

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

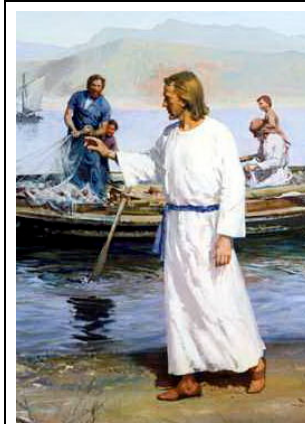
Parish Email:
smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk

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 25th January 2026

SUNDAY
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A

DIVINE OFFICE
Week 3

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

Saturday 24 th January 2026 St. Francis de Sales <small>Feast</small> Bishop Doctor of the Church Octave of Christian Unity (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6:00pm	23 rd Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of His Grace, Archbishop Bernard Longley <i>There will be No Morning Mass, Confession or Benediction this morning</i> John Gallagher RIP ^(TG)
Sunday 25 th January 2026 Octave of Christian Unity f 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:55am 9:30am	<i>Sunday Rosary Devotion Group</i> Anthony (Tony) Andrews RIP ^(CA)
Monday 26 th January 2026 Sts. Timothy & Titus Bishops <small>Memorial</small>		
Tuesday 27 th January 2026 Feria in Ordinary Time		
Wednesday 28 th January 2026 St. Thomas Aquinas Bishop <small>Memorial</small>	6:00pm	<i>Rosary Devotion Group in Meeting Room (UFN)</i>
Thursday 29 th January 2026 Feria in Ordinary Time	1:00pm	Requiem Mass for Maria Spicer
Friday 30 th January 2026 Feria in Ordinary Time		
Saturday 31 st January 2026 St John Bosco Priest <small>Memorial</small> (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6:00pm	<i>Racial Justice Day</i> <i>There will be No Morning Mass, Confession or Benediction this morning</i> Int. of Breda O'Brien
Sunday 1 st February 2026 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:55am 9:30am	<i>Sunday Rosary Devotion Group</i> People of the Parish

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 Leo

By contemplating the person of Christ, let us learn to love and act as He shows us; so that we may better serve our brothers and sisters and help them see in us a reflection of the face of God.

The CaFOD Prayer 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world. Give us, your followers, the light of life, so we do not walk in darkness but become a torch to guide the steps of others.

Recently Deceased

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of **Maria Spicer** upon whose soul, Sweet Jesus have mercy.

Maria Spicer's Requiem Mass will be at **1:00pm** this **Thursday 29th January** here in SMA church followed by her committal at **2:30pm** at **Streetly Cemetery**. **Fr. Ryan Service** will be the celebrant in church and the cemetery.

Maria sadly passed away following the funeral and committal of her daughter **Kim Partridge** that took place at our church recently. Of your charity, please also remember all of the **Spicer** and **Partridge** families who are mourning both of these tragic losses.

Our Christmas Crib Collection



Our grateful thanks to everyone who placed a donation into our Crib Collection box over the Christmas period. We raised the wonderful sum of **£365.00** for Lepra, to help those suffering from Leprosy and lymphatic filariasis.

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

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.

Nursery places at St Mary of the Angels Primary

Places for the **September 2026** intake at our primary school are now available, see the notice board in the porch. Please contact school on **01922 743411** or email:

postbox@st-maryangel.walsall.sch.uk

for more information, or see the notice board in the porch. ²

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.

RCIA Growing the Faith

Our weekly **R.C.I.A** course continues from 7:00 to 8:30pm this **Tuesday 27th 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 **Marriage & Holy Orders**.

Congratulations upon Recent Baptisms



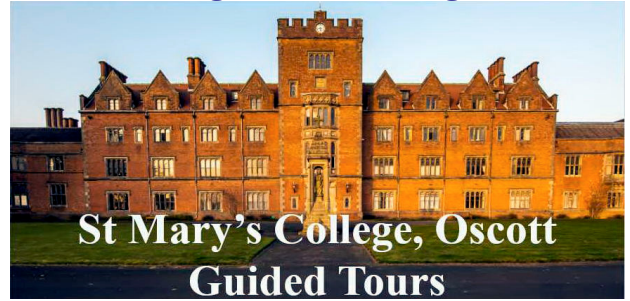
We offer our prayers and our congratulations to **Klai H**, and his arents Robert H and Danielle J, along with **Archie James P** and his parents Craig and Emma P. **Klai** and **Archie** were Baptised on **Sunday 4th January 2026**. We pray also for their parents and godparents as they take on the responsibility of raising them in the practice of the faith.

