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| <p><u>PARISH CLERGY:</u> FR. CRAIG DAVIES (Parish Priest)</p> <p>Rev. John Higgins (Parish Deacon)</p> | <p>ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS 39 Whetstone Lane Aldridge Walsall WS9 0JD Tel:01922 452316</p>   <p>Parish Website: www.stmaryoftheangelsaldrige.co.uk Parish Email: stmota.ald@hotmail.co.uk</p> <p>YEAR OF THE WORD</p> | <p>This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham</p> <p>Registered Charity N^o:234216</p>  |
| <p><u>PARISH REPS:</u> SAFEGUARDING: Mr Gerry Wintrip (01922 457471) HEALTH & SAFETY: Mr Phil Probert (01922 458406)</p> | | |

DATE
 Sunday 22nd December
 2019

SUNDAY
 4th Sunday of Advent
 Year A

DIVINE OFFICE
 Week 4

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| <p>Saturday 21st Dec. (1st Mass of Sunday)</p> | <p>6.00pm</p> | <p>Margaret Jessop RIP ^(DJ)</p> |
| <p>Sunday 22nd Dec. 4th Sunday of Advent</p> | <p>9.30am</p> | <p>People of the Parish</p> |
| <p>Monday 23rd Dec. Advent Feria</p> | <p>9.15am</p> | <p>Nicolette Atonasio RIP ^(YD)</p> |
| <p>Tuesday 24th Dec. Christmas Eve</p> | <p>9.15am 5.00pm 11.30pm</p> | <p>Int. of Jim Dabbs ^(YD) Int. of Emma Jones ^(SVP) Christmas Carol Service</p> |
| <p>Wednesday 25th Dec. The Nativity of the Lord</p> | <p>12.00am 9.30am</p> | <p>Geoff Jones RIP ^(AH & the Jones Family) People of the Parish</p> |
| <p>Thursday 26th Dec. Feast of St. Stephen ^{1st Martyr}</p> | <p>10.00am</p> | <p>Alice & John Murphy RIP ^(SW)</p> |
| <p>Friday 27th Dec. Feast of St. John ^{Apostle, Evangelist}</p> | <p>10.00am</p> | <p>Vera Hickson RIP ^(KH)</p> |
| <p>Saturday 28th Dec. Feast of the Holy Innocents ^{Martyrs} (1st Mass of Sunday)</p> | <p>10.00am 6.00pm</p> | <p>People of the Parish Int. of John O'Neill ^(JO'N)</p> |
| <p>Sunday 29th Dec. Feast of the Holy Family</p> | <p>9.30am</p> | <p>Int. of Josephine Coterill ^(SC)</p> |

Pope Benedict XVI

On this Sunday the Gospel according to St. Matthew recounts the birth of Jesus from St. Joseph's viewpoint. He was betrothed to Mary who, "before they came together... was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit"... St. Joseph is presented as "a just man", faithful to God's law and ready to do his will... He does not follow his own plans but entrusts himself without reserve to the infinite mercy of the One who will fulfil the prophecies and open the time of salvation.

Recently Deceased

Pray for the soul of **William Fortune, Fr. John Ellis & Fr. John Dewis**. On whose souls Sweet Jesus have mercy, may they rest in peace.

Confessions and Exposition

There will be no exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Confessions this coming Saturday.

Christmas Cards

In the meeting room there are Christmas cards advertising the times of the Christmas Services of the Churches here in Aldridge. Volunteers are needed to help with the delivery these cards to the surrounding streets. Each pile of cards has the name of a local street, and the number of cards to be delivered.

Gifts for St. Joseph's Primary Nechells

Thank you to all who donated a gift, or gifts, to be sent to the children at St. Joseph's Primary school. On Thursday they were taken to Nechells to be given to the children of some of the poorest families in the Diocese on Christmas Day. This simple act of kindness will bring great happiness to those who, without your gifts, might otherwise have had nothing.

Diocesan Directories 2020

Directories are available in the sacristy. They are priced at £5.00 a copy, money to be given to Fr. Craig.

S.V.P

The S.V.P thank you for the generous collection of £561.99. The support you give to the S.V.P is overwhelming. A Mass will be said for all our benefactors.

Craft and Natter

We have now broken up our Christmas break, returning refreshed on Tuesday January 14th at 11am, when everyone is welcome. For more information call me Christine on 01922 860981

Fr. Ryan

This weekend we welcome Fr. Ryan back to the parish from Rome for his Christmas holiday.

Christmas Crib Collection.

This year the Crib Offering is being donated to support the work of LEPROA, a charity whose work focuses on bringing help and relief to those who are suffering from Leprosy.

For more information about their work please see the notice board at the back of the church situated near the Walsingham Chapel. The donation box will be left in front of the Crib throughout the Christmas Season.

