



# Metropolitan Cathedral & Basilica of St Chad

## St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6EU

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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](mailto:r.corbett@aston.ac.uk) Catholic Student Societies: [www.cathchaps.co.uk](http://www.cathchaps.co.uk)

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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](mailto:sg.stchadscathedral@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.*

## Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)



17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Divine Office: Psalter Week 3; Advent Readings; Week 3 of Advent**

- Entrance Antiphon** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.
- Responsorial Psalm** My soul rejoices in my God.
- 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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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: 16<sup>th</sup> December – 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Sat 16 Vigil for Third Sunday of Advent (B)**  
4.30pm Michael McMahan 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

**Mon 18 Advent Feria**  
12.15am Catherine Chiang RIP (Anniv)

**Tues 19 Advent Feria**  
12.15pm Philip New RIP

**Wed 20 Advent Feria**  
12.15pm Adres Advincola RIP

**Thurs 21 Advent Feria**  
12.15pm Teresa Ryan RIP

**Friday 22 Advent Feria**  
12.15pm Canon Gerry Breen RIP

**Sat 23 Vigil for Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)**  
4.30pm Fr Brian Doolan RIP

**Sun 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)**  
**‘Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers’**  
9.30am Ints. of all Pastoral Clergy  
11.30am People of the parish

### THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS The Solemn Nativity of the Lord

7.30pm For peace in families in our parish  
12.00 Midnight People of the parish

**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 150<sup>th</sup> 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 (7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**We are very pleased to acknowledge** the inclusion of our Cathedral in a book called *Another Fifty Churches to see before you Die* by Elena Curti, published by Gracewing and available in our bookshop now.

**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:** Mgr. Canon William Flint. Canon Gerry Breen. Frs.: Daniel O'Connor, Michael O'Meara, Edmund Motherway, Brian Doolan, Patrick Wall Deacons.: Brian Salter & Henry Atkinson. Also: John Kielty, Mary Cotterill, Martin Foody, Baby Isaac Mendonca, Michael Breen, Tommy Hughes, Jackie Price, Robert Evans, Val Bishop, Philomena Hanagan, Michael Duff, Mick Byrne, Remo Forcellini, Denis Kelly, Andrea Advincola, Joyce Hughes, Mary Mahoney, Mr Mattison, Mary McMahan, Maureen Wright & Seamus Flynn.

**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:** This Sunday (17<sup>th</sup> 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: **2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-11,16; Psalm 88; Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38** [www.godwhospeaks.uk](http://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](http://www.sycamore.fm)

**Responding to Archbishop Bernard’s vision for the Archdiocese - [Diocesan Vision, Unfolding God's Plan Birmingham Diocesan Trust](#) ([birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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** - 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](http://www.svp.org.uk). **We currently have need for a handy person. Also somebody who is competent in electrical testing (not necessarily PAT testing).** We also need parishioners who are free during the daytime to be able to visit people in need or provide other practical support.

**St Chad’s Sanctuary** – our parish charity. [www.stchadssanctuary.com](http://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](mailto:teresa.kehoe@acnuk.org.uk)

**Monthly Organ Recitals:** Please note that the next monthly recital is on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January** at 1:15pm. Please see the website [www.thursdaylive.org](http://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** Mon 18<sup>th</sup> 7pm; **Smethwick and Kings Heath (both Tues 19<sup>th</sup> 7pm)**; Harborne (Tues 19<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm); **Quinton (Wed 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm)**; Yardley Wood (Wed 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm); **Ss Joseph & Helen, Kings Norton (Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm)**; Rednal (Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](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.

### **Holy Season of Advent (Year B, the Year of St Mark's Gospel) –**

From today, 17<sup>th</sup> December, the Church moves into the second part of the Advent Season. As Christmas Day is only a week away, this Advent, is only just over 4 Sundays but more like 3 weeks.

The second part of Advent has as its focus the birth of Christ and Bethlehem, which we contemplate as a Mystery of the Incarnation, the timeless Son of God who was with the Father from all eternity, being born in time and space, in Bethlehem, 2000 years ago.

The colour associated with this 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent is Rose – a colour of rejoicing that the Lord is near.

A tradition of the Church at this time is the O Antiphons. <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/o-antiphons-advent>

**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 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> December – there will be an opportunity for Confession from 3pm to 4pm.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Normal Mass at 12.15pm (with an hour of Confessions each day that week from 11am to 12 noon).

Christmas Eve (Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December) – Mass of Christmas at **7.30pm**

Mass at mid-night with the blessing of the Crib at **Midnight**.

Christmas Day (Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December) – Mass times: **9.30am and 11.30am**.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 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.**