

# Good News!

23rd December 2018 • Advent Four

**Welcome** to everyone at Mass today, especially if you are new to our church or haven't been to Mass for some time. Practising Catholics, clear in conscience that they are properly prepared, may receive **holy communion**. Others are invited to come forward for a **blessing**. If so, please place your hand on your heart to indicate this to the priest, deacon or minister.



Catholic Parish of St Mary & St Thomas More  
2 Hallcourt Crescent, Cannock, WS11 0AB  
Parish Priest: Fr Peter Weatherby tel: 07766 335591  
Deacons: Rev Michael Vickery, Rev Paul Hender  
Parish Sister: Sr Jacinta Mariette / Sr Felicitas  
Stafford Hospital Chaplaincy: 01782 676400  
New Cross & Cannock Hospital Chaplains: 01902 695098  
St Mary's Centre (Meals and Functions) 01543 579364  
priest@cannockcatholic.org & www.cannockcatholic.org  
Cafod Representative: Jo Burrowes  
Safeguarding: Jo Burrowes & Ann Hinsley  
(Birmingham Diocesan Trust: Reg Charity No. 234216)

## Masses, Intentions & other services

Check mass intentions online at [bit.ly/mass-intentions](http://bit.ly/mass-intentions)

### 23rd December • Advent Four • Visitors

Sat 22 5pm	Michael Crofts RIP
Sun 23 8am	Irene & Bert Owen RIP
10.30am	Marie Mallen RIP
Mon 24 4pm	Jeff Chapman & William Chapman RIP
6:30pm	Norma & Ron Rowley RIP
Tue 25 10am	Parish and People
Wed 26 10am	Altar Servers
Thu 27 9:15am	Thanksgiving for Faith and Friends (NPP)
Fri 28 9:15am	James Perry RIP
Sat 29 10am	Shelagh Gleave RIP

### 30th December • Holy Family • Joseph

Sat 29 5pm	Sanders & Perry Families RIP
Sun 30 8am	Maria Rowland
10.30am	Parish and People

**Saints & Holy Days** Sunday, Advent Four, Tuesday, Christmas Day, Wednesday, St Stephen, Thursday St John the Apostle, Friday, Holy Innocents, Saturday, St Thomas Becket, Sunday, Holy Family.

**Children's Liturgy** (usually) Sunday at 10.30am Mass

**Exposition (Holy Hour)** Saturdays 9am to 9.50am

**Baptism Sunday** 23rd December 12noon, Amelia Rose Seresinhe

**Rosary** 8.50am before Mass on Thursday and Friday

**Morning Prayer** 9.40am Saturday

**Confessions** usually Sat 9-9.50am, 10.30-11am, 4.30-4.50pm.

**Parish Income** 16th Dec £440.90 (£158.70 Gift Aid), Poor Parishes £268.03 (£28.75 Gift Aid).. Thank you!

**Correction:** The Songbirds raised £2400 for MIND during 2018 and £265 for Our Lady of Lourdes at their concert on 11th December.

**Christmas collections:** 24th/25th Dec the onnly collection is your Christmas Offering for your priest

**Diocesan Newsletter** for December: [bit.ly/2PGQ7VI](http://bit.ly/2PGQ7VI)

**Thank you** to all who have helped decorate the Church for Christmas. Many decorations have been put in place bit by bit during December. And - though the flowers should not adorn the Church until Christmas, we think they are so stunning that we have put them in Church already this weekend!  
Happy Christmas!!

Fr Peter

## Of all women you are most blessed

**Christmas Offerings** There is one collection at each of the Christmas Masses, which is your offering for your parish priest. Envelopes are available from Church if you wish to make use of them. Offerings can of course be made at other times: **Thank you** the many gifts, cards and assurance of prayers which have already been received.

**Archbishop Bernard's Christmas message** can be seen here: <http://bit.ly/2CtjYhg>

**Parish Christmas Cards** are now available - take one or more to give to friends and neighbours!

**Walk with Me for Advent** Booklets for daily readings and Family Calendars are now available. Help yourselves (donations welcome)

**Christmas Masses Rota for Ministers and Readers.** Please check for your name on the rota at the back of the Church. Copies of the readings are available from Fr Peter.

### Christmas Card for Aid to the Church in Need

As in the past, there is a Christmas Card from parishioners to all parishioners, in order to raise funds for Aid to the Church in Need. Add your name to the list at the back of Church please, and a donation for ACN will be collected in due course. Thanks to Gill Dockery for organising this.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Christmas Eve

#### 4pm Nativity Mass

*Children: please come as a Nativity Character  
Adults: wear your Christmas Jumper!*

6pm Carols,

#### 6.30pm Mass of Christmas Night

### Christmas Day

#### 10am Mass of Christmas Day

**Family Christmas Party** in the Centre, Sunday December 30th from 6pm. No charge, but please add your names to the list in Church **this weekend** if you hope to come. There will be fund raising on the evening and you will be invited to make appropriate donations.



