



Ss. Mary & Benedict RC Church, Coventry



The Parish is in the Care of the Apostles of Jesus Missionaries

**Parish Newsletter—First Sunday of Advent—1st to 8th Dec 24**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR !**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I wish you a blessed and happy new Year 2024 - 2025. On this First Sunday of Advent, we have started the new liturgical year that comprises four seasons: Advent and Christmastide, Lent, Eastertide, and the Ordinary Time. Our year is Christocentric, it revolves around the lifetime of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The season of Advent is one of joyful waiting for the great arrival of God’s promised Messiah, the anointed one whose coming was announced by the prophets of the Old Testament, and whose birth and epiphany brought immense joy to the world.

Of course, the one we are waiting for, the one whose birth we shall celebrate on Christmas day, is the one who has already arrived. We have already received him, but we still wait for his Second Coming.

At the start of this new year, it is recommended that we examine how we hold on to the buttresses of our faith: our prayer life, family values, practice of the sacramental life, works of charity and generally our discipleship of Jesus Christ. We then make fresh resolutions to focus on our determination to do better.

At this year’s Christmas vigil, Pope Francis will launch the Jubilee Year 2025, with the theme: “Pilgrims of Hope”. The current practice of celebrating Jubilee Years in the Roman Catholic Church goes back to Pope Boniface VIII who, in the Papal Bull *‘Antiquorum Habet Fida Relatio’*, instituted the year 1300 AD as a Jubilee Year.

Please note that “Jubilee Year” has biblical foundations, as we read in the Book of Leviticus: “Count off seven sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan’ (Leviticus, 25: 8 -10).

With all that we anticipate in the coming times, I wish you all a Blessed and Happy New Year 2024-2025.

*Fr. Aloysius*

**MASSES— 1st to 8th Dec 2024**

Sun	01	9.30am	Tran family (Spl int), Esperance & Xavier Almeida (RIP) Fr. Patrick Osagie (5th Anniv) Joseph Fernandes (RIP) Osagie family (Thanksgiving)
		11.30am	Kabwa Leonidas, Salvator Semuswi (RIP) Patrick & Patricia Kabue (25th Wed. Anniv)
Mon	02	12.00noon	Rose Hogan (RIP),
Tues	03	9.30am	In honour of St. Francis Xavier feast (Goan community) Fr. Bernard Dingwei (Get well)
Wed	04	9.30am	Charles Ward (Anniv)
Thurs	05	9.30am	Rose Hogan, Leo Baldwin (RIP)
Fri	06	9.30am	Paddy Connor Sr. (RIP)
Sat	07	9.30am	For the needs of the parish
Sun	08	9.30am	Tran family (Spl int), Bernadette Doran (RIP)
		11.30am	CWA Cameroon (Feast day), Salvator Semuswi (RIP)

**Lectors**

	<b><u>01/12/2024</u></b>	<b><u>08/12/2024</u></b>
9.30am	Anthonia A., Emmanuel	Emmanuela, Desma
11.30am	Michelle, Sharon	Evania, Rosalyn

**Eucharistic Ministers**

	<b><u>01/12/2024</u></b>	<b><u>08/12/2024</u></b>
<b>9.30am</b>	Cath Slatter	Sophie
<b>11.30am</b>	Lilian, Serso	Loveness, Patricia

**LET US PRAY TO THE LORD**

**The sick of the Parish:** Norah Griffith, Gerard Griffith, Ann Crowley, Christopher Browne, Bridie McAndrew, Teresa McAffer, Chinasa Okosi, John Crowford, Mr. Tran, Owen Darroch, Lucia Drabik.

**Anniversaries during the week :** John Sheridan, Joseph Reid, Theresa Hickey, Francis Moloney, Eamon Lusty, Frank McSorley, Joseph Sheridan, Dennis Doran, Kathleen Wilson, Robert McGorman, Charles Ward, Ita Howe, James Gaffy, Margaret McSorley, Sean Kiely, Tony Mulrone, Bridie Collins, Michael Kapusta, David Paul Waters, Breda Byrne, Michael Thomas McDonald, Jean Cartwright, Christine Fitzgibbons.



***First Sunday of Advent:*** HOPE, a characteristic of this season, is the theme of the first candle on the Advent Wreath. It is also the one chosen by Pope Francis for the **Jubilee Year 2025:** *‘Pilgrims of Christian Hope’*. He said: ‘Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. ... For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope’

### St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church

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Parish email: [stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com](mailto:stmaryandbenedictch@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk](http://www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk)

Web cam: [mcn.live/camera/st-mary-and-st-benedict](http://mcn.live/camera/st-mary-and-st-benedict)

Youtube: [st mary and benedict church coventry](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvYt1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1)

Donations to the parish : <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-online>.

