

<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>	<p>This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.</p> <p align="center">Registered Charity Nº:234216</p>
<p><u>PARISH REPS:</u></p> <p>SAFEGUARDING: Mr Gerry Wintrip sg.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk</p> <p>HEALTH & SAFETY: Mr Phil Probert hs.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk</p>	<p align="center"><u>Parish Website:</u> www.catholicaldridge.co.uk</p> <p align="center"><u>Parish Email:</u> smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk</p> <p align="center"><u>Fr. Craig's Email:</u> fr.craig.davies@rcaob.org.uk</p>	

DATE
Sunday 24th December 2023

SUNDAY
**Fourth Sunday of Advent
Year B**

DIVINE OFFICE
Week 4

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

<u>Saturday 23rd Dec</u> 1 st Mass of Sunday	6:00pm	Nicolette Atanasio RIP (Ann.) ^(YD)
<u>Sunday 24th December</u> Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Family Mass Christmas Solemn Mass	9:30am 5:00pm Midnight	People of the Parish Roger Howell RIP ^(SH) Sick in the Parish ^(SVP)
<u>Monday 25th Dec</u> Solemnity of the Nativity	9:30am	Stephen Brooke RIP ^(SB)
<u>Tuesday 26th Dec</u> Feast of St. Stephen First Martyr	10:00am	Alice & John Murphy RIP ^(SW)
<u>Wednesday 27th Dec</u> Feast of St. John Apostle, Evangelist		No Services Today
<u>Thursday 28th Dec</u> Feast of the Holy Innocents Martyrs	7:00pm	Private Intention
<u>Friday 29th Dec</u> Feast of St. Thomas Becket Bishop, Martyr	10:00am	Francis Patton RIP ^(Patton Family)
<u>Saturday 30th Dec</u> Sixth Day of the Christmas Octave (1 st Mass of Sunday)	10:00am 6:00pm	Lily & Alan Payne RIP ^(SH) People of the Parish
<u>Sunday 31st December</u> Feast of the Holy Family	9:30am	Janet Reeves RIP ^(JR)

Pope Francis

We need to listen to the message of the God who comes to us; we need to discern the signs of his presence and to accept his Word by walking in his footsteps. Listen, discern, journey: these three verbs can describe our faith journey.

The CaFOD Prayer

CAFOD

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mary said "I am the handmaid of the Lord; let what you have said be done to me". We, your sons and daughters, are your servants too, Lord God. May we, like Mary, be willing to do what you ask of us in the vocations you have given us. Mother, help us!

Recently Deceased

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the soul of **Nigel Rainer**, on whose soul Sweet Jesus have mercy. May he rest in peace.

Nigel's Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 10:00am on Friday 5th January prior to cremation at Streetly Crematorium.

Christmas Message from His Grace Archbishop

The Archbishop's Christmas message is now available on the Diocesan website at: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>

S.V.P Collection



On behalf of the **S.V.P** we would like to thank you for the collection last week which raised **£507.31**. A Mass will be offered in the New Year for all our Benefactors. May God bless you all.

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.

Sick in the Parish

Pray for the sick in the parish, remembering especially:

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, that the Lord may grant them His healing and peace.

Craft & Natter

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

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.

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.

Message from Fr. Craig

Over the course of the next few days we will, together with our families and friends, celebrate the birth of Our Lord. I pray that this Christmas may bring you, and all who are dear to you, much joy and many blessings from the Lord, and I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Christmas Duties

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve.

4:30pm – Carol Service & Family Mass

Welcomers: **John & Ann T**

Readers: **Children from SMA**

Wardens: **Tony M & Brian L**

12 Midnight – Solemn Mass

Welcomers: **Volunteers Please!**

Readers: **Gerry W & Maura L**

Wardens: **John O’N & Peter H**

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

9:30am - Mass of the Day

Welcomers: **Elena S**

Readers: **Alice G & Catherine A**

Wardens: **Pat & Sally S**



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 Crib Collection

Over the past few months we have watched the devastating war unfold in the Holy Land. Many of those who are suffering in Gaza are our brothers and sisters in the faith! Many have lost homes, parents, children, and churches. Therefore, I have decided that it is only right that our **Crib Collection** should go to support the work of the **Friends of the Holy Land**. The box for this collection will be located next to the Nativity Scene, at the front of the church, and will remain there until 2nd February 2024.

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

PARISH DUTIES THIS WEEKEND: 23RD/24TH DECEMBER 2023

6:00PM VIGIL MASS	READERS:	John H & Pat S
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9:30AM SUNG MASS	MUSIC:	Folk Group
	READERS:	Catherine A & Martin B

Duties During the Week: 25TH – 30TH DECEMBER 2023

CLEANERS:	Team A
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FLOWERS:	Helen A
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PARISH DUTIES NEXT WEEKEND: 30TH/31ST DECEMBER 2023

6:00PM VIGIL MASS	WELCOMERS:	Mavie & Krystal B
	WARDENS:	Brian L
	READERS:	Hugh D & Cathy S

9:30AM SUNG MASS	MUSIC:	Folk Group
	WELCOMERS:	Rod & Joan L
	WARDENS:	John O'N & Elaine A
	READERS:	Christine L & Mark H

COFFEE:	Anne H, Helen A & Jacqui B
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And finally:- The Gospel of this Fourth Sunday of Advent proposes to us the account of the Annunciation (Lk 1:26-38), the mystery to which we return every day in reciting the Angelus. This prayer makes us relive the decisive moment at which God knocked at Mary's heart and, having received her "yes", began to take flesh, in her and from her. The Collect of today's Mass is the same as the one we recite at the end of the Angelus. With only a few [hours] until the Feast of Christmas, we are invited to fix our gaze on the ineffable mystery that Mary treasured for nine months in her virginal womb: the mystery of God who is made man. (Benedict XVI)

May God bless you all, Fr. Craig