

<p><u>PARISH CLERGY:</u></p> <p>PARISH PRIEST Fr. Craig Davies</p> <p>PARISH DEACON Rev. Peter Crosby</p>	<p align="center">ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>39 Whetstone Lane Aldridge Walsall WS9 0JD Tel:01922 452316</p></div>  </div>
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DATE
Sunday 17th December 2023

SUNDAY
Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday

DIVINE OFFICE
Week 3

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

<u>Saturday 16th Dec</u> 1 st Mass of Sunday	6:00pm	People of the Parish
<u>Sunday 17th December</u> <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> <i>O Sapientia</i>	9:30am 6:15pm	Int. of Dimpna Dillon ^(FS) <i>Holy Hour for Vocations</i>
<u>Monday 18th Dec</u> <i>Advent Feria - O Adonai</i>	9:15am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
<u>Tuesday 19th Dec</u> <i>Advent Feria - O Radix Jesse</i>	9:15am	Int. of Paul Garry & Family
<u>Wednesday 20th Dec</u> <i>Advent Feria - O Clavis David</i>		No Services Today
<u>Thursday 21st Dec</u> <i>Advent Feria - O Oriens</i>	7:00pm	David Evans RIP ^(ES)
<u>Friday 22nd Dec</u> <i>Advent Feria - O Rex Gentium</i>	9:15am	Edmund Almeida RIP ^(MD) <i>In SMA School</i>
<u>Saturday 23rd Dec</u> <i>Advent Feria - O Emmanuel</i> (1 st Mass of Sunday)	9:30am 10-11am 6:00pm	Private Intention <i>Exposition, Confessions & Benediction</i> Nicolette Atanasio RIP ^(Ann.) ^(YD)
<u>Sunday 24th December</u> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Christmas Family Mass Christmas Solemn Mass	9:30am 5:00pm Midnight	People of the Parish Roger Howell RIP ^(SH) Sick in the Parish ^(SVP)

Pope Francis

To celebrate and honour Mary is to celebrate and honour the closeness and tenderness of God who meets His people, who does not leave us alone, who has given us a Mother who cares for us and accompanies us.

Pope's Prayer Intention

The Pope's prayer intention for **December** is:- **For persons with disabilities**. We pray that people living with disabilities may be the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

CaFOD Prayer

CAFOD

Third Sunday of Advent

We are glad that your nativity will soon be upon us, Lord Jesus. How could we fail to be delighted! You became one of us to make us like you.

A Gentle Reminder

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday! This day is, however, until the First Mass of Christmas at 5pm, still the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The normal Sunday Masses, Saturday 6pm and Sunday 9:30am, will still be celebrated in order that you may fulfil the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday.

Craft & Natter

We are now having our Christmas Break & will return to our usual gatherings on Tuesday, **9th January**, at our usual time of **11am – 3pm**. As usual everyone is welcome. For more information call Christine W on 07900604902.

Craft Sale – Thank You

Christine, and the ladies of the Craft & Natter Group, would like to thank everyone who purchased Christmas items from the Craft Sale held last weekend at the end of the Sunday Masses. A staggering **£190.00** was raised from the sale and the money has now been given to Fr. Craig. **Over the past ten years our Craft Group has raised over £5,628 for Church Funds.**

Sick in the Parish

Pray for the sick in the parish, remembering especially:

Nigel & Mark Rainer, Marian Mathews, Marie Wilson, Ian Phipps, Sister Ann-Marie, Carol Facer, Oscar Wordsworth, Nichola Woodhall, Paul Corbett, Carmel Fekete, Lynn Stanley, John Green, Roy Allsopp, Janet Chambers, Jo Hawker, Alison Welton, Louise Morgan, Margaret Davis, Mary Brough, Joe Bannister, Margaret Healy, Juliet Woodhall, Luke Smith, Catherine Shepherd, Jim Smith, David Goodwin, Antonio Bigongiari, Olivia (Dotty) Cutler, Ann & Keith Allford, Anna Morgan ^{née Meehan}, Holly Brady, Mike Mander, Jo Cooke, Anne Humphreys, Theresa Chandler, Fr. Paul Chamberlain, Cath Breen, Max Lewis, David & Sheila Piggott, Clare Cooksey & Áine McDonagh.

