



Metropolitan Cathedral & Basilica of St Chad

St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6EU



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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



Third Sunday of Advent

15th December 2019

Divine Office: Psalter week

Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Year C. Psalter Week 3

- Entrance Antiphon** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.
- Responsorial Psalm** Come, Lord, and save us.
- Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord has been given me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!
- Communion Antiphon:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



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Mass Times: 14th December – 22nd December 2019

Sat 14 St John of the Cross
10.00am Mary McDermott (Sick)

Vigil for Third Sunday of Advent

4.30pm Aiden Bradley RIP

Sun 15 Third Sunday of Advent

9.00am People of the Parish
11.00am Mary Cotterill RIP

Mon 16 Advent Feria

12.15pm Patricia Flanagan RIP

Tue 17 Advent Feria

12.15pm Baby Isaac Mendinca RIP
12.30pm Mass in the Children's Hospital
6.00pm St Chad's School Christmas Production

Wed 18 Advent Feria

12.15pm Thomas, Mary & Liam Flaherty

Thurs 19 Advent Feria

9.00am St Chad's School Mass (In School)
12.15pm Staff & Clergy of Archbishop's House
and Curial Offices

Friday 20 Advent Feria

12.15pm Mr K.J Cherian

Sat 21 Advent Feria

10.00am Sylvia, Vic & Family – Int.

Vigil for Fourth Sunday of Advent

4.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.00am Margaret Garvey RIP
11.00am Emily Foster (Sp. Int.)
5.00pm Cathedral Carol Service
*Followed by Mulled wine & mince pies
in the Grimshaw Room*

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 5th January 2020**

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

Year of the Word – The God who Speaks - We are most grateful to **Steve Martin and School Signs (Bromsgrove)** for their generous gift to the Cathedral and the Archdiocese of the attractive banners for the year ahead.

Cathedral Collections Last Week

**Main £275.82 Restoration Fund £137.41
Gift Aid £189.00**

Cathedral Site Statistics:

1st December – 7th December 2019

Hours we were open **106.5**
Liturgies & Meetings **131**
Number of Visitors **3261**

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

Recently Deceased: Philomena O'Connor, John Keane, Mary Connolly, Bridget Broom, Jonny Boyle, Liz Wainhouse, Michael Browne and Fr John Ellis.

For those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Mgr. Bernard Navin. Frs.: Michael McKiernan, Peter Kavanagh, Fergus O'Connell, Daniel O'Connor, Michael O'Meara. Deacon: Bryan Salter and Henry Atkinson Also: John Kieilty, Mary Cotterill, Martin Foody, Michael Breen, Tommy Hughes, Jackie Price, Robert Evans, Michael Duff, Mick Byrne and Remo Forcellini.

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.

Walk with Me for the Advent & Christmas Season: Books and Calendars are available.

These are great companions for Advent, & throughout Christmas especially for the housebound. Please place your donations in the wall box marked Books.

Next Steps on your Faith Journey. Please take a copy of the purple booklet which is at the rear of the Cathedral. All feedback welcome.

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 staff, children and families of St Chad's Primary School who will hold their Christmas Production at the Cathedral on 17th December. Welcome also to those involved in the Christmas celebrations from St Chad's Sanctuary. Also to visitors who join us for our annual Christmas Carol Service.

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 is now available at the back of the Cathedral. Why not consider inviting family and friends to come to a Mass or service with you at St Chad's cathedral this Christmas?

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. **This weekend, the flowers are dedicated to William Clissitt.**

The Recitation of the Angelus – PLEASE NOTE

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.

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.**

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Cathedral House Reception will close at 12 noon on Thursday 19th December. Normal hours will resume on Friday 20th December.



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/WASPCalendar2020>. 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

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

Christmas Volunteering at Tabor House – Night Shelter for the Homeless. Tabor House would be very pleased to hear from you if you are able to offer support – particularly for morning, evening and overnight on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. **Please call Sharon McCall on 07387418319 email: sharonmccall@fatherhudsons.org.uk**

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>

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 did an appeal at the two Sunday Masses on 1st December and again on Saturday 7th December at the 4.30pm Mass. **Thank you to those of you who so generously gave to this cause.**

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.

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.

Fr Hudson's Care 116th Annual Fundraising Ball
Saturday 1st February 2020 – 7.30pm – 1.00am.
At St John's Hotel, 651 Warwick Road, Solihull, B91 1AT
Tickets are available from Ginny Cullen on 01675 434015 or fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk

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.

Please switch off mobile phones when in Church. 

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

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.

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.

St Chad's Junior Choir - The choir has grown out of our Choral Outreach Programme. The junior Choir are now on their Christmas break and will return in the New Year. For more information please contact David and Alexander Wynne at choraloutreach@rc-birmingham.org

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

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

Peace Sunday – 19th January 2020 Pax Christi, International Catholic Movement for Peace. Further information can be found at: www.paxchristi.org.uk
www.facebook.com/PaxChristiuk

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.