



Metropolitan Cathedral & Basilica of St Chad

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

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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

Third Sunday of Advent



11th December 2022

Divine Office: Psalter Week 3; Weekday Readings Cycle 2

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

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 most up to date notices. SOME COVID CONDITIONS REMAIN.

Mass Times: 10th December – 18th December 2022

Sat 10 Vigil for the Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

4.30pm Intentions of Hudi O'Donnell

Sun 11 Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

9.30am Shay & Kathleen Hall

11.30am People of the Parish

Mon 12 Advent Feria (Optional)

12.15pm Mary Gately RIP

Tue 13 Memorial of St Lucy

12.15pm Cynthia Nazareth RIP

Wed 14 Memorial of St John of the Cross

12.15pm Intentions of Mr & Mrs McDermott

Thurs 15 Advent Feria

12.15pm Alejandro Volante Snr

Friday 16 Advent Feria

12.15pm Ints of Diocesan Staff & families

Sat 17

12.00noon Wedding of Sarah Round & Chun Kidd Chung

Vigil for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

4.30pm Baby Isaac Mendonca RIP (Anniv.)

Sun 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

'Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers'

9.30am Martin & Margaret Garvey RIP

11.30am People of the Parish

5.00pm Cathedral Carol Service

Supporting your Cathedral: It couldn't be simpler. Just point your smartphone camera at the code below, wherever you are, and it will take you to a giving page. Please remember us in your will.



The Deanery (Catholic area) in which the Cathedral is situated has grown!

As well as including most of the Catholic parishes of central Birmingham, our Deanery has now joined with South Birmingham Deanery and has encompassed parishes as wide-ranging as Oldbury, Warley, Halesowen, Redditch, Studley and Bromsgrove.

The God Who Speaks – Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 23; Romans 1:1-7;

Matthew 1:18-24 www.godwhospeaks.uk

Christmas & New Year Masses – Please collect separate green sheet which is now available (information also available on Cathedral website).

First Sunday of the Month Meet & Greet: The next Meet & Greet will be transferred to Sunday 8th January 2023 in the Grimshaw Room, where there will be tea and coffee after the 9.30 Mass. **St Paul's Bookshop is also open on the first Sunday of the month.**

Please don't leave your belongings unattended at any time.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December: For volunteer not-for-profit organisations – We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Cathedral Prayers Lists

Recently Deceased: Archbishop Mario Conti; Fr Ian Ker, John Fitzpatrick-Ellis, Jane Nethercott, and victims of COVID, natural disaster and world conflicts.

Those who are ill: Michael Hodgetts, Denis O'Mahoney, Peter Waldron, Jane Goodyear, Frances Crockett, Ray Norris, Harpal, Baby George, Finn, Baby Alice, Chris Saint, Joan Socci, Marie Chatten, and our parishioners, family and friends who are sick at home or in hospital.

For those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Mgr. Canon Francis Drinkwater. Canon Joseph Walsh. Frs.: Vincent Lucas, William Browne, John Ellis, Cyril Barlow, Joseph Rowland, Denis Ryan, Peter Kavanagh, Fergus O'Connell, John Dewis, Daniel O'Connor, Michael O'Meara; Deacons Bryan Salter and Henry Atkinson. Also: Michael Breen, Tommy Hughes, Barbara Brown, Maria Hong Chan, Socrate Bisconti, Marian Bird, John Kieley, Mary Cotterill, Martin Foody and Baby Isaac Mendonca.

St. Chad's Cathedral Carol Service – 5.00pm on Sunday 18th December 2022 – 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.

Christmas Offerings for the Cathedral Clergy:

As is customary your offerings during Christmas will be for the Cathedral clergy. Envelopes are available for this purpose at the back of the Cathedral. You may use the online donation system too.

Tabor House / Tabor Living – For the past 5 years, there has been an all-year-round homelessness project in Birmingham City Centre which has been supported by Fr Hudson's Care and by some generous local businesses and willing volunteers.

From its origins as a night shelter, Covid times made it home day and night. That requires a lot of volunteers doing a weekly shift (usually 6pm to 9pm on a weekday or a few hours on a Saturday or Sunday). The project is soon to relocate to St Catherine's Church, Bristol Street, Birmingham and there is currently a recruitment drive for new volunteers. If you would like to become a volunteer, please speak to Fr Tim.

Visit the website at www.taborliving.co.uk

Feeding your Faith (RCIA)

We have begun a series of talks on the Catholic Faith again with our friends in the neighbouring parish of St Catherine's, Bristol Street.

Now is the time to consider the steps of faith that might be for you:

Any adult who would like to explore the Catholic Faith with a view to becoming a Catholic.

Children who are not at Catholic schools and who would like Sacramental Preparation.

Please speak to Fr Tim or email your request.

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

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

Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer – This promises to be an important year for this project and you are asked to support it together with Christians around our country and beyond.

How can you support it?

- 1) Financially – see website below
- 2) By Prayer
- 3) By sending in real answers to prayer that you have experienced in your life.

www.thewall.org.uk.

Are you new to our Cathedral Parish? If so, please stop and say hello to the priest at the end of Mass. Fr Tim, the parish priest, is assisted by visiting priests. We look forward to welcoming you and involving you in the life of our parish. We welcome your offers of support for parish activities and fundraising ideas.

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 6211



St Chad's Sanctuary – our parish charity.

www.stchadssanctuary.com. The work of St Chad's Sanctuary continues and the demands on its services is greater than ever. **Currently appealing for good-condition winter coats (especially men's) that you no longer use.** You can give them to our stewards at Mass.

If you use Amazon regularly, you can make St Chad's Sanctuary a beneficiary of Smile Amazon and our local charity will receive a donation every time you buy something through Smile Amazon. They say that charity begins at home! Thank you for all the coats recently!

