



Metropolitan Cathedral & Basilica of St Chad

St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6EU



Tel: Cathedral House 0121 230 6211 Fax: 0121 230 6281

Website: www.stchadscathedral.org.uk

Twitter: @StChadsBirm Facebook: St Chad's Cathedral

Archdiocese Website: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

Cathedral Dean – Mgr. Timothy Menezes - 0121 230 6209 Email: dean.stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk

Assistant Priest – Fr Andrey Pukhaev Email: fr.andrev.pukhaev@rcaob.org.uk

Priests who assist regularly at Cathedral Masses: Fr. Christopher Marshall & Canon Michael Leadbeater
Sister Thérèse O'Brien (Pastoral Assistant) 07985 149141

Chaplains to Birmingham Children's Hospital Fr. Gerry Lennon and Sister Florence Njoku

Fr Ray Corbett (Universities): r.corbett@aston.ac.uk Catholic Student Societies: www.cathchaps.co.uk

Mrs. Margaret Harrold (Parish Safeguarding Representative) Tel: 07798 837684 e-mail: sg.stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk

Andrew De Valliere (Site Manager) 0121 230 6205 e-mail: sm.stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk

Trish Brookes (Dean's P.A.) 0121 230 6211 e-mail: trish.brookes@rcaob.org.uk

Margaret Regan (Finance) 0121 230 6208 e-mail: pt.stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk

Karleen Lowes (Education Visits Coordinator & Cathedral Parish Administrator) 0121 230 6215
e-mail: karla.lowes@rcaob.org.uk

Director of Music: Professor David Saint. Assistant Director of Music: Nigel Morris;

Organiste Honoraire: John Pryer;

0121 230 6247 e-mail: music.stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk

Junior Choir/Choral Outreach: choraloutreach@rcaob.org.uk

St. Chad's Catholic Primary School: Mrs Martina Parker (Head Teacher) 0121 464 6554

Cathedral Bookshop (Society of St Paul) Lorenzo Torri (Manager) 0121 236 6336

Kath White - Lourdes Pilgrimage Office: 0121 230 6288

Sister Margaret Walsh - Trustee (St. Chad's Sanctuary Mon / Wed / Fri. 10.30am-3.00pm)

Abigail Martin – St. Chad's Sanctuary Project Manager Tel: 0121 233 3127

Fourth Sunday of Advent

'Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers'

19th December 2021

Divine Office: Psalter Week 4 Fourth Sunday in Advent (C)

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 God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

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.




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We are pleased to inform you all Masses at the Cathedral will be live streamed. Please visit our website for details.

All Ceremonies are open to the public, unless otherwise stated. Please check the Cathedral website homepage for changes and if in doubt refresh the page to see most up to date notices.

ALL CURRENT COVID CONDITIONS REMAIN.

Mass Times: 18th December – 26th December 2021

Sat 18 Advent Feria

10.00am Fr Dan O'Connor RIP (Anniversary)

Vigil for Fourth Sunday in Advent (C)

4.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

9.30am Martin & Margaret Garvey RIP

11.30am Mary Cotterill RIP

5.00pm Cathedral Choir Carol Service (Open)

Mon 20 Advent Feria

12.15pm Ints. of Paul Costello

Tue 21 Advent Feria

12.15pm Fr Brian Doolan RIP (Anniversary)

Wed 22 Advent Feria

12.15pm Canon Gerry Breen RIP (Anniversary)

Thurs 23 Advent Feria

12.15pm For the Christians in the Holy Land

(Live Stream only)

Friday 24 Advent Feria

12.15pm Michael Hake RIP **(Live Stream only)**

11.45pm **Mass at Midnight** – People of the Parish
Broadcast live on BBC1

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.

Sat 25 Christmas Day

8.00am Mgr. Thomas Gavin RIP (Anniversary)

9.30am For those homeless this Christmas

11.30am For Refugees

No 4.30pm Mass on Christmas Day.

Sun 26 Feast of the Holy Family (C)

9.30am Steve Bowen's Intentions

11.30am Brian & Maura Fitzpatrick (wedding anniversary)

The God Who Speaks – Next Sunday's Readings:
Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Year C):
Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 127; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52 www.godwhospeaks.uk

Livestream Masses at St Chad's in the coming days – Please Note that Confessions and Mass happen as normal until Wednesday 22nd Dec. **On Thursday (23rd) and Friday (24th) there will be no Confessions and Livestream Only Mass. Masses from 27th – 31st December, all Masses will be Livestream Only. Then on Saturday 1st January there will be one Mass only at 12 noon. (Open)**

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December:

Catechists - Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Cathedral Prayers Lists

Recently Deceased: Bridie Keelan, Kevin Bissell, Janet Scott, Jadwiga Petryk, & Mary Withers, Arthur Labinjo-Hughes as well as all victims of COVID.

