

PARISH CLERGY:

Fr. Craig Davies
(Parish Priest)

Rev. John Higgins
(Parish Deacon)

PARISH REPS:

SAFEGUARDING:

Mr Gerry Wintrip
(01922 457471)

HEALTH & SAFETY:

Mr Phil Probert
(01922 458406)

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS



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This Parish is
part of the
Archdiocese of
Birmingham
Registered
Charity
N^o:234216

Parish Website:

www.catholicaldridge.co.uk

Parish Email:

smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk

Fr. Craig's Email:

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THE YEAR OF THE WORD



DATE

**Sunday 29th November
2020**

SUNDAY

**First Sunday of Advent
Year B**

DIVINE OFFICE

Week 1

As of Thursday 3rd December we will return to our pattern of Live-Streaming Mass on Sunday at 9.30am, and all weekday Masses at the advertised times.

Please Note That As Of Thursday 3rd Public Masses Resume

Sunday 29th November First Sunday of Advent	9.30am 4.30pm	People of the Parish <i>Church open for Private Prayer</i>
Monday 30th Nov St. Andrew Apostle Feast	9.15am	Int. of Rebecca Akers ^(A&JT)
Tuesday 1st Dec St. Edmund Campion Priest, Martyr Feast	9.15am	Marjorie Mattimoe RIP ^(J&DC)
Wednesday 2nd Dec Advent Feria		No Services Today
Thursday 3rd Dec St. Francis Xavier Priest Memorial	7.30pm	Alma Darby RIP ^(ES)
Friday 4th Dec Advent Feria	9.15am	Int. of Joe Delaney ^(CM)
Saturday 5th Dec St. Birinus Bishop Feast (1 st Mass of Sunday)	9.30am 10-11am 6.00pm	Teresa Lambert RIP ^(FH) <i>Confessions (by appointment only)</i> Brian Hornblower RIP ^(YD)
Sunday 6th December Second Sunday of Advent	9.30am 11.30am 4.30pm	People of the Parish Int. of Connie Mitchell ^(CM) People of the Parish ^(JF)

Pope Francis:

Lord, Father of our human family, you created all human beings equal in dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit. Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

Church open for Public Masses

With the end of lockdown on 2nd December we can resume public celebrations of the Mass beginning on Thursday 3rd December. This Sunday, at 4.30pm, the church will be open for Private Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for the final time. Next weekend we will return to the Mass schedule as it stood before lockdown: Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 9.30am, 11.30am & 4.30pm. Could I therefore ask that, beginning next Saturday evening, you continue to attend the Mass that you were attending prior to the lockdown. As we return to church could I also remind you of the need to adhere to all of the instructions that were in place for Public Worship before lockdown.

Christmas Services

As of Monday there will be a page on the Parish Website called "Christmas Masses". On this page you will be able to complete a 'booking in form' to secure a place at one of the Christmas Masses. Public Masses will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 7.00pm & 12midnight. On Christmas Day there will be Mass at 9.00am and 10.30am. I will also be celebrating Mass at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve, which will be live-streamed. At this Mass only the choir will be present in the church enabling us to have a sung Mass with carols. The live-stream will commence at 4.30pm with a Carol Service.

Pope's Prayer Intention

The Pope's prayer intention for the month of December: **For a life of prayer.** We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Live Simply Prayer – Week 1

As we start this new liturgical year, Almighty God open the hearts of Christians and move them to give their time and their resources in the service of those in need.

Prisoners of Conscience

Once again during ADVENT, Cafod is asking us to make a gesture of solidarity towards men and women in different parts of the world who are fighting for justice and human freedom. **“They are taking on powerful interests in an attempt to protect local communities. Sometimes this means receiving death threats for opposing illegal logging in the Amazon or facing harassment and violence for advocating women’s rights.”** The idea is to send a card to one of these ‘Defenders’ in good time for Christmas. Will you take part in this effort of Christian support? Perhaps get a friend to do the same? **Either** buy a Christmas card and write a message of encouragement and post it off to: Campaigns Team, CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB. You could address it to ‘Dear Friend’. **Or** simply send your message online to:

cafod.org.uk/messagetobrave. Either way Cafod will direct your message to one of eight that they are backing. This needs to be done by Monday 7th December. If you want more details go to:

www.cafod.org/messagetobrave.

