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| <p><u>PARISH CLERGY:</u> PARISH PRIEST Fr. Craig Davies PARISH DEACONS Rev. John Higgins Rev. Peter Crosby</p> | <p>ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS</p>  <p>39 Whetstone Lane Aldridge Walsall WS9 0JD Tel:01922 452316</p>  | <p>This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. 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> | <p><u>Parish Website:</u> www.catholicaldridge.co.uk <u>Parish Email:</u> smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk <u>Fr. Craig's Email:</u> fr.craig.davies@rcaob.org.uk</p> |  |

DATE
Sunday 25th December 2022

SUNDAY
Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

DIVINE OFFICE
Week 1

Live-stream: All of our services are now Live-streamed.

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| <p><u>Saturday 24th Dec</u> Christmas Eve</p> | <p>5:00pm 11:30pm 12:00</p> | <p>Roger Howell RIP ^(SH) <i>Carol Service</i> Canon Peter Taylor RIP ^(MT)</p> |
| <p><u>Sunday 25th December</u> Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord</p> | <p>9:30am</p> | <p>People of the Parish</p> |
| <p><u>Monday 26th Dec</u> St. Stephen Martyr ^{Feast}</p> | <p>10:00am</p> | <p>John & Alice Murphy RIP ^(S&JW)</p> |
| <p><u>Tuesday 27th Dec</u> St. John Apostle, Evangelist ^{Feast}</p> | <p>10:00am</p> | <p>Geoff Jones RIP ^(AH)</p> |
| <p><u>Wednesday 28th Dec</u> Holy Innocents Martyrs ^{Feast}</p> | <p>10:00am</p> | <p>A Private Intention</p> |
| <p><u>Thursday 29th Dec</u> St. Thomas Becket Bishop, Martyr ^{Feast}</p> | <p>7:00pm</p> | <p>Edmund Almeida RIP ^(AA)</p> |
| <p><u>Friday 30th Dec</u> The Holy Family ^{Feast}</p> | <p>9:15am</p> | <p>Francis Patton RIP ^(Patton Family)</p> |
| <p><u>Saturday 31st Dec</u> Seventh Day within the Octave (1st Mass of Christmas)</p> | <p>9:30am 6:00pm</p> | <p>Anne Josephine Cotterill RIP ^(SC) Lily & Alan Payne RIP ^(SH)</p> |
| <p><u>Sunday 1st January</u> Mary, the Mother of God Solemnity</p> | <p>9:30am</p> | <p>People of the Parish</p> |

Pope Francis:

The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to recognise God's fatherhood. We have a tender, affectionate Father who loves us, who has always loved us. When we experience this, our hearts melt, and doubts and fears dissolve. Nothing can resist this love.

This Week's CaFOD Prayer

CAFOD

(Nativity of the Lord)

Our saviour has come; our light is shining forth. We see, we are glad, and we thank you, Father in heaven. Blessed be your name!

Christmas Mass Times



Saturday 24th December: Christmas Eve

Family Mass – 5:00pm

Carol Service – 11:30pm

Midnight Mass – 12:00

Sunday 25th December: Christmas Day

Solemn Mass – 9:30am

Monday 26th December: Boxing Day

St. Stephen's Day – 10:00am

Recently Deceased

Pray for the repose of the souls of **John O'Neill** and **Dorothy Gomes**, on whose souls Sweet Jesus have mercy. May they Rest in Peace.

New Reader & Wardens Lists

The latest Mass Readers and Warden's lists are now available to collect in the porch area. A copy can also be found under the 'Our Parish: Parish Duty Rotas' tab on the parish website.

Pope's Prayer Intention

The Pope's prayer intention for **December** is:- **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 co-operation.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has, in any way, helped with the preparations in the church for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord – for Christmas. As always the church looks beautiful! To the many volunteers who willingly give of their time – thank you – only you make this possible each and every year!

Sick in the Parish

Please pray for all the sick in the parish, remember especially:

Geoff Hopkinson, Tony & Lynn Stanley, John Green, Roy Allsopp, Christine Leadbeater, Frances Hutchcocks, Janet Chambers, Jo Hawker, Paul Atkinson, Alison Welton, Louise Morgan, Stephen Brook, Margaret Davis, Mary Brough, Joe Bannister, Morris Moseley, Margaret Healy, Juliet Woodhall, Pat Hopley, Luke Smith, Catherine Shepherd, Keiron Sanders, Jim Smith, David Goodwin, Antonio Bigongiari, Olivia (Dotty) Cutler, Ann & Keith Allford, Dcn. John Higgins, Joan Hart, Anna Morgan ^{née Meehan}, Margaret Cooper, Holly Brady, Mike Mander, Jo Cooke, Anne Humphreys, Paul Mott, Theresa Chandler, Fr. Paul Chamberlain, Cath Breen, Max Lewis, David & Sheila Piggott, Clare Cooksey & Áine McDonagh.