Those who are ill: We pray for Kevin and Jane Goodyear, Frances Crockett, Bobby (Bhupinder) Bansal, Ray Norris, Harpal and our parishioners, family and friends who are sick.

For those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Bishop Francis Thomas. Mgr. Patrick O'Mahoney and Mgr. Thomas Gavin. Canon Gerald Breen. Frs.: Edmund Motherway, Brian Doolan, Patrick Wall, Anthony Ireland, Thomas Meagherm, Denis Murphy, Colum McCabe and James McNerney. Also: Jackie Price, Robert Evans, Val Bishop, Philomena Hanagan, Michael Duff, Mick Byrne, Remo Forcellini, Denis Kelly, Andreas Advincola, Joyce Hughes, Mary Mahoney, Mr Mattison, Mary McMahan & Maureen Wright.

Christmas Offerings for the Cathedral

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

Christmas 2021 at St Chad's Cathedral – there are some important changes to the normal Christmas programme at St Chad's this year and we thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please see the guidelines on our website. Headlines: Midnight Mass will be on BBC1 TV (but sadly not open to the public beyond those involved). Also, no Masses on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day: 8am, 9.30am and 11.30am. All 3 Masses are open and no booking is required.

The Birmingham Clean Air Zone came into force on **Monday 14th June 2021** which will affect parishioners, staff and volunteers who travel to the Cathedral by car. Please check whether you need to pay this charge: www.brumbreathes.co.uk

Thank you from Fr Tomas: Fr Tomas sends greetings and best wishes from his new parish of St Mary's in Brewood. He thanks you for the gift that he received following our recent collection for him. He will invite parishioners to his Induction as Parish Priest in the new year.

THIS CATHEDRAL LIVE STREAMS

MASS AND OTHER EVENTS 

Responding to Archbishop Bernard's vision for the Archdiocese - [Diocesan Vision, Unfolding God's Plan | Birmingham Diocesan Trust \(birminghamdiocese.org.uk\)](#).

The overall themes of the Diocesan Plan are: Co-responsibility in the life of the Church and the place of families and young people.

Then there are themes: Evangelisation (proclaiming the Good News), Formation (growing in our life of faith), Worship and Sacramental Life (public prayer and its place in our life of faith) and Charity and Social Outreach (being heralds of the Good News to the Poor).

How are you being called to serve the Lord?

Diocesan Vision Prayer –

Spirit of God,
descend on me this day.
Grant me the Spirit of joy, to lift me,
the Spirit of hope to inspire me,
the Spirit of love to surround me and
the Spirit of truth to enlighten my path.

Holy Spirit,
I pray for a new outpouring of your grace,
so that I may grow in worship of your name
in love of you in my prayer
and in my actions towards others.

Come Holy Spirit into my life to guide me.
Strengthen and defend me,
so that I may be drawn ever closer to you.
Help me this day and always
to be a channel of grace
in all I say and do
and invite others into relationship with you.
Amen

Restoration of the Stations of the Cross: All are invited to support an intricate restoration project to return the Stations of the Cross to their former glory. It is hoped that donations will be secured to restore all 14 Stations. Each Station will cost approximately £4000 to be treated. If you are able to support this project, please contact Fr Tim at: dean.stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk.

Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer – Have you managed to have a look at the website and have you even been able to send in an account of an Answer to Prayer that you or somebody close to you has known at any time? There has been a major fundraising campaign but it is just the idea of recalling God's goodness in our lives and sharing that Good News that is a motivation for us to be involved. www.thewall.org.uk

CAFOD World Gifts Looking for gift idea? Why not give a CAFOD World Gift? Gifts range start from £9. In the current climate, a nice gift might be PPE for a health worker. Orders can be made through the catalogue (Please ask us) or at: www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

The Synod Process & the Diocesan Vision – There is information emerging about the Synod Process which can be found on the Cathedral website. The latest document is called *Walking Together* and forms the basis for our parishes to engage with the process. Why not take the time over Christmas to look at some of the questions?

Advent – a video to increase your knowledge of this Season - [Diocesan Vision - the Season of Advent | Birmingham Diocesan Trust \(birminghamdiocese.org.uk\)](#)
Please watch it (10 mins) and share it widely.

Time To Reflect – The **Advent Cathedral Corner** on our website helps us to understand some of the richness of the Season of Advent, especially the first half of Advent.

Scripture and Liturgy Booklet – The booklet for December is now available on our website. The Word of God is at the heart of the life of faith.

