



Metropolitan Cathedral & Basilica of St Chad

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

Priests who assist regularly at Cathedral Masses: Fr. Christopher Marshall, Canon Michael Leadbeater, Fr Leonard Cox, Fr Craig Szmidt, Fr Andrew Robinson.

Sister Thérèse O'Brien (Pastoral Assistant)

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

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Director of Music: Professor David Saint. music.stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk 0121 230 6247

Assistant Director of Music: Nigel Morris; Organiste Honoraire: John Pryer;

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

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

Safeguarding: *The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese's policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Margaret Harrold. She can be contacted at: sg.stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.*

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)



10th December 2023

Divine Office: Psalter Week 2; Advent Readings; Week 2 of Advent

Entrance Antiphon O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Responsorial Psalm Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. All mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



We are pleased to inform you all Masses at the Cathedral will be live streamed. Please check the Cathedral website homepage for changes and most up to date notices. The Cathedral is open from 9.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday, 11am until after the 4.30pm Mass and Confessions on Saturdays and from 9am until after the 11.30am Mass on Sunday.

Mass Times: 9th December – 17th December 2023

Sat 9	Vigil for Second Sunday of Advent (B) 4.30pm Intentions of Frances & Mike Crockett
Sun 10	Second Sunday of Advent (B) 9.30am People of the Parish 11.30am Michael Hodgetts RIP
Mon 11	Advent Feria 12.15am Ned & Nancy Redmond
Tues 12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe 12.15pm Mass for LIFE <i>Celebrant - Archbishop Bernard Longley</i>
Wed 13	Memorial St Lucy 12.15pm Thomas, Mary & Liam Flaherty
Thurs 14	Memorial of St John of the Cross 12.15pm Gately Family – deceased & living
Friday 15	Advent Feria 12.15pm Ints of Staff & Clergy of Cathedral & Curia <i>Celebrant – Archbishop Bernard Longley</i>
Sat 16	Vigil for Third Sunday of Advent (B) 4.30pm Michael McMahon RIP
Sun 17	Third Sunday of Advent (B) 9.30am Intentions of Minh & John Lane 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.



C'est la confiance: The title of a recent letter of Pope Francis to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of St Therese of Lisieux. It is beautiful and worth a read. Available online.

First Sunday of the Month Meet & Greet: The next Meet & Greet will be in the Grimshaw Room this Sunday (7th January), where there will be tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass. The bookshop will be open on this day. Let's build community! Come before the 11.30am Mass.

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

Christmas & New Year Masses – Please collect separate sheet which is available at the back of the Cathedral.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December:

For persons with disabilities:

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

Prayers for Recently Deceased: Frs. Sean Turley, Edwin Cownley and Paul Chavasse. Also Anthony Robinson, Elaine Harper, Debbie Perks, Rebecca Clary, Jackie Carron, Jenifer Cummings and Mary Hughes (nee Taylor)

Prayers for those who are ill: Fr. Michael Ho, Patricia Halpin, Lankesh Ratnajothy, Belarmino Antao, Peter Waldron, Jane Goodyear, Frances Crockett, Ray Norris, Harpal, Baby George, Finn, Baby Alice, Chris Saint, Joan Socci, Oscar, Marie Chatten, Maria Tessaro and our parishioners, family and friends who are sick at home or in hospital.

Prayers for those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Frs.: Thomas McMorro, Jerome O'Flynn, Hugh Malloy, Vincent Lucas, William Browne, John Ellis, Cyril Barlow, Joseph Rowland, Denis Ryan, Fergus O'Connell, John Dewis, Daniel O'Connor & Michael O'Meara. Deacons.: Brian Salter & Henry Atkinson. Also Bridie Ryan, Michael Hodgetts, Mary Gibbons, Maria Hong Chan, Barbara Brown, Socrate Bisconti, Marian Bird, John Kielty, Mary Cotterill, Martin Foody, Baby Isaac Mendonca, Michael Breen & Tommy Hughes.