Please pray also for all those who carry the burden of their illnesses privately, and for all those who care for the sick.

Children's Liturgy

This takes place every Sunday at the 9:30am Mass. At the start of the Mass the children will be invited to go out to the Meeting Room for their Liturgy. All children are welcome to come along.

St. Joseph's Nechells Collection

Each year as a parish we have collected presents for the children of St. Joseph's School. During the COVID-19 pandemic, with all of the restrictions that were in place, it became necessary to change the way in which we supported these children. Over the past two years we have sent the money we have raised, instead of buying presents, directly to the school to benefit the children. The school has asked if we could continue this practice each year. If you would like to make a contribution toward this collection please place your donation in an envelope marked 'St. Joseph's Nechells' and pop it through the Presbytery Letter Box. As in previous years the monies raised will provide each child with a Christmas Meal, and also purchase for them items necessary for their schoolwork.

Christmas Offering

Envelopes for the Christmas Offering, your gift to your Parish Priest this Christmas, are available in the church porch.

Craft & Natter

We are now taking our Christmas break. We return to our normal weekly meetings on **Tuesday 10th January 2023** from **11am to 3pm**. Thank you to all members, old and new, for the work done this term, and for the good 'natters' we have had. Happy Christmas to all. For more information call Christine W on 07900 604902.

Praying for the Unborn



As we reflect on the Word becoming flesh, let us pray for a greater appreciation of the dignity of all human beings, born and unborn, who are made in the image and likeness of God. Amen.

Archbishop's Christmas Message

The 2022 Christmas Message of Archbishop Bernard is now available on the Diocesan website at:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/christmas-message-2022>

Adult Catechesis – RCIA Course

Our course of Adult Catechesis is now taking a break for Christmas. We return on **Friday 13th January** at **6:30pm** in the Parish Meeting Room. If you would like to learn more about the faith you are warmly invited to come along.

Life – For Our Mother & Baby House

We have an offer from the Mortgage Advice Bureau Foundation who work with Crowdfunder to match the money for the house if the Walsall area can raise £2,500. If anyone wishes to donate please visit:-

<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/life-skills-for-homeless-and-pregnant-young-women>

50/50 Club Winners

The winners of the draw for November entrants drawn on 18th December:

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| 1st Prize | BB | 69 | £150 |
| 2nd Prize | PH | 1 | £60 |
| 3rd Prize | HA | 130 | £30 |
| 4th Prize | AH | 80 | £20 |

Total prize money this month: £260.00.

Sunday Coffee Mornings

There will be no Coffee Morning this weekend!

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.

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 can complete a 'Baptism Enquiry Form'. The next available dates for Baptism Preparation are:

7pm Tuesday 10th January

7pm Tuesday 14th March

7pm Tuesday 9th May

PARISH DUTIES THIS WEEKEND: 24TH/25TH DECEMBER 2022

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|---|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 5:00PM VIGIL MASS | READERS: | See Rota for Christmas Masses |
| MIDNIGHT MASS & 9:30 SUNG MASS | MUSIC: | See Rota for Christmas Masses |
| | READERS: | See Rota for Christmas Masses |

Duties During the Week: 26th Dec – 31st Dec

CLEANERS: Team C

FLOWERS: Helen A

PARISH DUTIES NEXT WEEKEND: 31ST DECEMBER 2022 / 1ST JANUARY 2023

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| 6:00PM VIGIL MASS | WELCOMERS: | Mavie & Krystal B |
| | WARDENS: | Tony M |
| | READERS: | Brian L & John H |
| 9:30AM SUNG MASS | MUSIC: | Folk Group |
| | WELCOMERS: | Rod & Joan L |
| | WARDENS: | John O'N & Bruce B |
| | READERS: | Catherine A & Will B |
| COFFEE: | Jonathan G, Tony M & Peggy S | |

And finally:- Led not by a star, but by the light of faith, we gather once more at the manger to worship the infant King. Instead of gold, frankincense, and myrrh we bring the love of our hearts and the reality of our lives to pay homage to Emmanuel – God with us. Each year, as we gaze into the crib to behold the wonder of that first Christmas night, the figures of the nativity scene, each with their gaze turned toward the tiny child, draw us heart and mind, into the very mystery which is laid before us. The wonder of this holy day fills our hearts with praise and thanksgiving for the love of God revealed to us in Christ. The characters set before us serve to inspire us in our journey through life to imitate them in their faith. Mary shows us the way of humility and love, Joseph gives us the example of faithful service and obedience to God's will, the shepherds teach us to seek the Lord and to worship Him in our hearts. Even the animals recognise their Lord.

May God bless you all. Fr. Craig