

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

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS

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Parish Website:

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Fr. Ramesh's Email:

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Rev. Peter Crosby

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This Parish is part
of the Archdiocese
of Birmingham.

Registered Charity
N^o:234216



DATE

Sunday 14th December 2025

SUNDAY

3rd Sunday of Advent- Year A

DIVINE OFFICE

Week 3

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

Saturday 13 th December <i>St Lucy</i> <small>Virgin, Martyr</small> ^{Memorial} (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	9:30am 10:00-10:30am 6:00pm	Bert Margetts <small>RIP</small> ^(EM) <i>Confessions & Benediction</i> People of the Parish
Sunday 14 th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	8:55am 9:30am	<i>Sunday Rosary Devotion Group</i> Catherine Connolly <small>RIP</small> ^(MD)
Monday 15 th December <i>Advent Feria</i>		<u>No Services Today</u>
Tuesday 16 th December <i>Advent Feria</i>	9:15am	Vera & Reg Yates <small>RIP</small> ^(MD)
Wednesday 17 th December <i>Advent Feria - O Sepienta</i>	9:15am 6:00pm	Int. of Paul Grennan <small>Get Well</small> ^(IE) <i>Rosary Devotion Group in Meeting Room (UFN)</i>
Thursday 18 th December <i>Advent Feria - O Adonai</i>	7:00pm	Private Intention
Friday 19 th December <i>Advent Feria - O Radix Jesse</i>	9:15am	Jim Smith <small>RIP</small> ^(RJ) <i>School Mass in SMA School</i>
Saturday 20 th December <i>Advent Feria - O Clavis David</i> (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	9:30am 10:00-10:30am 6:00pm	People of the Parish <i>Confessions & Benediction</i> Janet Reeves <small>RIP</small> ^(JR)
Sunday 21 st December <i>O Oriens</i> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	8:55am 9:30am	<i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i> <i>Sunday Rosary Devotion Group</i> David & Margaret Evans <small>RIP</small> ^(ES)

Christmas Offering Envelopes Are Available in the Porch

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

Our Holy Communion Classes ^{this Sunday} and Confirmation ^{next Sunday} continue straight after Sunday Mass. For further details, please contact our Parish Catechist **Mrs Philomena Mullins**
cat.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk

Pope Leo

The secret to living authentically is praying, so that we understand what truly brings the Kingdom of Heaven, and letting go of what is superfluous and ties us to passing things. We must remember that our time on earth prepares us for eternity.

Crib Collection

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

Recently Deceased

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of **Baby Hudson McKeown** upon whose soul, Sweet Jesus have mercy.

Christmas Nativity



Join us in church for our Christmas Carols and Nativity this Sunday 14th December at 5pm.

All your favourite carols, short readings and Nativity scenes created by children of the parish.

Please join us afterwards in the Meeting Room to share a glass of Christmas cheer and a festive pie!!

The CaFOD Prayer 3rd Sunday of Advent

CAFOD

Lord Jesus, excite in us an eagerness for your coming and ignite a joyful desire to serve you in our brothers and sisters.

Second Collections

There will be an SVP collection **THIS** weekend 13th/14th December 2025.

Remember that you are now able to donate using the Dona card machine in the porch.

Pope's Prayer Intention

The Pope's prayer intention for December is - For Christians in areas of Conflict – Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

Timings for the Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve:

Carol service at **4:30pm** – By Parish Choir

Followed by Family Mass at **5:00pm**

Carol service at **11:30pm** - By Parish Folk Group

Followed by **Midnight Mass**

Christmas Day:

Mass at **9:30am** – By Parish Folk Group

Sick in the Parish

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

Sheila Brayford, Geraldine Frith, John Hayes (Senior), 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.

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

Life Fundraiser

Many thanks to all who helped, provided cakes etc and supported us on the day last Sunday after Mass. We raised the wonderful sum of **£627.75** which will go towards supporting our work in Walsall, helping pregnant and needy mothers and babies. Again our grateful thanks, Ann T, Beryl M & Janet W.

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.

Carol Services in Our Church

Aldridge School will have their Carol Service on **Monday 15th December at 7:30pm**



Our SMA Primary School Carol Service is this **Thursday 18th December at 6:30pm.**

All parishioners are welcome.

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.

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 next years Lourdes Pilgrimage? 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>

The Big Clean



The big Christmas clean up for the church will be on **Tuesday 23rd December** at **10:00 am**

All teams are invited to this.

Advent Penitential Service

This will be on Tuesday 23rd December
(With 6 Priests) **at 7pm.**

This service is meant to prepare ourselves for the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. Please make use of this opportunity to have a meaningful annual celebration of Christmas.

RCIA Growing the Faith

Our weekly **R.C.I.A** course continues from 7:00 to 8:30pm this **Tuesday 16th December. 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 **Virtues & Vices.**

The Thomas Project

Once again we are supporting the Thomas Project with Christmas gifts. They have asked if we can give new gifts for either children or adults this year. The gifts will be required by **this Sunday 14th December.**

Please do not wrap them. Thank you.

Craft and Natter

We close for Christmas on the **16th December** at 3pm, reopening for business on the **Tuesday 13th January 2026** at **11am**; 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: 13TH – 14TH DECEMBER 2025

<u>6:00PM VIGIL MASS</u>	WELCOMERS:	Mavie & Krystal B
	READERS:	Gerry & Brian
	^{EO}Euch. Ministers	Tony M & Ann T
<u>9:30AM SUNG MASS</u>	WELCOMERS:	Helen A & Elaine A for Katharine & Dave
	MUSIC:	Choir
	READERS:	Maura & Christine
	^{EO}Euch. Ministers	Janet W & Sue W ^{Musicians} Catherine C

Duties During the Week: 15TH – 20TH DECEMBER

CLEANERS:	Team A.
FLOWERS:	No Flowers Until Christmas - when It's All Arrangers!

PARISH DUTIES NEXT WEEKEND: 20TH – 21ST DECEMBER 2025

<u>6:00PM VIGIL MASS</u>	WELCOMERS:	Dawn M
	READERS:	John & Cathy
	^{EO}Euch. Ministers	Emma H & Jonathan G
<u>9:30AM SUNG MASS.</u>	WARDENS:	Brian L
	WELCOMERS:	Margaret L & Elena S
	MUSIC:	Folk Group
	READERS:	Helen & Will
	^{EO}Euch. Ministers	Will B & Katharine M ^{Musicians} Phil P
	WARDENS:	Pat & Sally S
COFFEE:	Joanne & Sean M	

Reflection: Today's readings invite us to rejoice at the rebirth of Jesus in our lives as we are preparing for our annual Christmas celebration. Today is called **Rejoice Sunday** because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon: "*Rejoice in the Lord always.*" So, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus as our Saviour into our hearts and lives, we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose-coloured vestments. In the first part of today's Gospel reading, Jesus encourages John the Baptist in prison to rejoice by casting away his wrong expectations about the Messiah and simply accepting Jesus' healing and preaching ministry as the fulfilment of the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah. In the second part of today's Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus, the true Messiah, and pays the highest compliments to John the Baptist as Jesus' herald and the last of the prophets, and giving special credit to the courage of John's prophetic convictions, asking his listeners to rejoice in the greatness of his herald.

God bless you all.