



THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD & ALL SOULS



The Catholic parish of Chapelfields & Earlsdon
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A parish of the Archdiocese of Birmingham in collaboration with the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham

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SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)



Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming kingdom, Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

R./ Blessed be God for ever.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: CELEBRATING, LIVING & SHARING GOD'S WORD

The Book of Leviticus: Worshipping the God of holiness

In brief: In Leviticus, God tells the Israelites and their priests how to make offerings in the Tabernacle and how to conduct themselves while camped around the holy tent sanctuary.

Who wrote this book? Like all the books of the Torah, the book of Leviticus is credited to Moses. Moses tells us about the long and detailed instructions the Lord gave to him about Israel's religious practices and sacrifices. The instructions say what the sacrifice was for and how it was done.

Right behaviour and worship Most of the material in Leviticus is rules on proper behaviour in worship. Leviticus also includes very detailed lists of religious taboos in the area of food and disease – many of which are still practiced by the Jews today. Everything from sexual conduct to the handling of food, to instructions for worship and religious celebrations, is covered in the book of Leviticus. The book explains what made people unclean and how they could become clean again so that they could worship the God of holiness, including the kind of punishment they should be given for wrongdoings.

Sacrifices and offerings There were five types of sacrifices: burnt offering, grain offering, peace offering, purification offering, and reparation offering. The sacrifices were not made to wipe out sin. Nor were they supposed to be viewed as legalistic rites one must perform to earn God's grace.

They were outward expressions of a person's or community's inward desire to restore the broken relationships between humanity and God and humanity and the world.

Concern for the poor It is interesting to note that provision is made in these laws for poor people. If they could not afford to bring an animal to sacrifice, they could bring a measure of flour instead (5:7-13). This concern for the poor continues throughout the book of Leviticus (see 19:9-10 and chapter 25).

The Mosaic Law stated: "eye for eye . . ." In Leviticus, we hear that "anyone who injures their neighbour is to be injured in the same manner: fracture for fracture, eye for eye. . ." (Leviticus 24:19-21). The "eye for an eye" rule has often been misinterpreted; it did not authorise or sanction vigilante justice. Rather, it helped appointed judges to impose punishments that were appropriate, being neither too harsh nor too lenient. When properly applied, it meant that qualified judges imposed retribution for an offence only after first considering the circumstances involved and the extent to which the offence was deliberate (Exodus 21:28-30; Numbers 35:22-25). The "eye for an eye" rule thus acted as a restraint against extremes in punishment.

God is saying in this book that all aspects of our lives – moral, physical, and spiritual – are important to him.

✠ WORSHIP THIS WEEK ✠

Sunday 13 th	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (<i>Gaudete</i>)	10.30am MASS	<i>For the People of the parish Anne Callan RIP (Fr Tim)</i>
Monday 14 th	St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church	9.30am Mass	<i>Kevin & Ellen Condon RIP</i>
Tuesday 15 th	Advent Feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Mary Harnett RIP</i>
Wednesday 16 th	Advent feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Cyril, Hilda & Edward Lee RIP</i>
Thursday 17 th	Advent feria (<i>O Sapientia</i>)	7.30pm Mass	<i>James & Josephine Foley RIP</i>
Friday 18 th	Advent feria (<i>O Adonai</i>)	9.30am Mass	<i>John & Josie Cullinan RIP</i>
Saturday 19 th	Advent feria (<i>O Radix</i>)	9.30am Mass	<i>Jim Lawton RIP</i>
Sunday 20 th	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (<i>O Clavis</i>)	10.30am MASS	<i>For the People of the parish Seamus Croarkin RIP (Fr Tim)</i>

12noon Holy Baptism (Presha Edward-Premanathan)

Adoration 30 minutes before Mass Monday-Saturday.

Daily Evening Prayer (Vespers) via Zoom at 6pm (email Fr Paul to receive log-in details)

PLEASE BOOK FOR CHRISTMAS MASS

Please book a place at one of our Christmas Masses (Christmas Eve at 4.30pm & 8pm and Christmas Day at 9.30am & 11.15am). Phone 7667 4161 or email allsoulsco@gmail.com

Please note that the **4.30pm Christmas Eve Mass is now at capacity**. There are spaces available at the other 3 Masses. Alternatively, you may wish to attend Mass in the rest of the Christmas Octave (St Stephen's Day, 26 Dec - Mary, Mother of God, 1 Jan). There is no need to book for these other Masses.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS It was a real pleasure to witness some of year 4 children receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time at yesterday's Mass: **Phoebe, Moses Alicia, Noah, Conor, Jamie, Eden, Oliver, Jacob, Thomas**. We look forward to the rest of the children doing the same this coming Saturday and at Christmas. We pray that they will be faithful communicant members of the Church and our parish and grow strong in faith.