# 23rd December • Fourth Sunday in Advent

## It was 200 years ago today ...

In 1818, a roving band of actors were performing in towns throughout the Austrian Alps. On December 23 they arrived at Oberndorf, a village near Salzburg, where they re-enacted the story of Christ's birth in the small Church of St. Nicholas.

Unfortunately, the organ wasn't working so the actors presented their Christmas drama in a private home. The Christmas presentation of the events in the first chapters of Matthew and Luke put Pastor Josef Mohr in a contemplative mood. Instead of walking straight to his house that night, Mohr took a longer way home, over a hill overlooking Obendorf.

From that hilltop, Mohr looked down on the peaceful snow-covered village. Revelling in the majestic silence of the wintry night, Mohr gazed down at the glowing scene. The Christmas play he had just seen brought to mind a poem he had written a couple of years before, about the night when angels announced the birth of the long-awaited Messiah to shepherds on a hillside. Mohr decided those words might make a good carol for the next day, Christmas eve. However, he didn't have any music to which the poem could be sung.

So, the next morning, Mohr went to the church organist, Franz Gruber. He gave Gruber a few hours to come up with a melody which could be sung to the a guitar. And by the evening, Gruber had composed a simple but instantly memorable musical setting for the poem. It no longer mattered to Mohr and Gruber that their church organ wasn't working. They now had a Christmas carol that could be sung to the guitar.

The carol quickly spread far and wide, and has become a constant feature in Christmas masses and Carol Services ever since.

On Christmas Eve 2018, Silent Night will celebrate its 200th birthday. May we ever sing this beautiful carol with full hearts, with thankfulness and hope.

## Please Pray ...

... The Holy Father's Prayer Intention: That people who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

... During this time of Advent, and the Christmas season, please pray for Christians in Bethlehem, the birth place of Jesus, that the Season's Blessings may bring them peace and joy.

... for all victims of abuse, and for all those involved in the work of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

... for our country, the government and all involved in the difficult discussions and negotiations which have come about after the referendum to leave the European Union: that there may be wisdom and a concern for all in society, especially the most vulnerable

... for Sr Felicitas, standing in for Sr Jacinta while she is on holiday and for Sr Jacinta, for many blessings as she spends Christmas back home in Nigeria

... for the sick or housebound: Brendan Shannon, Don McCulloch, Mary Rowley, Helen Pawlak, Kath Turner, Stella Skillen, Winifride Haynes, Annette Mason, Doris Crabb, Joanne Jeavons, Nicola McCulloch,

Celia Hurdiss, Dee Fellows, David Holt, Theresa Hadley, Dr Peter Hayward, Fr Pat Farrelly, June Weatherby.

... for those in our parish receiving communion at home: Mary Kirby, Norah Perry, Peter Clamp, Don and Breeda Hinton, Gerry Marriott, Billie Wyles, Maria Waclawski, Catherine Holloway, Bernard Deakin, Iris Robertson, Mary Casey, Christine Rogers.

... for those undergoing or recovering from treatment or otherwise in particular need of our prayers: Anne Costello, John Morris, Fr Paul Chamberlain, Peter Garnett, Hannah Newborough, Peter Clamp, Kevin O'Mahony, LeeAnn Lister, Ray Bishop, Audrey George, Mitek Karasinska, Geoff Tipping, Fred Houghton, Josie Riley, James B, Helen, Michelle & Chris Bell

## The Holy Souls

.... for the departed souls of our parish and our families ... for those who have died recently: Tony Nunn, Tom Murphy, Molly Dawes.

... for those with anniversaries about this time: 24 Catherine Ponton, Dorothy Heaton, 25 Josie Irving, Robert Allen, 28 Rona Ballance, Philip Palmer.

## Thanksgivings

... for Christmas!  
... for family and friends!  
... for our schools, their staff and pupils

**St Mary's Centre 01543 579364**

Sunday Carvery 12-4pm £6.95

Wednesday Carvery 5.30-8pm 2 for £10

Thursday 5.30-8pm 2 for £10 (OAP £4 each)

Friday 5.30pm-8.30pm from 2 for £10

ALL FUNCTIONS CATERED FOR

Full rota is at [bit.ly/cannockparishrota](http://bit.ly/cannockparishrota)

ROTAS	Readers Sat 5pm	Ministers Sat 5pm	Readers Sun 8am	Ministers Sick Visiting	Readers Sun 10.30am	Ministers Sun 10.30am	Counters	Cleaning	Stole Washing
<b>December 23rd Advent 4 YEAR C</b>	Patrick Warren Wendy Owens	S & T Bullivant P & C Wilson	David Korzonek	S & T Bullivant	Martyn Porter Shirley Weatherby	Gail & David Korzonek C Bridges, C Jackson	Michael Seavers David Gleve	Team 1 David Gleve Peter Garnet I Savage	Nancy Costello
<b>December 30th Holy Family</b>	Sister Felicitas Shirley Weatherby	A & R Hinsley D & M Hibberts	Margaret Tym	Colman Whitelaw	Callum Pearce Wendy Owens	S Clancy, E Sargeant, Amy Pritchard Javier Gonzalez-Fritz	M. Powell, S. Nelson	Team 2 S & P Kilgallon G Dockery	Nancy Costello