built hospital bus – the Jumbulance. Congratulations to all those who took part. If you would like to sponsor this great achievement, please visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cyclingseminarians>

Volunteers needed: Could it be you? Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation providing marriage preparation and relationship counselling services through 50 centres across England and Wales. Our centre in Acocks Green is in need of **Marriage Preparation Course Facilitators** to present and facilitate marriage preparation courses to small groups of engaged couples. We provide all the training you need to fulfil the role and you will be volunteering with other like-minded people. For more information please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk

Help with cleaning the Cathedral: We are seeking people who would be happy to join a team of volunteers to help with the cathedral on an occasional basis at a time to be agreed? Should you be interested or require further information please contact Sr Thérèse or Andrew. Many thanks. Thank you to those who have responded so far.

The **Basilican Magazine** is now on sale at the back of the Cathedral. It contains some very interesting articles the first of which is by Archbishop Bernard Longley. There are also articles by two of the youth who spoke in the Cathedral about their experiences at the World Youth Day in Panama earlier this year, two historical pieces and coverage of this year's flower festival. The cost of the Magazine is £5, which all goes towards supporting the Cathedral, and there is a box on the back wall for your money.

Pugin Society - Would you be interested in learning more about AWN Pugin, the eminent Victorian architect who designed this Cathedral and the interiors of the Houses of Parliament. The Pugin Society founded in 1995 offers a lively range of events, study tours, talks and publications. Details: www.thepuginsociety.co.uk