

PARISH CLERGY:

PARISH PRIEST
Fr. Ramesh Echu

PARISH DEACON
Rev. Peter Crosby

PARISH REPS:

SAFEGUARDING:
Mr Gerry Wintrip
sg.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk

HEALTH & SAFETY:
Mr Phil Probert
hs.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk

PARISH CATECHIST:
Mrs Philomena Mullins
cat.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS

39 Whetstone Lane
Aldridge
Walsall
WS9 0JD
Tel:01922 452316

Parish Website:
www.catholicaldridge.co.uk

Parish Email:
smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk

Fr. Ramesh's Email:
fr.ramesh.echu@rcaob.org.uk

Rev. Peter Crosby
dcn.peter.crosby@rcaob.org.uk

This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Registered Charity
Nº:234216



DATE

Sunday 4th January 2026

SUNDAY

2nd Sunday after Christmas
Year A

DIVINE OFFICE

Week 2

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

Saturday 3 rd January 2026 Christmas Feria (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	9:30am 10:00-10:30am 6:00pm	People of the Parish Confessions & Benediction Adam Cartlidge ^(P&A) RIP
Sunday 4 th January 2026 2nd Sunday after Christmas	8:55am 9:30am	<i>Sunday Rosary Devotion Group</i> Mary O'Connell ^(SK) RIP
Monday 5 th January 2026 Christmas Feria	9:15am 1:00pm	Int. of The Howard Family Requiem Mass for Kim Partridge
Tuesday 6 th January 2026 Epiphany of the Lord ^{Solemnity}	9:15am	This is a Holy Day of Obligation John Clarke ^(DS) RIP
Wednesday 7 th January 2026 Christmas Feria		
Thursday 8 th January 2026 Christmas Feria		
Friday 7 th January 2026 Christmas Feria		
Saturday 10 th January 2026 Christmas Feria (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6:00pm	<i>There will be No Morning Mass, Confession or Benediction this morning</i> Int. of Keith & Jan Lewis and the family
Sunday 11 th January 2026 Baptism of the Lord ^{Feast}	8:55am 9:30am	<i>Sunday Rosary Devotion Group</i> People of the Parish

2026
Happy New Year

Pope Leo

On this World Day ^(Jan 1st 2026), let us all pray together for peace: first, among nations bloodied by conflict and suffering, but also within our homes, in families wounded by violence or pain. Certain that Christ, our hope, is the sun of justice that never sets, let us confidently implore the intercession of Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

The CaFOD Prayer

Second Sunday after the Nativity



Holy father, we thank you for determining that we should become your adopted sons and daughters through Jesus Christ. We bless you and praise you for your grace, your free gift to us.

Recently Deceased

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of **Kim Partridge** and **John Hayes** ^{Senior} upon whose souls, Sweet Jesus have mercy.

Kim Partridge's Requiem Mass will be at **1:00pm** on **Monday 5th January** here in SMA church. Her committal will be at **2:30pm** at **Streetly Cemetery**.

Diocesan Director 2026

There are a limited number of directories available for purchase from the piety stall on request. Price £6:00 each.

The Holy Communion and Confirmation Classes for Children not at Catholic Schools:

Our Holy Communion Classes and Confirmation **continue** straight after Sunday Mass. For further details, please contact our Parish Catechist:

Mrs Philomena Mullins

cat.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk

Pope's Prayer Intention

The Pope's prayer intention for January is:- **For prayer with the word of God**

Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Sick in the Parish

Please pray for the sick in the parish, remembering especially:

Sheila Brayford, Geraldine Frith, Andrew Mather, Ann Watson, Anne Mitchell, Maureen Patton, Maureen Carr, Shaun Smith, Kathleen 'Frankie' Smith, Sheila Plimer, Ann Hornblower, Dennis Poyner, Freddie Evans, Nuala & George Partridge, Hilary Fernandes, Eoghain Devine, Jean Watson, Marian Mathews, Marie Wilson, Ian Phipps, Oscar Wordsworth, Nichola Woodhall, Paul Corbett, Carmel Fekete, Lynn Stanley, Janet Chambers, Jo Hawker, Alison Welton, Louise Morgan, Margaret Davis, Joe Bannister, Margaret Healy, Juliet Woodhall, Luke Smith, Catherine Shepherd, David Goodwin, Antonio Bigongiari, Olivia ^(Dotty) Cutler, Keith Allford, Anna Morgan ^{née Meehan}, Holly Brady, Jo Cooke, Anne Humphreys, Theresa Chandler, Fr. Paul Chamberlain, Cath Breen, Max Lewis, David & Sheila Piggott, Clare Cooksey & Áine McDonagh.

Crib Collection



Health. Inclusion. Innovation.

Our Crib Collection this year is in aid of **LEPRA**. Your generous donations will be much appreciated.

<https://www.lepra.org.uk/what-we-do>

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.