Please remember also in your prayers those who carry the burden of their illnesses privately and those who care for them.

Second Collections



This weekend, **16th/17th December**, our **Parish SVP Group** will be holding their annual retiring collection to purchase gifts and Masses for the sick and housebound of our Parish.

Safeguarding Notice

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Mr. Gerry Wintrip. Gerry can be contacted at: sg.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk or on 0121 230 6240 if you have any concerns.

Christmas Service – Duties

Please could **Wardens, Welcomers & Servers** arrange between themselves to ensure that all of these duties are covered at all of the Christmas Masses Over the course of this weekend.

Cleaners Rota

The new cleaners rota is now available on our website at www.catholicaldridge.co.uk/parish-duty-rotas. Printed copies are at the back of church for those who have requested them.

St. Chad's Cathedral Carol Service

This Sunday, **17th December**, the Cathedral Choir, under the direction of Professor David Saint, will present a festive programme to start Christmas Week. Followed by refreshments. The Carol Service is free and no booking is required.

School Carol Services

On **Monday 18th December** at **7:30pm** we will be hosting the **Aldridge School** Carol Service.

On **Wednesday 20th December** at **7:00pm** **St. Francis of Assisi Catholic College** will be holding their Christmas Concert in the Main School Hall.

On **Thursday 21st December** at **2:00pm** **St. Mary of the Angels Primary School** have their Carol Service in church.



Children's Liturgy of the **Word**

Children's Liturgy 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.

Christmas Presents

On Wednesday John & Sue W & John O'N delivered the Christmas present that you had donated to the T.P. for distribution to those families who would otherwise get nothing this Christmas. Just as I was overwhelmed by the extent of your generosity, so were the staff at the T.P. who received them. "In the New Year", to quote the project manager, we will be receiving "a very long letter of thanks". May I again take this opportunity to thank you for your kindness and generosity, and to say once more how very proud I am to be your Parish Priest!

Christmas Offering Envelopes

The envelopes which can be used to make you Christmas Offering, your gift to your Parish Priest at Christmas, are now available in the church porch.

Christmas Services



Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4:30pm – Carol Service

5:00pm – Family Mass

(Children are invited to wear nativity costumes)

12 midnight – Solemn Mass

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

9:30am – Mass of the Day

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 23rd January 2024

7pm Tuesday 26th March

7pm Tuesday 4th June

THE WORK OF GOD

BELIEVE IN THE ONE HE SENT

PARISH DUTIES THIS WEEKEND: 16TH/17TH DECEMBER 2023

6:00PM VIGIL MASS	READERS:	Gerry W & Brian L
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9:30AM SUNG MASS	MUSIC:	Choir
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	READERS:	Alice G & Will B
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Duties During the Week: 18TH – 23RD DECEMBER 2023

CLEANERS:	All Cleaning Teams
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FLOWERS:	All Flower Arrangers
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PARISH DUTIES NEXT WEEKEND: 23RD/24TH DECEMBER 2023

6:00PM VIGIL MASS	WELCOMERS:	Shelagh G & Anne H
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	WARDENS:	Tony M
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	READERS:	John H & Pat S
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	MUSIC:	Folk Group
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9:30AM SUNG MASS	WELCOMERS:	Rossella B & Helen C
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	WARDENS:	Pat & Sally S
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	READERS:	Catherine A & Martin B
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COFFEE:	The Wintrip Family
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And finally:- What does “the Lord is at hand” mean? In what sense must we understand this “closeness” of God? The Church, illumined by the Holy Spirit, already at that time understood increasingly better that God’s “closeness” is not a question of space and time but rather of love: love brings people together! This coming Christmas will remind us of this fundamental truth of our faith and in front of the manger we shall be able to savour Christian joy contemplating in the newborn Jesus the Face of God who made himself close to us out of love. (Benedict XVI)

May God bless you all, Fr. Craig