<https://donate.myдона.com/ss-mary-benedict-church>

Parish Priest: Fr. Aloysius L. Bukenya, Apostles of Jesus.

E-mail : [fr.aloysius.bukenya@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.aloysius.bukenya@rcaob.org.uk)

Assistant Parish Priest: Fr. Reginald Agapiti Tarimo, Apostles of Jesus.

E-mail : [fr.reginald.tarimo@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.reginald.tarimo@rcaob.org.uk)

Parish Sisters: Srs. of St. Ann of Providence

Leena and Leera Tel. 02477045457

Sunday School: Perpetua Sam & Emmanuella

Parish School: St Mary & St Benedict's, Leigh Street CV1 5HG

Tel: 02476 229486 Head teacher - Mrs Pauline MacDonald

*The Parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg. Charity No. 234216*

**YOU ARE MOST WELCOME** to our Parish Church. If it is your first time here, or even if you have been here before, your presence with us at this moment at our community worship is greatly appreciated. Our Parish Church is the second to be built in Coventry after the Protestant Reformation. It was built in 1893 and the pews have never moved since then! Our Musical Pipe Organ was inaugurated in 1898 - it was the best of its kind at the time. Our parish has had thirteen parish priests since 1889. Our Parish welcomes you to promote initiatives that build up and sustain our faith community.

#### Parish Development

**24/11/24: Gift Aid :£177.00 Dona: £308.00 Non-Gift Aid: £ 350.27 Total: £ 835.27**

**SO ( Oct): £ Second collection - 141.93 Thank you and may God bless you all.**

**2nd collections : 8th Dec—Poor of the parish**

**Bonus Ball :** No.

**Mass Attendance :** 323

**Choir practice :** Fri— 7.30pm\_

**Church cleaning:** 7.30am

**Confessions:** Saturday— 10.10—11.00am (& by appointment)

**Pious Devotions :** Divine Mercy - Last Thursday of every month at 6pm

**Legion of Mary:** Meet every Sunday after 11.30am Mass

**SAFEGUARDING :** The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Perpetua Sam & Asipita Iroko. They can be contacted at: [sg.stmary-stbenedict.covty@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmary-stbenedict.covty@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

**CHILDREN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE:** must be accompanied by an adult if they need to leave the church to use the toilets during Mass or other Church services. Also, please do not let children of this age go near the votive candle stands unaccompanied, and do not let them run around the car park. It is important that we do everything to ensure that children are safe.

### CHURCH NOTICES



**Theme for this Sunday** - “Stay awake at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Luke 21:36)

**Masses for Holy Souls in the Missions:** We thank all who requested for Holy Masses for the Souls in Purgatory (in the Souls Box). The stipends will be sent to the missionary priests of the Apostles of Jesus in Africa for the Holy Masses to be celebrated there; they will make use of the mass stipends. Thank you for your generosity.

#### Gratitude for Donations

The New Lectionary Ambo Edition that cost of £695.00. We are grateful to the following who have contributed towards that amount: i) Patrick and Patricia Family and ii) Sam and Antonia Family. Likewise we are grateful to Emmanuel and Betty Osagie who donated to our Church a set of purple vestments.

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** We join the Cameroon Women's Association who, next Sunday, will celebrate the Solemnity in a very special way. Let us pray to Mary, conceived without original sin, to help us who have recourse to her maternal care.

**Parish Advent Penitential Service:** 7pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

#### The Jubilee Year in our Archdiocese

For everything you need to know about the Jubilee Year in our Archdiocese, please visit the following website:

The Year of Prayer 2024 and The Jubilee Year 2025 | Birmingham Diocesan Trust

**Blessing of the Christmas Crib** at 4.00pm on 1st December, 1st Sunday of Advent, in Broadgate Square, Coventry City. All are welcome.

**Advent edition of the Walk With Me** booklets are available at the back of the church. Please take them and use them to prepare for Christmas. Please pay at least £1.00 for a copy.

**Parish Christmas bazaar:** Time, 1pm - 4pm, Saturday, 7th December in the parish hall. Kindly return the stubs before 5th Dec 2024. On that day we encourage you to come along with your friends and neighbours to support our sales.

**PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK:** Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2025. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).