Sick in the Parish

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

Please remember especially:

Leo Jones, Luke Smith, Patricia McMahon, Catherine Shepherd, Keiron Sanders, Jim Smith, David Goodwin, Nancy Levell, Antonio Bigongiari, Olivia ^(Dotty) Cutler, Ann & Keith Allford, 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, Marguerite Baxendale, David Piggott, Clare Cooksey & Áine McDonagh.

Pray also for all suffering as a result of Covid-19, and those still isolating at home.

Job Vacancy at the Archdiocese

The Archdiocese is looking to appoint a new Chief Operating Officer (“COO”). This is a Permanent, Full Time post with a salary of £80,000 to £90,000 p.a. The role of COO is to work closely with the Archbishop, Area Bishops and the Vicar General with responsibility for the lay workforce in the Archdiocese, the financial and properties resources involved in providing the administrative services in fulfilment of the Mission of the Catholic Church in the Diocese. For a full and complete job description, and for the application process, please follow this link to the advert on the diocesan website: [New COO for the Archdiocese.](#)

The closing date for applications is 9.00am on Friday 18th December 2020. Applicants must provide a CV or Professional Profile.

50-50 Club

The winners of the draw for October entrants drawn on 22nd November:

1st Prize	JS	14	£150
2nd Prize	DP	18	£60
3rd Prize	RL	83	£35
4th Prize	MC	77	£20

Total prizes this month £265.00

A huge ‘thank you’ to you all

Over the past several weeks we have been raising money for two specific things, namely the new church sound system & St. Joseph’s Nechells. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all who have contributed so generously towards these two collections. We have now raised the full £8,713, the total cost of the sound system, which is an amazing achievement! For St. Joseph’s we have banked a staggering £1000, and I will be issuing a cheque to the school on Monday. Not only will this money enable the school to provide a Christmas Meal to every child in the school free of charge, but there is enough money for the headteacher to identify families in their community who are in the greatest need of assistance at this time. These collections are now finished so could I, as I say huge thanks, ask that no further donations be made towards them.

Rosary for the Unborn

This Thursday, 3rd December, please pray the Rosary at home for the unborn. The Intention for December is: **For those facing a crisis pregnancy at this time.**

Recently Deceased

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Leslie Fazakarley & Jacqueline Ann Spencer**. On whose souls Sweet Jesus have mercy, may they rest in peace.

Sacrament of the Sick

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

Second Collection

There will be a Second Collection next weekend, 2nd Sunday of Advent, for the Poor Mission Fund. This fund exists to help our poorer parishes, many of which have been particularly badly hit this year due to the Covid-19 restrictions on Public Worship.

St Francis of Assisi Catholic College “Virtual Carol Service”

St. Francis of Assisi, Catholic College, Aldridge are proud to invite you to join in our Virtual Christmas Carol Service. The service will be available to stream from Wednesday 16th December at 7.30pm. The service can be found on our Facebook page: “St Francis of Assisi Catholic College”,

<https://www.facebook.com/SFACTC> or our YouTube page: “St Francis of Assisi Catholic College”,

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVQF78GOJR3giQRF_LVcXOQ

This is a free virtual event, however we strongly encourage all to give a donation to Birmingham Mind via our just giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-francis-of-assisi-catholic-college-aldridge>

Please contact dmarsh@stfrancis.cc if you have any questions.

Baptism Enquiries

If you would like to have your child Baptised here at St. Mary of the Angels please visit the ‘Baptismal Enquiry’ page of the parish website using the following link:

<https://www.catholicaldridge.co.uk/baptismal-enquiries.html>

Here you will find all of the information that you need to know. You can also complete a ‘Baptism Enquiry Form’. Once this form has been submitted you will be contacted by Fr. Craig to make arrangements for you to attend a Baptismal Class.

And finally: This weekend as we gather together, albeit via the live-stream, to celebrate the Mass of the First Sunday of Advent, we begin with the blessing of the Advent Wreath. Traditionally the four coloured candles, three purple and one rose, have stood to symbolise love, peace, joy and hope. Today however, despite the great advances that have been made in technology, and the closer relationships of co-operation that have developed between nations and continents over the decades, we still live in a world ravaged by war, hatred, poverty, injustice and despair. Yet in the midst of the clamour of the world, and even in the midst of lockdown, a voice continues to cry out down through the ages “Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of our God”. May Christ, the Prince of Peace and source of our hope, whose second coming we await, and whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, fill our hearts and minds with His love, His joy and His peace this Advent Season. And may we, each in our own way, be ambassadors of love, peace, joy and hope in our homes, our communities, and in our world, today and always.

May God bless and protect you all. Fr. Craig