

University of Warwick Chaplaincy

Fourth Sunday of Advent

23rd December, 2018

Catholic Chaplain: Fr. Harry Curtis

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St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, The Presbytery, 1 De Montfort Way, Coventry, CV4 7DU.

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Sacred Heart of Jesus, Seat of Divine Wisdom, enlighten us!

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!

St Thomas Aquinas and St. Aloysius Gonzaga, patrons of students, pray for us!

(Mass times this week, at St. Joseph's unless otherwise stated)

Sunday, 23 rd December Fourth Sunday of Advent Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers	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 John Joseph Burke & Dec'd Family
Monday, 24 th December Christmas Eve	10.00 am 5.00 pm First Mass of Christmas 11.30 pm Carols and Readings 12.00 Midnight Mass	Sr. Sabrina May, Jack & Sean McCrave & Patricia Swain Private Intention
Tuesday, 25 th December CHRISTMAS DAY: SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.30 pm (University Chaplaincy) (THERE IS NO EVENING MASS)	Anne Healy & the Healy family Intentions of the Ordinariate Private Intention
Wednesday, 26 th December <i>Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr</i>	10.00 am	Special Intention
Thursday, 27 th December <i>Feast of St. John, Apostle, Evangelist</i>	10.00 am	Eileen Connolly
Friday, 28 th December <i>Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>	10.00 am	Sr. Maureen Grigg
Saturday, 29 th December <i>Feast of St. Thomas Becket, Martyr</i>	10.00 am followed by Exposition	P & M Meehan
Sunday, 30 th December Feast of the Holy Family	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.30 pm (University Chaplaincy) 3.00 pm Baptism 5.00 pm	Charles & Martha Connolly Intentions of the Ordinariate The People of the Parish Kai Morrison-Collins Bridget Loughan

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 10.30-11.00 am.

Welcome to our celebration of Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, especially if you are visiting for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Please note that there will be no weekday Masses here in the Chaplaincy during the holiday. Our Thursday and Friday Masses will start again in the new term. Similarly, prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday mornings at St. Joseph's will take a break over the Christmas vacation. We shall start again in January.

Times of Mass at Christmas: I shall celebrate the 5.00 Mass at St. Joseph's tomorrow evening as the Vigil Mass for Christmas. It will include the Blessing of the Crib. I shall concelebrate with Fr. Tim at the Midnight Mass, and I shall celebrate Mass at 9.00 in St. Joseph's on Christmas morning and at 12.30 pm here at the University Chaplaincy.

Prayer Before Mass

God our Father, you sent Jesus, our High Priest, to redeem us and you willed that His saving work should continue through the ministry of priests. Enlighten us to celebrate this Sunday Mass with our priest, so that, empowered by the Word of life and the Eucharist, we may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to live to the full our Christian calling. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

To see the Diocesan Privacy Notice go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>

For information about the Ordinariate go to www.ordinariate.org.uk/groups/coventry

Christmas Dinner. There will be dinner on Christmas Day at 2.00 in St. Joseph's parish hall for any of our community who would otherwise be on their own. If you would like to be part of it, welcome! Please tell me.

Catholic Newspapers. Please note that *The Universe* and *The Catholic Times* are double issues for this week and next week and they are each priced £3.00. They and *The Tablet* (£4.70) are available in the church porch.

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, St. Joseph or St. Anthony, for any week of your choice during the coming year.



It can be for any reason you want: to remember a loved one; for a special intention; or why not give one as a Christmas present and have a card to go with it?

Would you like to spend a year (Aug 2019-Jul 2020) as part of the SPEC community in London which runs retreats with young people in the Diocese of Westminster? Check out their website for more information: <http://dowym.com/spec/volunteer/>

“Faith in Politics”: Catholic Parliamentary and Public Policy Internships 2019-20.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have organised an Internship Scheme and are looking to recruit up to nine recently-graduated Catholics to work for 11 months from September 2019 to July 2020 in Parliamentary, Public Affairs, and Social Action posts. The interns will be selected on the basis of ability and potential to gain most from the experience. The interns will live together with 70 other students in More House, a Catholic Chaplaincy and Student Centre in Central London. Financial support will be provided to cover living and travel costs for the duration of the internship.

The closing date for applications is 5.00pm on Thursday, 28th February 2019. Further information is available from, and applications should be made through, the website www.faithinpolitics.org.uk

Volunteer Overseas with Jesuit Missions! Do you feel called to serve others? Are you looking for a new way of life? Would you like to gain experience with an international NGO? Volunteer with Jesuit Missions and make a difference to the lives of some of the world's most marginalised communities. For more info and to apply, please email volunteering@jesuitmissions.org.uk or visit www.jesuitmissions.org.uk

The Parish Christmas Tree. This Advent I invite you to decorate our Christmas tree at St. Joseph's by writing your prayer for Christmas – for yourself, your family and friends, for the poor, for peace, and so on - on one of the paper angels and hanging it on the tree. God's messengers can help us with our prayers to God. Our tree is not just a decoration: it is a focus for our hope and prayer this Advent and Christmas.



Christmas Service of Nine Lessons & Carols. The traditional Ordinariate Christmas Carol Service will be at St. Joseph's on Sunday, 30th December, at 6.30 pm and they have invited all of us to join them to celebrate the birth of Christ in this beautiful way.

Coventry Foodbank. At St. Joseph's we collect non-perishable food items for the local Foodbank. You can leave anything you wish to donate in the box in the Jordan Room. Thank you.

Christmas Offerings. Traditionally the collection at the Christmas Masses is your personal offering to your priest. Thank you.

Christmas Crib. Sometimes people like to make an offering of money when they see a Christmas Crib. Any Crib Offerings at St. Joseph's this year will be divided between 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) Aid to the Church in Need who, each year, fund over 5,000 projects in more than 140 countries, helping to support the Church in its mission, and bringing hope and solidarity to persecuted and suffering Christians to help them live out their faith.

New Year's Eve. Are you doing anything special for New Year's Eve? Why not come to St. Joseph's for Mass at 11.15 pm to thank God for the blessings of the last year and to pray for His blessing on the coming year? We can then “see in” the New Year together with a small celebration in the hall. All welcome; bring something to eat or drink if you wish to add to the things provided.

Tailpiece: In 1979, a hymnologist published an article, “How to Decode the Twelve Days of Christmas” in which he suggested that someone wrote a carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

1. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. The five golden rings recall the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
8. The eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
10. The ten lords a-leaping are the ten commandments.
11. The eleven pipers piping are the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolise the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas. Thank you for your friendship and help this year, and may God bless you and all those who are dear to you.

Fr. Harry