

St. Joseph the Worker

First Sunday of Advent

3rd December, 2017



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Sunday, 3 rd December First Sunday of Advent <i>Migrants' Day</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.30 pm (University Chaplaincy) 5.00 pm	Margaret & Michael Higgins (Anniv.) Intentions of the Ordinariate The People of the Parish Margaret Griffin RIP (Birthday)
Monday, 4 th December <i>Op. Mem. of St. John Damascene, Priest</i>	10.00 am 7.00 pm	Maureen Mooney RIP (Anniversary) Fr. Paul's Intentions
Tuesday, 5 th December <i>Feast of St. Birinus, Bishop</i>	No Mass Today	
Wednesday, 6 th December <i>Optional Memorial of St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>	10.00 am 7.00 pm	John Lovegrove Alan James Goodwin RIP (Anniversary)
Thursday, 7 th December <i>Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop</i>	10.00 am 12.30 pm (University Chaplaincy) 7.00 pm	Sarah Cosgrove Private Intention Fr. Paul's Intentions
Friday, 8 th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10.00 am 12.30 pm (University Chaplaincy)	Maureen Parslow (Birthday) Private Intention
Saturday, 9 th December <i>Op. Mem. of St. John Diego Cuatlatatzin</i>	10.00 am followed by Exposition	Fr. Paul's Intentions
Sunday, 10 th December Second Sunday of Advent <i>Bible Sunday</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.30 pm (University Chaplaincy) 5.00 pm	The People of the Parish Intentions of the Ordinariate Private Intention Pauline Whale RIP

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 10.30-11.00 am.

Mass attendance last weekend: 224 Last week's first collection: £619.50; Gift Aid: £237.37. Catholic Youth Service: £343.03.	Reading Rota	9am	5pm
	Today	Henry Whitney	Irma Whitehead
	Next Week	Val Edge	Tony Scanlon

Thank you.

Welcome to Mass at St. Joseph's today.

Today we enter into **Advent** and the Church's new year. The Sunday Mass Lectionary Cycle is Year B, and the Weekday Cycle is Year 2.

Please pray for all the Sick of the Parish including: Anne Doherty, Bob Jones, John McKelvie, David Martin, Patsy Sarayar, Mary Smith, Dave Chimber, Kathleen Gavin, Danny Harrington, Phil Irwin, Bridget Cherry, Tom Murray, Eddie Kelly, Tess Skerrett, Alice Horner, Gabrielle, Enid Butcher, Ann Kelly, Mari Meadowcroft, Terry Richards, Uthaya Swoboda, Brian McLaughlin, Beryl Poppett, Margaret Dunne, Val O'Leary, Keelin Treharne, Mary McDonagh, Paddy Beausang, Elizabeth Conry, Pamela Read and Eleanor Collins.

Those who have died. Please pray for **Denis Daly, Patsy O'Neill, Roger Afford** and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Frs. Liam MacFarlane, Horace Relph, Michael George Knight, William Warner, Anthony Kane, George Rafferty, Thomas McMorro, Jerome O'Flynn and Hugh Molloy and also Cornelius McParland, Elizabeth Dadley, Etta Seery, Christopher Mulligan, Mary Perry, Ellen Mullen, Mary Turner, Martin Griffin, Mary Margaret (Rose) Young, Thomas Carroll, Betty Rushworth, Thomas Lewis and Violet Carroll. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

I should like to say a very big thankyou to everyone who made my birthday last week such a wonderful day. I am grateful for all the presents (I have enough bottles to keep me mellow for some time to come) and the cards, but most of all for the prayers, love and kindness that I experienced. The party was great fun and seeing so many people come together to celebrate was the best of all. God bless you all, and especially the organisers. I shall offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for you all.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Margaret Griffin RIP (Birthday).
The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for John Paul Brogan.
Our Lady's Candle is burning for the Dekkers Family (in thanksgiving).

CONSECRATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S

His Grace, Archbishop Bernard Longley, has agreed to come to consecrate our church on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, 1st May, 2018. That means in 150 days, and counting. If you would like to make a contribution towards the costs of the Consecration there are some special envelopes in the porch. Thank you very much.

Christmas Cards. I hope you like our parish Christmas cards. If you haven't found one on your seat, please take one from the back of the church, and take a few more to drop off to your neighbours. Thank you. The times of our Christmas services are on the cards.

The Parish Christmas Tree. Our tree is not just a decoration: it is a focus for our hope and prayer this Advent and Christmas.



Did you know that a **paper chain** was made by 60 people in 24 hours in Franklin, Virginia, USA in 2005 that measured 54.33 miles long? I don't think we want to rival that, but just imagine if every link in a paper chain was a prayer, so that the prayer of each individual was linked to everyone else's. I think between us we could make a chain long enough to decorate the tree by Christmas. *Pick out one of the coloured strips that are available by the tree, write your prayer on the blank side and link it to the chain already on the tree.*

You can pray for yourself or your family, for someone you know, for the Church, for the world, for peace and justice, for the homeless and refugees, (the list goes on), or you could write a prayer of thanksgiving and praise, or just tell Jesus how much you love him. There are many prayers we can make, and by linking them together let's make our tree a witness to our united joy and faith for Christmas.



Poor Parishes Fund. There will be a second collection at Masses next Sunday for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese. The Fund was put in place to help those smaller parishes where they experience difficulty in paying their day-to-day bills.

The Blessing of the Coventry Crib. Each year the Catholic Parishes in Coventry present a Crib to the City. It will be in place and blessed this afternoon, at 4.00 pm in the Precinct, by the Library.

200 Club winners:

1st Prize, £15: No. 75; M. Harrington.

2nd Prize, £5: No. 49; D. Clarkson.

Cycle of Prayer. During the Seasons of Advent and Christmas we are asked to pray for the following intentions: Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.

Christmas Flowers. There will be baskets in the porch as you go out of Mass today to collect any offerings you may wish to make to help pay for flowers to decorate the church at Christmas. Please help if you can. Thank you.

Confirmation. Congratulations to the children who were confirmed at Our Lady of the Assumption last Thursday.

Parish Forum. The next meeting is this Thursday, 7th December, 7.30 pm. We will be concentrating on preparations for the Consecration of the Church.

Film Club. The next film in our pre-Christmas series will be "It's a Wonderful Life" on Friday 15th December. It starts at 7.00 pm. No charge; all welcome.

Please help: The Government is deciding whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

The Advent Walk With Me booklets are now available for £1. There are also copies of the Advent *Day By Day* booklets (also £1) which have the daily Mass readings.

Coventry Pioneer Regional Committee – Fr McKiernan Memorial Mass on Friday 15th December at 7.30pm at the Pioneer Hall, Broad Street. All welcome

Grand Christmas Draw. Please don't forget to bring back the counterfoils with the money. If you would like to donate a prize it will be gratefully received. We shall hold our Advent Carol Service on **Thursday, 14th December**, and we shall be drawing the winners then.

Post-Mission Meeting. There will be a meeting in the hall after the 9 am Mass next Sunday, 10th December with Karen Shurety, to look at how we can move forward as a parish community. Please come.

Advent Vigil. Thanks to everyone who took part in our Vigil last night. It was a great way to welcome Advent.

Christmas Afternoon Tea, next Saturday, 9th December. All tickets for this are now sold, but if anyone would like to donate Christmas Crackers or cakes they would be most gratefully received – please see Maria or Carmel. All proceeds to go to the Consecration Fund.

Tailpiece: Modern life, huh? As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my E-mail?"

May God bless you and all those whom you love.

Fr. Harry