New Young Adult SVP Group

The **St Vincent de Paul Society** are delighted to be launching a new **SVP1833** (Young Adult) Conference in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. This group is open to all young adults (18-35) who are interested in faith, friendship and practical service to others. We will have an initial interest meeting on **Sunday 8 February** at **St Chad's Cathedral**, from **12.15-1.30pm**, following the 11.30am Mass. **Lunch and drinks will be provided!**

If you are hoping to attend the **St Chad's** event or would like to find out more, please email KeziaH@svp.org.uk or text 07917 923605, this will help us know numbers for catering (lunch).

Oscott College Tours & Organ Recital



More tours of the college are available, these and the organ recital on **Sunday 8th February** from **3:00 to 4:30pm**.

St.Mary's Oscott Tour Dates for 2026:

28th January
11th February
18th February
4th March
11th March
22nd April
29th April
6th May
20th May

The Organ Recital and tours can all be booked online at:

<https://www.oscott.org/events>.

Date for Your Diary



We have again booked the room at the Conservative Club for our **St. Patrick's Day** celebration evening. It will be at 7:00pm on **Friday 13th March**.

We await confirmation from the musicians and singers. Further details will follow once we have confirmations from the entertainers.

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: 24TH – 25TH JANUARY 2026

<u>6:00PM VIGIL MASS</u>	WELCOMERS:	Shelagh G & Anne H
	READERS:	Cathy S & Pat H
	^{EO}Euch. Ministers	Anne C & Bernadette
<u>9:30AM SUNG MASS</u>	WELCOMERS:	Rossella B & Helen C
	MUSIC:	Choir
	READERS:	Sianna & Will B
	^{EO}Euch. Ministers	Janet & Will ^{Musicians} Phil P

Duties During the Week: 26TH – 31ST JANUARY 2026

CLEANERS:	Team B
FLOWERS:	Helen

PARISH DUTIES NEXT WEEKEND: 31ST JANUARY – 1ST FEBRUARY 2026

<u>6:00PM VIGIL MASS</u>	WELCOMERS:	Mavie & Krystal
	READERS:	Brian L & Gerry W
	^{EO}Euch. Ministers	Jonathan & Ann T
<u>9:30AM SUNG MASS.</u>	WARDENS:	Brian L
	WELCOMERS:	Katharine & Dave
	MUSIC:	Folk Group
	READERS:	Louis A & Christine L
	^{EO}Euch. Ministers	Janet & Sue ^{Musicians} Catherine C
	WARDENS:	Pat & Sally
COFFEE:	Shelagh G, Cath W, Deirdre & Mary M	

Reflection: On this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, we hear the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. The Gospel tells us that Jesus leaves Nazareth and settles in Capernaum, in a region described by the prophet Isaiah as a place of darkness. It is there - not in a palace or a temple - that the light of Christ first shines. Matthew connects Jesus' actions with Isaiah's promise: "The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light." Jesus begins not by offering comfort, but by making a clear call: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Repentance does not simply mean feeling sorry for sins. It means changing direction, turning our lives toward God. Jesus calls His first disciples. They are ordinary fishermen - Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John - at work, busy with nets and boats. He meets them in the middle of everyday life and says: "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." What is striking is how they respond. "At once they left their nets and followed him." No long speeches, No guarantees, Just trust. Those nets represent more than fishing gear. They stand for security, routine, and control. Following Jesus always involves letting go of something - habits, fears, grudges, or comforts that keep us from fully trusting God. This Gospel challenges us with a simple but demanding question: What nets are we holding onto? For some, it may be anger that refuses to forgive. For others, fear of change, or the need to fit in, or the belief that faith should not interfere too much with daily life. Jesus does not call everyone in the same way, but He calls each of us personally. Our response may not be dramatic, but it must be real. Following Jesus is not just about belief - it is about direction. As we continue Ordinary Time, let us ask for the courage to respond when Jesus calls - to loosen our grip on our nets and trust that the light He offers is stronger than any darkness. May we hear His voice clearly, follow Him faithfully, and help others find their way to the light. **Amen.**

God bless you all.