BAPTISM Please pray for **George Kerr** who was baptised yesterday. We welcome him into the communion of the Church.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS The Sacrament of Confession will be readily available before Christmas: Saturday 19 Saturday 10.30-11.30am; Monday 21st 10.15-11.00am; Tuesday 22nd 10.15-11.00am; Wednesday 23rd 10.15-11.00am; Thursday 24th 10.15-11.00am and at other times by arrangement.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS In a similar vein, Fr Paul will lead a Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols at 4pm on Sunday 27 December. In the busyness of Christmas why not set aside an hour to listen to the Good News of God-with-us proclaimed in scripture and to sing some carols.

CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE Please note that this service at 3pm on Christmas Eve is a **livestreamed service only** (ie not in church). It is not a Mass, but a service of prayers and carols at the crib to watch either live or at another time over Christmas.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING envelopes are now available at the back of church.



THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

Our beautiful crib is now in place. At the moment it stands empty, apart from the animals and their feeding trough. Some Advent prayers are provided for your use. The crib is not just a pretty decoration; it is intended to bring us to our knees in adoration of the God who 'became poor so that we might become rich'.

A focus of prayer I encourage you to use the crib as a focus for prayer and devotion. Silver and gold 'prayer stars' are available at the back of church. You're encouraged to write a prayer or an intention on the white side and place the star in the basket near the crib. These will then be displayed around the crib.

A focus of charity I'd also like us to use the crib as a focus for charity. How could we not be moved to respond to the needy and vulnerable as we adore Christ in the poverty of the stable? Therefore I invite everybody coming to Christmas worship this year to bring an item of non-perishable food for the **Food Bank** and place it in the box near the crib at the end of Mass. Also to make a monetary crib offering for **Friends of the Holy Land**. FHL aims to help and encourage Christians to flourish in the land of their birth, and to ensure a secure Christian presence in the land of Our Lord's birth and earthly life. This Christmas so many Holy Land Christians, their homes and families, will be affected by a lack of tourists and pilgrims, which means a loss of income. Please place crib offerings in the wall slots near the exit.

Please take care not to crowd around the crib. Leave physical distance between yourself and others.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2021 It is now possible to request Masses for 2021. You can use the envelopes in church and post through the presbytery door or make a request via the website.

NHS TRACK & TRACE Each time you come to Mass we ask you please to provide your contact details. You can do this in one of two ways: EITHER Download the **NHS Test and Trace app** to your smartphone and **scan the All Souls QR code** on the posters in the porch OR Bring a **piece of paper with your name and contact number** and post it in the metal box in the porch.

GROWING FAITH

Week 6: The Bible

To help sustain our faith during the challenging winter months, we are providing parishioners with a weekly link to resources from **Sycamore**, a Catholic course aimed at helping people mature in their faith. The main feature is a 30 minute film.

This week's session is entitled **The Bible**. Simply follow the link, press play and enjoy:
<https://www.sycamore.fm/videos/session-6-the-bible/>

Those receiving the link by email will also find an attachment with some questions for reflection/discussion plus some related passages of scripture and teaching of the Church. You may wish to use the resources on your own or as a family. Please feel to pass them on to others who you think would benefit. Fr Paul

RETURNING TO MASS The Sunday obligation remains suspended by our bishops because of the pandemic, but if your own circumstances - including health and vulnerability to the virus - allow, please re-establish the discipline of weekly public worship. There is a daily Mass at all Souls, including an evening Mass on Thursdays. Livestreams and Acts of Spiritual Communion are intended to serve those who really need them; they are not proposed as substitutes or as a "new normal" for the majority.

O COME, O COME, LORD JESUS!

In these later days of Advent we call on Christ to come to us – into our world and into our lives. We invoke him under ancient titles drawn from Old Testament prophecy.

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other mightily, and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one: Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O LORD our God.



CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS AT ALL SOULS

Information for parishioners

A difficult year

This has been a very difficult year indeed because of COVID-19. Some of you will have lost loved ones to the virus; some of you will have had the virus yourselves; others will be facing an uncertain financial future. It is tempting to write off 2020 as an *annus horribilis*, but we know that as Christians we are called to have hope, to acknowledge that God is never absent from us and to believe that he works through the events of human history – even a global pandemic – for good and to establish his perfect kingdom. I would suggest, then, that rather than write 2020 off, we stay alert to what God is saying to us in and through this crisis. What unforeseen good might God bring out of this mess for me, my family, my parish, the Church, the world? What if in this moment God is inviting me to...? He is surely inviting all of us to greater trust in him and dependence on his goodness and mercy.

Churches open for Christmas

Thank God that we are able to gather in church at Christmas to celebrate the Birth of Christ. I look forward to seeing you if your health and circumstances permit. For those unable to attend Mass in person, services will be livestreamed and our prayers will be with you. The livestream is primarily intended for those who really can not be physically present at Mass. Please do not be tempted to use it as a substitute for being at Mass now that public worship is possible again.

Christmas will be different

It goes without saying that things will not be normal this year. Government restrictions remain in place to keep everyone safe. If you come to church you will need to wear a mask and will have to adhere to track and trace requirements. There will be no congregational singing of carols etc. There will be clear instructions about receiving Holy Communion and returning to your place. The number of people able to attend each Mass will be limited. Because of this last restriction parishes are circulating information about Christmas Mass times early.

Planning ahead

Parishes in Coventry will all have some form of 'booking' system over Christmas so that we are not in the position of having over-crowded churches. So please plan ahead now. You are asked please to attend Mass in your own parish (where you live or where you normally worship) and to familiarise yourself with the Christmas Mass times and arrangements. Details of your parish's Mass times and arrangements will be on the deanery website: <https://coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk/new/>

The obligation to attend Mass on Christmas Day itself (or the evening before) does not apply this year. You might therefore consider making one of the days of the Christmas Octave (Christmas week) your 'Christmas Day'. Understandably many people *will* want to be in church on Christmas Day itself or the evening before, so here's the plan at All Souls!

Christmas Mass times at All Souls

Pre-Christmas Confessions: Saturday 19 December 10.30 – 11.30am; Mon 21 - Thurs 24 December 10.15 - 11.15am & by arrangement.

CHRISTMAS EVE Thursday 24 December

9.30am Mass (The last Mass of Advent)

3pm Family Crib Service with Carols (**via livestream only**)

4.30pm MASS* (Note: This will not be the usual family Mass)

8pm MASS*

CHRISTMAS DAY Friday 25 December

9.30am MASS*

11.15am MASS*

FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN Saturday 26 December

9.30am MASS

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY Sunday 27 December

10.30am MASS

4pm Service of Lessons and Carols (**via livestream only**)

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS Monday 28 December

9.30am MASS

FEAST OF ST. THOMAS BECKET Tuesday 29 December

9.30am MASS

6th DAY IN THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE Wed 30 December

9.30am MASS

7th DAY IN THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE Thurs 31 December

9.30am MASS

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD Fri 1 Jan 2021

9.30am MASS

Booking arrangements at All Souls

If you would like to attend one of the Masses on **Christmas Eve** or **Christmas Day** (marked * above) you will need please to make arrangements in advance in one of the following ways:

TELEPHONE THE PRESBYTERY on 024 7667 4161. You will be asked for **your name, phone number, the total number of people from your household who will be attending and the Mass you wish to attend.** If there is nobody available to take your call please leave all the above information **CLEARLY** in a message or try again later. If you leave a message you will get a call back to confirm your request.

EMAIL Fr Paul at allsoulscoventry@gmail.com In your email please include **your name, phone number, the total number of people (including you) from your household who will be attending and the Mass you would like to attend.**

All information given will be used only for the purpose of Christmas Mass bookings and for Track & Trace, and will be deleted 21 days after Christmas Day.

Please note: If you come to a Christmas Eve or Day Mass (marked * above) without booking in advance, we can not guarantee that there will be space.

