

St. Joseph the Worker

Fourth Sunday of Advent

22nd December, 2019



Fr Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

The Presbytery, 1 De Montfort Way, Coventry, CV4 7DU.

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Welcome to St. Joseph's today, especially if you are visiting our parish for the Christmas holiday.

We are a parish with a clear identity and purpose: to be a Catholic community, formed by the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus, for the glory and praise of God the Father and the service of His Kingdom, and also for the mutual up-building and support of its members. The core message that we feel called to live is contained in Jesus' words:

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

Sunday, 22 nd December Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	9.00 am 12.30 pm (University Chaplaincy) 5.00 pm	Maurice Flanagan The People of the Parish Katie Aubrey RIP
Monday, 23 rd December <i>Commemoration of St. John of Kanty, Priest</i>	10.00 am	Forgotten Holy Souls
Tuesday, 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	Chrissie Quinn Tommy Dunne RIP Private Intention
Wednesday, 25 th December CHRISTMAS DAY: SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	9.00 am 12.30 pm (University Chaplaincy) (THERE IS NO EVENING MASS)	Jack, May, Sean McCrave, Patricia Swain Private Intention
Thursday, 26 th December <i>Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr</i>	10.00 am	Martha and Frank Perry
Friday, 27 th December <i>Feast of St. John, Apostle, Evangelist</i>	10.00 am	Margaret Doherty
Saturday, 28 th December <i>Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>	10.00 am followed by Exposition	Maureen & Michael Mooney (Wedding Anniversary)
Sunday, 29 th December Feast of the Holy Family	9.00 am 12.30 pm (University Chaplaincy) 5.00 pm	Mary Meehan RIP The People of the Parish John Joseph Burke and Deceased Family
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 10.30-11.00 am.		
Mass attendance: 200	Reading Rota	9am
Last week's first collection: £585.69; Gift Aid: £185.00.	Today	Henry Whitney
Christmas Flowers: £147.92	Next Week	Jacqui O'Reilly
Thank You.		5pm John Mulvenna Irma Whitehead

Please pray for Vincent Egan, Joan Kelly, and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bishop Francis Thomas, Mgr. Canons William Flint and Thomas Gavin, Mgr. Patrick O'Mahoney, Frs. Patrick Wall, Anthony Ireland, Thomas N. Meagher, Denis Murphy, Colum McCabe, Seamus McInerney, David O'Callaghan, and also John O' Hare, Peggy Isdale, Margaret Howarth, Elizabeth McLaughlin, Michael Collins, Bridie Barnes, Paul Foster, Eileen Walford, Esther Nelson, Dolly Ryan, Julia Philomena Kelly, John McKenna, Bridget Philomena Heyes, Monica Deegan, Margaret Young, Patricia Eileen Lynch, Jesse Thompson, Anne-Louise Healey and Annie McKelvie. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

Please pray for all the Sick of the Parish including: George Morton, Josie Dekkers, Paddy Beausang, Kevon Perry, Bridget Cherry, Chris Mullen, and all the sick.

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Deceased Curtis and Boyle Families.
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for a Private Intention.
St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Katie Aubrey RIP.
St. Anthony's Candle is burning this week for Sean and Margaret Gallagher RIP.**

200 Club winners:

1st Prize, £15: No. 12; Lynn Rogers.
2nd Prize, £5: No. 82; P. Burke.

Christmas Crib. Crib Offerings this year will be divided between Friends of the Holy Land and the Coventry Winter Night Shelter.

Sign-Up Sheets for Christmas Masses/Services. In the porch there are lists for volunteers to sign up to help over Christmas – Readers, Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Welcomers, etc. There are still a few gaps; please do help out if you can.

Diocesan Directories. The new directories are now available in the church porch. If you want to know anything about our diocese, this is the book for you. Spiral-bound £4.50, normal binding £3.00.

The Parish Christmas Tree. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent I invite you to decorate our Christmas tree 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 “candles” and hanging it on the tree.



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. Thank you.

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 with a card?



Instructions in the Faith. Do you know anyone who would like to know more about the Catholic Faith? Do YOU want to know more? In January I hope we can start a series of meetings on Wednesday evenings, 7.30-8.30 to explore our faith. Please let people know about this opportunity.

Feasts in the next couple of weeks. Next Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family; Wednesday, 1st January, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God; the Epiphany will be on Sunday, 5th January; and the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which closes the Christmas season, will be on the following Sunday, 12th January.

Coventry Foodbank. We collect non-perishable food items for the local Foodbank. If you can help, please leave things in the box in the Jordan Room. Thank you.

Carol Singing. We did it! We 26 kings of Orient sang for the shoppers in Tescos yesterday and (I hope and believe) helped a few people to hear the true Christmas message. Thank you to everyone who came along to take part, and especially to our musicians. It was great fun and we collected £221.17 for the Coventry Winter Night Shelter. I have never actually seen people running out of Tescos before – they were clearly keen to tell their friends to come and join in.



Christmas Dinner. Last year there was a Christmas dinner provided in the Parish Hall for people who would otherwise be on their own. Unfortunately, we can't do it this year in the same way. But perhaps if people would like to have a Bring-and-Share dinner we could at least offer company and celebration on that special day. Please let me know if you are interested.

Coventry Winter Night Shelter. If you wish to offer specific aid to the CWNS, there is a list of requirements in the porch. I can pass on any offerings.

Little Evangelist. The Christmas edition of this magazine for children is available in the porch (£3). It is a lovely booklet for families to work on together.

New Year's Eve. Are you doing anything special for New Year's Eve? Why not come to Mass at 11.00 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: A turkey farmer always donated a bird for the parish's Christmas dinner. Year after year there were never enough turkey legs for everyone who wanted one, so he set out to breed a turkey with more than two legs. Then one year, as the church was preparing the Dinner, the farmer told the parish priest that he had finally succeeded in breeding a bird with six legs. “Wow!” the priest exclaimed. “Let me see it!” “That's the problem,” the farmer said. “I can't catch the blessed thing!”

*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*