HEALTH & SAFETY

All electrical appliances brought into church **must be PAT tested** (Portable Appliance Tested). If the electrical appliance brought in is brand new, then those brand new items will be tested next year in November. Thank you, Phil P.⁴

SMA Choir

If you enjoy singing the hymns at Mass on Sunday morning, **have you thought about joining the Choir?** If you want more information please come upstairs to the Choir loft for a chat before or after Sunday's 9.30 am Mass, **(when the Choir is singing).**

Maureen D

Could you be a Lourdes Healthcare Volunteer?

Are you a **doctor, nurse or carer?** Would you consider donating your time and expertise on this years Lourdes Pilgrimage ^(20th – 30th May 2026). Every year sick pilgrims are able to make the journey to Lourdes thanks to the support of a dedicated Healthcare Team. Without their expertise many pilgrims would not be able to go. If you're a Healthcare professional and would like to try something new, please consider joining us. You will make a real difference. For more information, and to access the Volunteer Pilgrim Pack and an application form, please visit:-

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

Thank You:

Father Ramesh would like to thank you all for your most generous donations, gifts and cards over the Christmas period.

May God Bless you all

RCIA Growing the Faith

Our weekly **R.C.I.A** course continues from 7:00 to 8:30pm this **Tuesday 6th January**. **All are welcome**, those already Catholics wanting to know more about the faith and those who want to become Catholics. This week's session is entitled **Natural Law and the Ten Commandments**.

Parish Christmas Cards

There are still a number of cards on the card rack in the porch that have not been collected. Please look and see if there are any for you. Remaining cards will be recycled after Sunday 11th January.

Whetstone Over 50s

**FUN
QUIZ**

Our next meeting will be at **2:00pm** on **Monday 12th January**, when we will be having a **'Fun Quiz'**. Don't just sit at home, come along and join us.

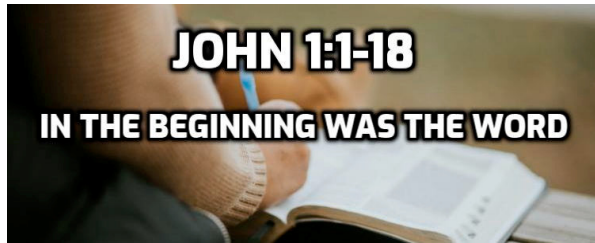
Craft and Natter



We are closed until **Tuesday 13th January 2026** at **11am**; when, as usual, everyone is welcome. We will be hoping to make things for the next parish event, come and see what we are up to, **just £1 a visit** and all the drinks you can manage, for more information call me, **Christine** on **07900 604902**.

Sacrament of the Sick

Please remember to inform **Fr. Ramesh** 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 date for Baptism Preparation is:

7:00pm Tuesday 10th March 2026

7:00pm Tuesday 9th June 2026

7:00pm Tuesday 8th September 2026

PARISH DUTIES THIS WEEKEND: 3RD - 4TH JANUARY 2026

<u>6:00PM VIGIL MASS</u>	WELCOMERS:	Mavie & Krystal B
	READERS:	Pat H & Cathy S
	^{EOEach} Ministers	Jonathan G & Ann T
<u>9:30AM SUNG MASS</u>	WELCOMERS:	Helen A & Elaine A
	MUSIC:	Folk Group
	READERS:	Catherine A & Mark H
	^{EOEach} Ministers	Katie & Janet ^{Musicians} Catherine C

Duties During the Week: 6TH - 10TH JANUARY 2026

CLEANERS:	Team C
FLOWERS:	Helen

PARISH DUTIES NEXT WEEKEND: 10TH - 11TH JANUARY 2026

<u>6:00PM VIGIL MASS</u>	WELCOMERS:	Dawn M
	READERS:	Gerry W & Brian L
	^{EOEach} Ministers	Emma & Tony
<u>9:30AM SUNG MASS.</u>	WARDENS:	Brian L
	WELCOMERS:	Margaret L & Elena S
	MUSIC:	Choir
	READERS:	Edith B & Helen C
	^{EOEach} Ministers	Will & Katharine ^{Musicians} Phil P
	WARDENS:	John O & Elaine A
COFFEE:	Jonathan & Jensen G	

Reflection: We are still standing in the light of Christmas. The decorations may soon come down, schools and work return to normal, and the world moves quickly on—but the Church invites us to pause. On this Second Sunday after the Nativity, we are asked not to rush past the mystery we have just celebrated. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John does not begin his Gospel with shepherds, angels, or a manger. He takes us all the way back to the beginning—before time, before creation itself. He reminds us that the child born at Christmas is not only a baby in Bethlehem, but also God’s eternal Word, through whom all things were made. And then comes the most astonishing line of all: “The Word became flesh and lived among us.” God did not remain distant. God did not speak from afar. God chose to come close—to take on real human life, with all its joy and struggle, weakness and hope. The Nativity tells us that there is no part of our human experience that God refuses to enter. This is important for us as we begin a new year. January often carries mixed feelings: hopes for a fresh start, but also worries about what lies ahead. The message of this Sunday is not that life will suddenly become easy, but that God is with us in it. So today, let us ask for one simple grace: That the Word who became flesh may also take flesh in our lives— in our choices, in our compassion, and in our hope. May we live as children of the light, and may the light of Christ guide us through this new year and always. Amen.

God bless you all.