



## The Fourth Sunday of Advent To Say 'Yes'

Luke 1:26-38



### Holy Masses and Services for 24<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b> Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent	<b>St Anne</b>	4pm	Rosary	
		4.30pm	Mass	The People of the Parish
	<b>Holy Spirit</b>	6.30pm	Mass	Ellen and Wilfrid Martin RIP
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December (morning)</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent	<b>St Margaret Clitherow</b>	9.30am	Mass	Sr. Bueno RIP
	<b>Our Lady of Grace</b>	11am	Mass	Margaret Simpson RIP
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December (evening)</b> The Nativity of The Lord Christmas Day (Solemnity)	<b>St Anne</b>	3.45pm	Carols	
		4.30pm	Family Mass	Catherine Kitchen RIP
	<b>Holy Spirit</b>	4.30pm	Family Mass	Barry and Monica Hough RIP
		6pm	Family Mass	Adam & Jadwiga Wojciechowski RIP
	<b>Our Lady of Grace</b>	6pm	Family Mass	Pauline Dobinson RIP
	<b>Holy Spirit</b>	11.30pm	Carols Midnight	Midnight Mass Raymond McNamara RIP
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> The Nativity of The Lord Christmas Day (Solemnity)	<b>St Anne</b>	9.30am	Mass	Martin Nutt's Intentions
	<b>St Margaret Clitherow</b>	9.30am	Mass	David Bagshaw RIP
	<b>Our Lady of Grace</b>	11am	Mass	The Family and friends of Dave and Eileen Widdicks
	<b>Holy Spirit</b>	11am	Mass	John Toder RIP and Tom and Louise Shepherd RIP
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b> St Stephen (FEAST)	<b>St Margaret Clitherow</b>	11am	Mass	Lucie Spanovic RIP
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b> St John the Apostle and Evangelist (FEAST)	<b>Holy Spirit</b>	11am	Mass	Ciaran Tynan RIP
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b> The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (FEAST)	<b>Our Lady of Grace</b>	11am	Mass Rosary	Loughlin Hickey RIP After Mass
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b> St Thomas of Canterbury (Becket), Bishop and Martyr (FEAST)	<b>St Margaret Clitherow</b>	10.15am	Rosary	
		10.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	<b>St Anne</b>	11am	Mass	John Richmond RIP
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b> Sixth Day Within the Octave of Christmas	<b>St Anne</b>	4pm	Rosary	
		4.30pm	Mass	Michael Crowley RIP
	<b>Holy Spirit</b>	6.30pm	Mass	David Blake
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b> The Holy Family (Feast)	<b>St Anne</b>	9am	Rosary	Pray for Peace
		9.30am	Mass	The Family Of Mary, Amsterdam
	<b>St Margaret Clitherow</b>	9.30am	Mass	John Breffitt RIP
	<b>Holy Spirit</b>	11am	Mass	Chapman Family
	<b>Our Lady of Grace</b>	11am	Mass	Intentions of Kevin Melia

**A Second Collection for this Sunday:** Christmas Offerings to the Priests

**For enquiries about Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation Programme and Faith Journey Group (RCIA),** please contact Ceci Li, Faith Formation Coordinator.

**For Marriage:** six months' notice required. Please contact the Parish office.

**For Communion to the Sick and Housebound:** contact the Parish office.

**Funerals:** are organised with local funeral directors, but do contact the Parish office to arrange an appointment with the Priest.

**Confessions:** Every first and third Saturday.

**Newsletter's insert,** contact Ceci Li, Faith Formation Coordinator.

#### Advent Family Prayer

God of Love,  
 Your son, Jesus, is  
 your greatest gift to us.  
 He is a sign of your love.  
 Help us walk in that love  
 during the weeks of Advent,  
 As we wait and prepare for  
 his coming.  
 We pray in the name of Jesus,  
 our Saviour.

#### Parish Contact Details:

Please find the printed copy at the back of the church or scan the QR code for the e-Copy.



#### Parish Safeguarding Team and Details:

<https://parishoftheannunciationrushcliffe.co.uk/about/safeguarding/>

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#### Parish Office Notice: Weekday Masses Time during Christmas and New Year - 26<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

We understand that the holidays can be a busy time for everyone, and we want to ensure that our community can fully immerse themselves in the spirit of Christmas. By adjusting the **Weekday Masses time to 11am for all churches**, we hope to provide you with a more relaxed and enjoyable experience, allowing for meaningful moments with family and friends.

**Office closed for Christmas** Please note that we are closed from midday of Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and we will resume duty on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. For any emergencies please contact the Clergy Team. Please refer contact list at the church or on Parish website.

**A Reflection from Pope Francis for the Year of Prayer** A reflection from Pope Francis for the Year of Prayer, Fourth Sunday of Advent: There is no better way to pray than to place oneself like Mary in an attitude of openness, with a heart open to God: "Lord, what you want, when you want, and how you want". That is, a heart open to God's will. And God always responds.