Advent Parish Draw

The advent draw started on December 1st, until the morning of Christmas Eve. The winners will be published after the last draw. **Good luck to all that have entered!**

The Big Clean

The big clean for the church will be on **Saturday 21st** or **Monday 23rd** after morning Mass. If you can spare anytime to help, please do come along.

Walsall Life

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to accommodate two new mothers-to-be last week into our house. Both received a welcome pack, which contains emergency supplies. We have two 'new baby' packs ready, one baby is due on Christmas eve and another on New Years Day. All residents will have a Christmas Dinner and a small gift. Thank you all again.

Christmas Offering Envelopes



The envelopes for your Christmas Offering for your Parish Priest are available in the Porch.

Parish Christmas Cards

The rack for your Christmas Cards is in porch again this year. Please place your cards for parishioners on the shelf with their surname initial, and be sure to look for your cards on your initial shelf.

Parish Social

The next social event will cost £8 and be on **Saturday 18th January**, after evening Mass.



Live Simply Prayer – Week 4

Lord Jesus, we await your imminent coming. When we visit the crib, give us an understanding of your incarnation, of the transformation it brings to our humanity.

Please remember to leave any stamps from your Christmas cards in the gold box in the porch for CAFOD

5pm Family Mass for Christmas



The children of the parish who are attending the Family Mass at 5pm on Christmas Eve are invited to come dressed as members of the nativity scene (i.e. Angels, Shepherds, Mary, Joseph etc). Before Mass begins the children are asked to come to the Parish Meeting Room in order to join the procession into the church at the start of the service, before returning to sit with their families. For the homily, Fr. Craig will invite the children to sit around the crib at the front of church.

Sick in the Parish

Please pray for all the sick in the parish, that God will bless and comfort them. Please remember especially:

Olivia (Dotty)^C, Deacon John, Joan Hart, Emma Jones, Anna Morgan^{nee Meehan}, Margaret Cooper, Holly Brady, Mike Mander, Jo Cooke, Anne Humphreys, Pat Gray, Paul Mott, Theresa Chandler, Evelyn Hawkley, Fr. Paul Chamberlain, Cath & Paddy Breen, Max Lewis, Mary Nix, Alma Darby, Marguerite Baxendale, Eliz McCabe, David Piggott, Mary Ellis, Clare Cooksey & Aine McDonagh.

SFA Lourdes Pilgrimage 2020

Katie C & Níamh R, would like to thank everyone who, with the kind help and support of the **Keeling School of Dance** staff, helped to make their children's Christmas Party such a success. Monies raised were for their **2020 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** with SFA.

Baptism Enquiries: If you would like to have your child Baptised here at St. Mary of the Angels please contact Fr. Craig, either at the end of Mass or by telephone, in order to book an appointment with him. The dates of the Baptismal Classes can be found in the porch.

Sacrament of the Sick: Please remember to inform Fr. Craig **directly** in case of sickness, especially if it requires hospital treatment or prolonged absence from Mass. If you cannot inform the clergy then your family should take on this responsibility.

PARISH DUTIES NEXT WEEKEND: 21ST/22ND DECEMBER 2019

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| 6.00PM VIGIL MASS | READERS: | John H & Pat H |
| | E. MINS: | Maura, Keith, Christine H & Ann T |
| 9.30AM SUNG MASS | MUSIC: | Folk Group |
| | READERS: | Brian & Helen C |
| | E. MINS: | Dorothy, Jonathan, Denis & Barbara |

PARISH DUTIES NEXT WEEKEND: 28TH/29TH DECEMBER 2019

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|--------------------------|---|--|
| 6.00PM VIGIL MASS | WELCOMERS: | Dawn & Katie |
| | WARDENS: | Peter Hardiman |
| | READERS: | Keith & Pat H |
| | E. MINS: | John C, Ann T, Maura + a volunteer minister |
| 9.30AM SUNG MASS | MUSIC: | Choir |
| | WELCOMERS: | Helen & Margaret |
| | WARDENS: | Pat & Sally |
| | READERS: | Helen & Christine L |
| | E. MINS: | Jacqui, Peter, Dorothy & Jonathan |
| CLEANERS: | All Cleaners | |
| CASHIERS: | Team C | |
| FLOWERS: | For 24 th & 25 th All Arrangers – Colours Red, White & Gold | |
| COFFEE: | The Family R | |

And finally: Today, as we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent, and with Christmas just a few short days away, we hear in the gospel the story of the visit of the Angel Gabriel to St. Joseph in a dream. This dream, this heavenly encounter enabled him to take Mary home as his wife, and so fulfil his part in God's plan for the salvation of the world, to fulfil his vocation. As the preparations for the Christmas festivities draw to their frantic conclusion, remember to stop, pause for a moment, and listen to the voices of the angels singing: 'Today a Saviour has been born to us, he is Christ the Lord', only then will our celebration of Christmas be complete.

I wish you, and all who you love, a very blessed, happy and holy Christmas.

May God bless you all. Fr. Craig