SVP – Society of St Vincent de Paul.

This month marks the first anniversary of the establishing of an SVP Conference in our Cathedral parish. A word of appreciation for the work of this group – membership is open to any parishioners, for a monthly meeting and follow up work. The SVP organizes *Meet and Greet* each month; liaises with our parish primary school, St Chad's and follows up on referrals that are given by ordinary people like you, aware to the needs of those around us.

Birmingham Irish Heritage Group – meets on the first Monday of each month at the Sacred Heart Club, Grange Road, Aston from 7pm to 9pm. All welcome.

There is parking at the Sacred Heart Club and Sacred Heart Church is on the No.7 Bus Route from Birmingham.

Weekend Masses at Sacred Heart are 12.30pm on Saturday and 10.15am on Sunday. All welcome.

Our Digital 'Tap and go' devices are out of use until approximately 21st December. Your donations are very important to us, and we would ask in the meantime that you consider one of the following alternatives: **QR code** – available on this newsletter, or at the back of the Cathedral and on the Cathedral website; **Standing order** – For regular giving. Forms available at the back of the Cathedral or you can set up via your online banking service. **Gift Aid Envelopes** – available on request. Contact the parish Treasurer on pt.stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk or one of the Cathedral stewards. **Cash** – Collection bags are now back in use during and after Masses

Thank you for your help and understanding

Fundraising Ideas for St Chad's Cathedral. It is well known that Cathedrals take a lot of maintenance and tender loving care. We have inherited something precious by way of history and architecture, but also a building of prayer and a beacon of faith.

As the Cathedral draws on people beyond the geography of the parish, we depend on our parishioners to consider different ways of supporting the Cathedral's Mission. If your workplace or you as individuals have ideas for fundraising, being custodians of our Cathedral for future generations, we would be delighted to hear about them.

Please switch off mobile phones when in Church.

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

Cathedral Flowers -

We are now taking floral tribute requests for 2023. 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.

Monthly Organ Recitals: Coming soon: details of the 2023 series which begins on **Thursday 5 January 2023** at 1:15pm played by Cathedral Assistant Director of Music, Nigel Morris. www.thursdaylive.org

The normal programme for Masses is:

Monday to Friday 12.15pm

Saturday 4.30pm (Vigil Mass of Sunday) – Confessions after Mass

Sunday 9.30am & 11.30am

The Cathedral will be open on weekdays from 9.30am and close at 3.30pm (Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available from 11.30am – 12noon.)

Confessions are now being heard once again in the Confessionals.

The Cathedral will be open at 11.00am and close after Mass at 4.30pm on Saturdays and open at 9.00am and close after the 11.30am Mass on Sundays.

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 as the end of the congregational procession has received communion, as the Minister of Holy Communion will need to sanitise his/her hands after every person receiving on the tongue.

The Holy Season of Advent:

Every ‘new year’ is an opportunity to put in place new ways of living and new ways of praying...

Advent *Walk With Me* booklets and calendars are available. Please make a donation for them if you are able.

The first half of Advent lasts from the First Sunday of Advent to 16th December. The focus of this first half of Advent is the Second Coming of Christ in Glory at the End of Time. So, it is really not to do with Christmas and Bethlehem. That comes later. But listen closely to the prayers of the Mass and you will hear how often the phrase ‘until you come again’ or ‘Second Coming’ are mentioned all the year round..

The Second half of Advent from 17th to 24th December is very much focussed on Bethlehem and preparing for the birth of Jesus and the greater mystery of the Incarnation which the Bethlehem event represents.

The key figures of the holy Season of Advent are Isaiah in the Old Testament and then Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph in the Gospels.

Musically, at this time of year, we can be inspired by *The Messiah* by Handel. If you want to look for something contemporary on music channels, why not try *The Promise*, a collection by CJM Music / Boyce and Stanley?

The next stage of the Synod Process: You will know that the Synod Process began with every parish called upon to consider its place in the life of the Church. From the parish responses, each diocese compiled its own document / digest ([Download.ashx \(birminghamdiocese.org.uk\)](http://Download.ashx(birminghamdiocese.org.uk))). From the compilation of themes at diocesan level, our Bishops’ Conference (and every Bishops’ Conference around the world) provided a National Synthesis ([synod-national-synthesis-england-wales.pdf \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://synod-national-synthesis-england-wales.pdf(cbcew.org.uk))). Please see the Reflection document given by the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales to our national synthesis stage:

[Bishops-Reflection-Synodal-National-Synthesis.pdf \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://Bishops-Reflection-Synodal-National-Synthesis.pdf(cbcew.org.uk))

As the Synod moves onto the next stage, the countries of each continent collaborate to create a continental document, and this is the latest stage for us to consider: ([WORKING DOCUMENT FOR THE CONTINENTAL STAGE \(synod.va\)](http://WORKING DOCUMENT FOR THE CONTINENTAL STAGE(synod.va))).

It is a given that when something moves from the level of parish to diocese, and from diocesan to national, and now beyond national to continental, the nature of the document changes.

Christmas 2022 Masses at St Chad’s Cathedral: The times of Masses this Christmas take into account Fr Tim’s responsibilities at Sacred Heart Parish in Aston.

Saturday 17th December – there will be an opportunity for Confession from 3pm to 4pm.

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd December – Normal Mass at 12.15pm (with an hour of Confessions each day that week from 11am to 12 noon).

Christmas Eve (Saturday 24th December) – Mass of Christmas at **7.30pm** (No 4.30pm Mass on Christmas Eve) Mass at mid-night – begins at **11.45pm** with the blessing of the Crib.

Christmas Day (Sunday 25th December) – normal Sunday Mass times: **9.30am and 11.30am.**

Monday 26th to Friday 30th December – 10am Mass each day.