God bless you and your loved ones. Father Paul

PUBLIC MASSES

are now taking place at All Souls

Mass times are as below until further notice

Sunday 10.30am

Monday 9.30am

Tuesday 9.30am

Wednesday 9.30am

Thursday 7.30pm

Friday 9.30am

Saturday 9.30am

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 30 minutes before Mass
Monday-Saturday**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

There is **no obligation to attend Sunday Mass** at the present time. If you are able to attend on another day, please do.



CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

Saturday 19th 10.30-11.30am

Monday 21st 10.15-11.00am

Tuesday 22nd 10.15-11.00am

Wednesday 23rd 10.15-11.00am

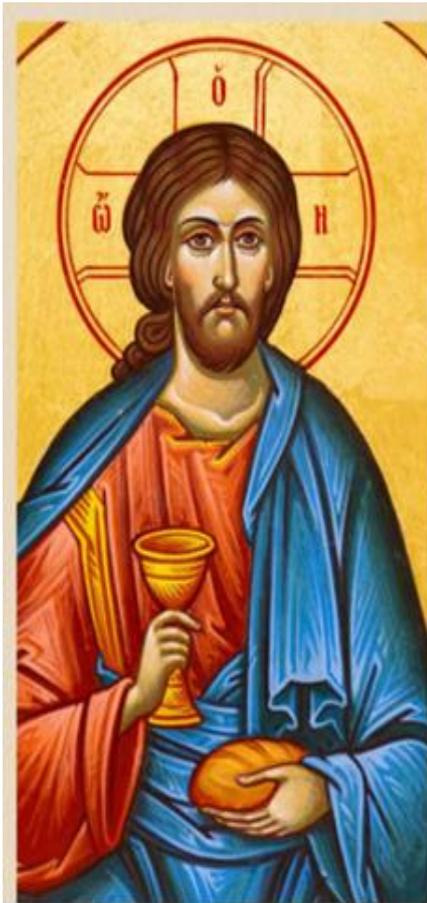
Thursday 24th 10.15-11.00am

or by appointment: 02476674161 or allsoulscov@gmail.com

If you wish to make your confession before any Mass and if time permits, please ask the priest.

**Please wait for Confession in the seating by the
Sacred Heart chapel**

Prayers for Spiritual Communion



Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the
Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive
You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this
moment receive You
sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were
already there and unite
myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be
separated from You.

Amen.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me
Body of Christ, save me
Blood of Christ, inebriate me
Water from the side of Christ,
wash me
Passion of Christ, strengthen
me
O good Jesus, hear me
Within thy wounds hide me
Permit me not to be
separated from thee
From the wicked foe defend
me
At the hour of my death call
me
And bid me come to thee
That with thy saints I may
praise thee
For ever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep us all in your care. Amen.

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Conclude with the following:

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. Amen.

Local Restriction Tier information for places of worship

Activity	Medium (Tier 1)	High (Tier 2)	Very High (Tier 3)
Opening Places of Worship for communal prayer	Open for as many people as can be safely accommodated with social distancing measures		
Attending Places of Worship for communal prayer	Can attend and interact in groups of up to 6 people from different households	Can only interact indoors with your own households, but outdoors can interact in groups of up to 6	Can only interact with your own household both indoors and outdoors
Wedding Ceremonies	Can take place with up to 15 attendees, all of whom can interact.		
Wedding Receptions	Can take place with up to 15 attendees, all of whom can interact	Can take place with up to 15 attendees, all of whom can interact	Cannot take place
Funerals	Can take place with up to 30 attendees, all of whom can interact		
Commemorative events post-death	Can take place with up to 15 attendees, all of whom can interact		
Other Standalone 'Life-Cycle Ceremonies' that do not take place as a part of communal worship	Can attend and interact in groups of up to 6 people from different households	Can only interact indoors with your own households, but outdoors can interact in groups of up to 6	Can only interact with your own household both indoors and outdoors
Supervised Activities for Children	Can take place with no limit on the number of children permitted to attend, following COVID-Secure guidance. Adults must ensure social distancing at all times.		

N.B. Wherever interaction can take place, social distancing of 1m+ should still be strictly maintained between anyone who doesn't live together or are in a 'support bubble'

Baptisms fall into the government category of 'life-cycle ceremonies'. For baptism outside of Mass 6 people are permitted to attend. At baptisms during a regular parish Mass as many people as the building can safely accommodate are permitted, though we will be asking families to limit the baptism group to 30 people, including child, parents and godparents.