The Synod of Bishops – a Synthesis document has been produced following the month-long Synod Gathering in Rome.

This is available on our Cathedral website and you are encouraged to read some of the main themes that have come through. This will give rise to further reflection until the next stage, another month-long gathering in Rome next October.

Cathedral Carol Service: Next Sunday (17th December) at 5.00pm. Please come along and listen to our magnificent Cathedral Singers under the direction of Professor David Saint sing a variety of Christmas carols and motets interspersed with reading from the Scriptures. No booking required. Retiring Collection for our Parish SVP. Refreshments in the Grimshaw Room afterwards.

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.

The God Who Speaks: Next Sunday's Readings: **Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11; Psalm Luke 1:46-50, 53-54 (R Is 61:10); 1Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8. 19-28** www.godwhospeaks.uk

Feeding your Faith (RCIA)

A number of people have expressed an interest in pursuing the Catholic faith. **We continue our sessions on the Catholic Faith on Thursday evenings at St Catherine's Church, Bristol Street, 7pm-8.30pm.** Everybody is welcome but if you would like to know more, please introduce yourself after Sunday Mass. Also children for Sacramental Preparation. Please speak to Fr Tim or email your request. If you want to feed your faith in a time of your choosing, look at the website www.sycamore.fm

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

Love the Stranger: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales presents a Catholic response to refugees and migrants. It is a 2023 document of the Department for International Affairs. Please take the time to read this document. [Love the Stranger - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#) (cbcew.org.uk). Also on Cathedral website.

Sacred Heart Church, Aston – Birmingham Irish Heritage Group – Meets on the first Monday of every month at Sacred Heart, Club, Aston. Next meeting: **Mon 8th January**. 7pm to 9pm. All welcome. Sacred Heart Church is on the No.7 Bus Route from Birmingham.

Weekly Diocesan E-newsletter – Please sign up to receive this at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk. It gives you a good sense of what is happening around our Archdiocese and beyond. Make it part of your Catholic life to know what is happening.

PACT – Operation Elf! (Prison Care and Advice Trust)

The response to this appeal has already been overwhelming. **Thank you so much** for your generosity towards the children of those in prison at HMP Birmingham this Christmas. Thank you for bringing joy to the children of those in prison. Thank you for giving dignity to those in prison through your generosity to their families at a time when they cannot be together. We are grateful to Yvonne Bridger who is our PACT parish representative.

January Rosary for Prisoners and their families:

Following your generous response for Christmas, you are asked to consider keeping this intention in your prayers by praying the Rosary once a week for prisoners & families.

SVP – Society of St Vincent de Paul - You may have heard of the work of the SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul) in the parish and in the wider Church. The SVP provides material support and companionship to local people in various kinds of need. If you need the practical support of the SVP or if you know somebody who might, please text the dedicated mobile phone: **07598 139200**. For more information please visit: www.svp.org.uk. **We currently have need for a handy person. Also somebody who is competent in electrical testing (not necessarily PAT testing).**

St Chad's Sanctuary – our parish charity. www.stchadssanctuary.com. The work of St Chad's Sanctuary continues and the demand on its services is greater than ever. We are so grateful for the food and clothes that Cathedral parishioners bring so generously week by week. One of the challenges that the Sanctuary faces is finances. Even where grant funding can be obtained it cannot be used to fund salaries. **Please continue to pray for the work of projects like St Chad's Sanctuary and pray for the dignity of those who come for its help and support.**

Aid to the Church in Need Pilgrimage In the Footsteps of the English Northern Saints - 22-27 July 2024.