To read the full reflection and find more resources at [dioceseofnottingham.uk/yearofprayer](http://dioceseofnottingham.uk/yearofprayer)

**More updates can be found from Parish website:**

Year of Prayer Sources shared from Diocese | Synod 2021-2024's updates

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the closing Sunday of Advent, our Gospel is all about the greatness of that word "YES" in Mary's life and in the lives of all of us who want to be Disciples of Christ. Mary's trust in God's promise is absolute. Mary continues to live according to God's ways, even when the events in her life are confusing and worrying and frighteningly disorientating.

It would be a tragedy if Mary's "yes" was the last "yes" in human history! In fact, Mary's YES becomes the pattern for many more "Yeses."

The Hebrew word "**Amen**" means "**yes**," - That is, "let it be so." And we say this "yes/ Amen" every time we come forward to the Eucharistic Table of the Lord to receive Jesus, in Holy Communion. We say yes, and in doing so, we will be the house where God, makes his home. Let's just ponder on this thought, for a moment!

We are saying YES. we will take the divine life of God into our bodies, - by the body and blood of Our Lord. And we too say "Let it be done to us, according to your word." So, as amazing and wonderful as it seems, one of God's last known addresses is....within YOU!

Embrace, enjoy, this fourth Sunday of Advent as you make your final preparations for the great feast of Christmas!  
Peace, John



**Celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas - Schedule of Masses and Services.**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
4.30pm | St Anne  
6.30pm | Holy Spirit  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
9.30am | St Margaret Clitherow  
11am | Our Lady of Grace

#### **Christmas Family Mass**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
4.30pm | St Anne  
4.30pm | Holy Spirit  
6pm | Holy Spirit  
6pm | Our Lady of Grace  
**Midnight Mass**  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>/Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December  
11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass  
Holy Spirit

#### **Christmas Day**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December  
9.30am | St Anne  
9.30am | St Margaret Clitherow  
11am | Holy Spirit  
11am | Our Lady of Grace

**Last call!!** Forms for **Confirmation** preparation programme and **First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion** preparation programme (for those in school year 4 and above), **MUST** be returned to Parish Office by 27<sup>th</sup> December. Forms received after this date will not be accepted. The forms are available at the church or please contact Faith Formation Coordinator, Ceci Li ([ceci.li@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:ceci.li@dioceseofnottingham.uk)).

**Parish Friendship Group - Social Evening on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024, approx. 7.30pm (after the vigil Mass)** We are organizing a social gathering to celebrate the Epiphany at the Holy Spirit Social Centre, following the Saturday evening vigil Mass at around 7:30pm. All members of our Parish are welcome. We kindly request attendees provide their names for catering arrangements. Please add your name to the attendee list at your church ASAP. There is no admission fee; we appreciate voluntary donations. The bar will be open for beverage purchases, offering an evening filled with friendship, food, and live music. For additional details, please contact Maureen at 8914601.

**St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School Foundation Open Morning on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 9.30am** St. Edmund Campion, your local Catholic primary school, will be holding an open morning for all parents who have children that will be eligible to start school in September 2024 (ie. Born between 1/9/2019 to 31/08/2020). This is an excellent opportunity to look around the school, and meet the teaching team. If you would like further information please contact the school direct on 0115 9147889, or e-mail: [office@st-edmundcampion.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-edmundcampion.notts.sch.uk)

**Thank you from CAFOD** We have raised £2050 for the Emergency Appeal for the Holy Land. Thank you again for your generous donations.

**Thank you note from Doust's family** Kathy Doust and family would like to thank everyone who supported them by way of cards, masses, phone calls, prayers, hugs and practical help on the day of Graham's funeral. We have never felt such love.

**Christmas Offerings to our Priests** As is traditional, there is a Christmas collection to provide a gift to our Priests. If you would like to contribute to this collection, please put the gift in an envelope which is available in our churches. If you would like to do this by bank transfer please mark the online payment as Christmas Offering. Thank you for your generosity.



#### **Update from our Churches**

**Holy Spirit:** ♦ **Thank you from SVP** We would like to send sincere thanks for your very generous response to our request for bags of goods for Friary, Emmanuel House and London Road Hostel. Your donations have been very well received and will benefit the many people who use these services. A HUGE thank you to you all.

**Our Lady of Grace:** ♦ **Our Lady's foodbank** Thank you for your support of our foodbank collections. Please continue to give what you can in this difficult time. ♦ **Fairtrade** Once again I would like to thank you for your continued support and generosity throughout the year for our Fairtrade stall. Sales from Christmas cards alone at all our Churches resulted in a £500 donation to Transform Trade. Your purchases and donations all through the year have greatly helped both the Third World Producers and the food banks we support here. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you at the next stall on the 7th of January. Thank you Lynn Harrison.

**St Anne** ♦ **St Anne Friday refreshments after Mass - Christmas break** There will be no refreshments on December 29<sup>th</sup>. We wish you a blessed, peaceful Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you on Friday January 5<sup>th</sup> when normal business will be resumed! ♦ **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** There is no Adoration of Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December.