

## PARISH CLERGY:

PARISH PRIEST  
**Fr. Ramesh Echu**

PARISH DEACON  
**Rev. Peter Crosby**

## PARISH REPS:

SAFEGUARDING:  
**Mr Gerry Wintrip**  
[sg.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk)

HEALTH & SAFETY:  
**Mr Phil Probert**  
[hs.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:hs.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk)

PARISH CATECHIST:  
**Mrs Philomena Mullins**  
[cat.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.catholicaldridge.co.uk)

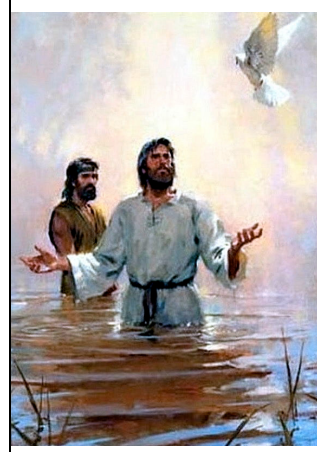
**Parish Email:**  
[smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk)

**Fr. Ramesh's Email:**  
[fr.ramesh.echu@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.ramesh.echu@rcaob.org.uk)

**Rev. Peter Crosby**  
[dcn.peter.crosby@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:dcn.peter.crosby@rcaob.org.uk)

This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

**Registered Charity**  
**Nº:234216**



DATE  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

SUNDAY  
**Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**  
**Year A**

DIVINE OFFICE  
From the Feast

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

Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 <b>Christmas Feria</b> (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 <sup>(JH)</sup>
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 <b>Baptism of the Lord</b> <sup>Feast</sup>	8:55am 9:30am	<i>Sunday Rosary Devotion Group</i> <b>People of the Parish</b>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 <b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b>		
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 <b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b>		
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 <b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b>	6:00pm	<i>Rosary Devotion Group in Meeting Room (UFN)</i>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 <b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b>		
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 <b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b>		
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 <b>St. Anthony</b> <sup>Memorial</sup> (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	6:00pm	<i>There will be No Morning Mass, Confession or Benediction this morning</i> Joan Hart <sup>RIP</sup> <sup>(PJ)</sup>
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	8:55am 9:30am	<i>Sunday Rosary Devotion Group</i> <b>People of the Parish</b>

### **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](mailto:cat.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk)

## Pope Leo

This is the spirit in which we wish to work together: the spirit of those who desire that every member of the Mystical Body of Christ will co-operate in an orderly way for the good of all (cf. Eph 4:11-13). May we fully carry out our ministry with dignity under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, happy to offer our own labour and to see it its fruits mature. May we likewise welcome the labours of others and rejoice in seeing them flourish.

### The CaFOD Prayer

#### Baptism of the Lord



God our Father, grant that we, who have been reborn in the waters of baptism and have become your children by adoption, may always please you by what we say and think and do.

### Recently Deceased

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

**Maria Spicer's** Requiem Mass will be at **1:00pm** on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January** here in SMA church followed by her committal at **2:30pm** at **Streetly Cemetery** where again Fr. Ryan Service will be the celebrant.

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

### Diocesan Directory 2026

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

## 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](mailto:sg.smota.aldridge@rcaob.org.uk) or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted at [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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 this year in November. Thank you, Phil P.<sup>4</sup>

### Thank You Messages

**Canon Michael** and **Christine** wish to thank everyone for their kindness and good wishes during the Christmas season. We assure you of our prayers.

**Catherine C** extends her grateful thanks to all of the cleaning teams for their sterling efforts over the Christmas Period.

### Could you be a Lourdes Healthcare Volunteer?

Are you a **doctor, nurse** or **carer**? Would you consider donating your time and expertise on this year's Lourdes Pilgrimage (25th - 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>

### RCIA Growing the Faith

Our weekly **R.C.I.A** course continues from 7:00 to 8:30pm this **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 **The Eucharist**.

### Parish Christmas Cards

Unclaimed parish **Christmas Cards** will be recycled after this **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January**.

### Whetstone Over 50s

**FUN  
QUIZ**

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

### Craft and Natter

We reopen this **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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**.

### Piety Stall



Thank you to all parishioners who have supported us during our first Christmas managing the Piety Stall. We hope you are pleased with your purchases. Please continue to visit us this year remember, the **Piety Stall is not just for Christmas**.

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**7:00pm Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**7:00pm Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

### PARISH DUTIES THIS WEEKEND: 10<sup>TH</sup> – 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

<b><u>6:00PM VIGIL MASS</u></b>	<b>WELCOMERS:</b>	Dawn M
	<b>READERS:</b>	Gerry W & Brian L
	<b><sup>EO</sup>Euch. Ministers</b>	<b>Emma &amp; Tony</b> <small>Correction</small>
<b><u>9:30AM SUNG MASS</u></b>	<b>WELCOMERS:</b>	Margaret L & Elena S
	<b>MUSIC:</b>	Choir
	<b>READERS:</b>	Edith B & Helen C
	<b><sup>EO</sup>Euch. Ministers</b>	Will & Katharine <small>Musicians</small> Phil P

### Duties During the Week: 13<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

<b>CLEANERS:</b>	Team D
<b>FLOWERS:</b>	Anne H

### PARISH DUTIES NEXT WEEKEND: 17<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

<b><u>6:00PM VIGIL MASS</u></b>	<b>WELCOMERS:</b>	Ann & John T
	<b>READERS:</b>	John H & Hugh D
	<b><sup>EO</sup>Euch. Ministers</b>	Chris & John T
<b><u>9:30AM SUNG MASS.</u></b>	<b>WARDENS:</b>	Peter H
	<b>WELCOMERS:</b>	Katharine & Dave <small>(Shift Swap)</small>
	<b>MUSIC:</b>	Folk Group
	<b>READERS:</b>	Florence N & Martin
	<b><sup>EO</sup>Euch. Ministers</b>	Sue & Katharine <small>Musicians</small> Catherine C
	<b>WARDENS:</b>	Pat & Sally S
	<b>COFFEE:</b>	Sarah B, Catherine A & Francesca A

**Reflection:** Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, a moment that brings the Christmas season to its close and opens the door to Jesus' public ministry. The child of Bethlehem steps into the waters of the Jordan, and something extraordinary is revealed—not just about who Jesus is, but about whom we are called to be. Jesus comes to John the Baptist not because he needs repentance. He comes in humility, choosing to stand in line with sinners, the poor, and the searching. From the very beginning of his mission, Jesus shows us what God is like: a God who does not stand above humanity, but enters fully into our condition. As Jesus rises from the water, the heavens open. The Spirit descends like a dove, and a voice is heard: "You are my beloved Son; with whom I am well pleased." This is not just a private moment for Jesus. It is a revelation. The Father declares Jesus' identity before He performs a single miracle, before He preaches a sermon, before He goes to the cross. Jesus is beloved not because of what He does, but because of who He is. That message matters deeply for us. In our world, worth is often measured by success, performance, grades, popularity, or productivity. However, at Jesus' baptism, God reminds us that identity comes before achievement. Love comes before effort. Through our own baptism, we are drawn into this same relationship. We too are named beloved sons and daughters of God. Baptism is not just a ritual from the past - it is a living reality. It marks us as people who belong to God and are never alone. As we begin this new season of the Church year, let us remember our baptism with gratitude and purpose. May we trust that we are beloved, strengthened by the Spirit, and called to reflect God's love in the world. May we live not in fear, but in faith - not trying to earn God's love, but responding to it with our lives.

**God bless you all.**