Travel the pilgrim paths of the early church in Durham, Lindisfarne, Escomb, Ruthwell and Jarrow with Saints Cuthbert and Bede. This Aid to the Church in Need pilgrimage will include reflections on the persecuted Church of today and look into the history of the early church led by our pilgrim historian Suze Mathews who specialises in Anglo-Saxon history. Led by Fr Jeremy Howard, our pilgrimage chaplain, experience communal prayer of the Divine Office in beautiful surroundings, daily Mass and devotions. Fr Tim plans to go on this pilgrimage and invites St Chad's parishioners to come and see places that St Chad himself would have known. Information available on noticeboards. For more information and to book a place, please contact Teresa Kehoe: teresa.kehoe@acnuk.org.uk

Monthly Organ Recitals: Please note that the next monthly recital is on **Thursday 4th January** at 1:15pm. Please see the website www.thursdaylive.org. 2024 promises to be a special year for the recitals!

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



Please switch off mobile phones when in Church.

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

Confessions before Christmas: Local Parishes which might be helpful for you: **West Heath (Fri 15th 7pm);** Selly Park (Mon 18th 7pm); **Smethwick and Kings Heath (both Tues 19th 7pm);** Harborne (Tues 19th 7.30pm); **Quinton (Wed 20th 7pm);** Yardley Wood (Wed 20th 7.30pm); **Ss Joseph & Helen, Kings Norton (Thurs 21st 7.30pm);** Rednal (Friday 22nd 7pm. See how many opportunities are open to you here and around the city. Confession is a wonderful way of preparing a way for the coming of the Lord. Please take it.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal - Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Holy Year 2025 (Advent 2023 – Advent 2024) 2024 has been designated the Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the Our Father, which presents us with a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer. The Office for Mission will be providing suggestions and resources to help you to do that, so that our Archdiocese can have as its focus, missionary prayer and accompaniment during 2024. Consider:

- What is my experience of prayer?
 - How can I deepen my prayer life?
 - Can I help or encourage someone else to pray?
 - How can my parish grow in its love and devotion in prayer?
- Visit the Year of Prayer web page for more information and ideas:
www.vocations.org.uk/year-of-prayer-2024

Laudate Deum Pope Francis has published a second 'part' of his groundbreaking 2015 letter 'Laudato Si' on Care of the Earth, Our Common Home. The new document published this past week is called **Laudate Deum** (Praise God) and continues to call for urgent action to protect and care for the earth. This document can be found here: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html. A one-page summary of the main points is available on the Cathedral website.

Last Sunday began the holy Season of Advent (Year B, the Year of St Mark's Gospel) –

Advent is a time for being awake and alert. It is the beginning of a new Church year. To help us during Advent, we have the *Walk With Me* booklets and calendars which are available at all Masses this weekend. They are free of charge to you, but if you wish to make a donation towards the booklet, we welcome that. More Advent resources available at: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/advent>
The season of Advent is divided into two parts: the first Sunday of Advent through to 16th December takes as its focus the Second Coming of Christ in Glory at the end of time. The second part begins on 17th December and then the focus becomes the Nativity at Bethlehem. Advent is a time for active watching and waiting.

Christmas 2023 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. We are grateful for the support of visiting clergy.
Saturdays 16th & 23rd December – there will be an opportunity for Confession from 3pm to 4pm.
Monday 18th to Friday 22nd December – Normal Mass at 12.15pm (with an hour of Confessions each day that week from 11am to 12 noon).
Christmas Eve (Sunday 24th December) – Mass of Christmas at **7.30pm**
Mass at mid-night with the blessing of the Crib at **Midnight**.
Christmas Day (Monday 25th December) – Mass times: **9.30am and 11.30am**.
Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th December – Mass at 10am each day.

The normal programme for Masses is:

Monday to Friday	12.15pm
Saturday	4.30pm (Vigil Mass for 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 available from 11.30am – 12noon Monday to Friday.)

The Cathedral will be open on Saturday at 11.00am and close after the Mass at 4.30pm.

(Sacrament of Reconciliation available after the 4.30pm Mass on Saturday)

On Sunday, we open at 9.00am and close after the Mass at 11.30am.

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.

Please don't leave your belongings unattended.