St Chad's Sanctuary – our parish charity.

Thank you for the generosity you have shown recently by bringing items for the Sanctuary and by donating financially to its work. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated, especially most by those you might never meet, but whose lives are changed for the better by our love of neighbour: www.stchadssanctuary.com. Donations for the Sanctuary can be given in here at the Cathedral at any time and will be passed on. **Please consider a gift for somebody in this need whom you might never meet, but as we prepare to show love to those nearest to us, remember those who are far from those they love this Christmas.**

Click on the Sanctuary button on our Cathedral website homepage for the weekly newsletter.

I was a stranger and you made me welcome!

Diocesan Ministry for Young People – For details of all that is happening for young people in our Archdiocese, please visit: www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk

Society of St Vincent de Paul – We have begun a new SVP Conference here at St Chad's. It is still very early days and anybody who wishes to join is most welcome. Please let one of the priests know and we can give you more information.

One of our first projects is to prepare and give out hampers of food for Christmas. Thank you to SVP Members who worked hard and effectively to make this happen.

As a simple way of supporting the SVP at this early stage, why not collect any spare coins that you might have around your house. If everybody brought in a bag of coins that they are not really using anymore... Thank you

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



Please switch off mobile phones when in Church.



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



The programme for Masses is:

Monday to Friday 12.15pm

Saturday 10am & 4.30pm (Vigil Mass of Sunday) – Confessions after both Masses

Sunday 9.30am & 11.30am

The Cathedral will be open on weekdays from 11.00am and close at 2.00pm (Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available from 11.30am – 12noon.)

Masses will be as follows:

Saturday 10.00am & 4.30pm; Sunday 9.30am and 11.30am. Please note these changes.

The Cathedral will be open half an hour before each weekend Mass and will close soon after the conclusion of Mass.

Holy Communion – Due to the prevailing risk, the norm for receiving Communion remains on the hand. For those who wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please come to the altar when the rest of the congregation has received communion, as the Minister of Holy Communion will need to sanitise his/her hands after every person receiving on the tongue.

The Bishops of England and Wales wish to make it clear that there remains no obligation for your attendance at Mass on Sunday. Therefore, you are most welcome at Mass on any day of the week.

We shall not operate any booking system. Please come to Mass if you wish to and feel safe to. We apologise in advance if you come to the Cathedral and we have already reached capacity. However, we hope that the number of Masses across the week will enable anybody who wishes to come, to be present at least once a week as everybody who wishes can hope to make a safe return to the celebration of Mass.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF SAFETY FOR ALL CONCERNED WE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THAT ALL THOSE COMING IN TO THE CATHEDRAL MUST WEAR SOME FORM OF FACE COVERING WHICH YOU BRING YOURSELF AND MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING DESPITE THE CHANGES ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

At present, we must inform you that the following conditions remain in place at the Cathedral:

Toilet facilities – please speak to a Steward who will direct you to the toilets in the Reception area and return with you to the Cathedral.

No distribution of Holy Water at doors or for home

No gathering for conversation before or after Mass

Mass Cards – During our opening hours the Stewards will assist with the signing of Mass cards in the Cathedral.

You are asked to cooperate fully with the staff and stewards who will show you to a designated seat in the Cathedral.

The capacity for seating in this new arrangement in the Cathedral is **50 individual seats**.

The safety of those who come as well as the safety of our staff is our highest priority at this time.

Please do not come to the Cathedral if you present any symptoms of the coronavirus or are living in a house with anybody who presents symptoms.

Every person entering the Cathedral is asked to take personal responsibility for respecting social distancing and the wellbeing of others as well as themselves. Please cooperate with the test & trace procedures when coming to the Cathedral. **NHS Test and Trace** is a key part of the country's ongoing COVID-19 response. If we can rapidly detect people who have recently come into close contact with a new COVID-19 case, we can take swift action to minimise transmission of the virus. **The NHS COVID-19 app** has a feature that allows users to quickly and easily 'check in' to your venue by scanning the code. The information stays on the user's phone. In England, you do not have to ask people who choose to 'check in' using the official NHS QR code to provide their contact details. If there is an outbreak associated with a venue, a message will be sent to the relevant app users with the necessary public health advice. By maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors, and displaying an official NHS QR poster, you will help NHS Test and Trace to identify and notify people who may have been exposed to the virus. This will help to avoid the reintroduction of lockdown measures and support the country to return to, and maintain, a more normal way of life. You can read further information on [how NHS Test and Trace works](#).

For any enquiries about any of the above information, please contact:

dean.stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk

0121 230 6209

May God bless you.