

St. Joseph the Worker

Third Sunday of Advent

17th December, 2017



Fr Harry Curtis, Parish Priest, email: sjtvco@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Geraldine Griffin - Parish Office Open: Monday; Wednesday to Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm

Safeguarding Officer: Henry Whitney, email henry@kundert.co.uk, Tel: 02476 227 741

Hall Manager: Madeleine Struthers, email: sjwballbookings@gmail.com, Tel: 07925 896 610

The Presbytery, 1 De Montfort Way, Coventry, CV4 7DU. Tel: 02476 419 111

Websites: www.stjosephcoventry.org.uk www.coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

Sunday, 17 th December Third Sunday of Advent	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.30 pm (University Chaplaincy) 5.00 pm	Jerry Donovan RIP (Birthday) Intentions of the Ordinariate The People of the Parish Nora Curristan RIP
Monday, 18 th December	10.00 am 7.00 pm	Anastasia Whale RIP (Anniversary) Fr. Paul's Intentions
Tuesday, 19 th December	No Mass Today	
Wednesday, 20 th December	10.00 am 6.00 pm Penance Service 7.00 pm	Michael Gleeson Mark Walker & his Family
Thursday, 21 st December Commemoration of St. Peter Canisius, Priest	10.00 am 7.00 pm	Eileen Connolly Fr. Paul's Intentions
Friday, 22 nd December	10.00 am	In thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity & Our Lady
Saturday, 23 rd December Commemoration of St. John of Kanty, Priest	10.00 am followed by Exposition	James O'Shaughnessy
Sunday, 24 th December Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.30 pm (University Chaplaincy) 4.00 pm Crib Service & Carols 5.00 pm First Mass of Christmas 11.30 pm Carols and Readings 12.00 Midnight Mass	Patsy O'Neill RIP Intentions of the Ordinariate Private Intention The People of the Parish The People of the Parish
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 10.30-11.00 am.		
Mass attendance last weekend: 89	Reading Rota	9am
Last week's first collection: £362.42; Gift Aid: £134.35.	Today	Peter O'Brien
Poor Parishes Fund: £133.27.	Next Week	Paul Keenan
Thank you.		Bob Pryce

Welcome to St. Joseph's Church today for the Third Sunday of Advent.

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 **Johanna Pickering, Peter Eaves, John Henry Jones, Denis Daly, Patsy O'Neill** and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Mgr. Canon William Flint, Frs. Daniel O'Connor, Michael O'Meara and Patrick Wall and also Thomas Fanning, Josephine Mooney, Carol McCarron, Hugh Gallagher, Anastasia Whale, Margaret Bremner, Garry Doyle, Thomas Fox, Margaret Clancey, Eugene Vincent, Patrick McMahan, Hannah Cullinane, Eugene Turley, Shirley Dainty, James Dolan, William Donahoe, Michael Lenagh, Edna Hughes, Dorothy O'Neill, John O'Hare, Peggy Isdale, Margaret Howarth, Elizabeth McLaughlin, Michael Collins, Bridie Barnes and Paul Foster. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Bridget Dineen.
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Anastasia Whale RIP (Anniversary).
St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Jerry Donovan RIP (Birthday).

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 136 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.

The Parish Christmas Tree. Our tree is not just a decoration: it is a focus for our hope and prayer this Advent and Christmas and our prayer paperchain is growing. We might not rival the world record paperchain that measured over 54 miles long, but I think between us we could make a chain of prayers 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 we can make our tree a witness to our united joy and faith for Christmas.



Advent Penance Service. To help us prepare for Christmas there will be a short penance service before the evening Mass this Wednesday, 20th December, at 6.00 pm, followed by the opportunity for Confessions. All welcome.

Times of Mass at Christmas: Christmas is on a Monday this year, so the times of Mass on Christmas Eve are the normal Sunday Masses. I shall celebrate the 5.00 pm Mass (which will be the vigil Mass for Christmas) and 9.00 am on Christmas Day; Fr. Paul will celebrate the Midnight Mass (at Midnight!) and 11.00 am on Christmas Day. I shall also celebrate Mass at 12.30 pm each day at the University Chaplaincy.

Diocesan Directories. The new directories (or as they are now called, "Year Books") are now available. If you want to know anything about our diocese, this is the book for you. Spiral-bound £4.50, normal binding £3.50.

Christmas Tea. Many thanks to Carmel, Maria and all those who helped them with the Christmas Tea last week, and thank you to everyone who came to support it. I am glad to report that it was a great success and raised £360.63 for the Consecration Fund.

Advent Carol Service. And another big thank you to everyone who helped to make last Thursday's Advent Carol Service such a lovely evening: those who provided the Service itself, the music, the raffle, the refreshments, the setting-out and clearing-up. Thank you to everyone who very generously provided prizes for the raffle and thank you most of all to everyone who came and took part. It raised £399.51 for Parish Funds. There is a list of prize-winners on the board in the porch.

200 Club winners:

1st Prize, £15: No. 101; P. Monaghan.
2nd Prize, £5: No. 69; M. Whelan.

Crib Offerings. The crib offerings this year will be divided between two charities: (1) The Coventry Winter Night Shelter is run by Coventry Churches and provides rough sleepers with support, a hot meal and a bed for the night, and (2) the Hospice of St. Vincent de Paul is a home run by the Daughters of Charity for physically and mentally handicapped children in Ein Karem, Israel. Bernardo Cañas and Geoff Dorrett will briefly introduce the two charities at the end of Mass today.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". The second part of Advent starts today and is marked by the "O Antiphons" which highlight a different title each day for the Messiah and invite Him into our hearts: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and *O Emmanuel*.

Christmas Offerings. Traditionally the collection at the Christmas Masses is your personal offering to your priest. There are envelopes at the back of Church to use if you wish, some for me and some for Fr. Paul, whichever is appropriate. Thank you.

Offering Hope when the Cradle is Empty. What can religious couples do when their desire for the gift of a child is left wanting? At Life FertilityCare they show that integration between Faith and medicine is possible. To find out more see www.lifefertilitycare.co.uk or contact Life FertilityCare on 01926834654.

Commemorative Sanctuary Candles. For £5 you can buy a candle that will be blessed at the Christmas Midnight Mass and then will burn in the sanctuary or by the Sacred Heart, Our Lady or St. Joseph, for any week of your choice during the coming year. Why not give one as a Christmas present and have a card to go with it?

Tailpiece: Believe it if you like! The Crist family worked at a zoo and each year at this time they got a lot of publicity by predicting what the new year would be like. They did it, they claimed, by watching the gnu; if the gnu's ears were forward, that meant a successful, joyous year was almost certain to happen. But if his ears were laid back flat against his head, it meant that an unlucky or very unhappy year was sure to come. One year it was young Mary's turn to make the prediction. In her excitement she forgot to take the key and so was late in coming to check on the gnu. Well, she saw the wrong ear position and predicted a bad year, when in fact it was quite good. To explain the error, the local newspaper ran this headline: *Mary Crist misses an happy gnu year.*

May God bless you and all those whom you love. If you are away for Christmas, travel safely and have a lovely Christmas.

Fr. Harry