



The Third Sunday of Advent

Be on your guard, stay awake

Mark 13:33-37

Holy Masses and Services for 17th - 24th December 2023

Saturday 16th December Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent	St Anne	3.30 - 4.15pm	Confession	
		4pm	Rosary	
		4.30pm	Mass	Peter Brown RIP
	Holy Spirit	5.30 - 6.15pm	Confession	
		6.30pm	Mass	Jonathan Higham RIP (2 nd Anniv.)
	St Anne	9am	Rosary	Pray for Peace
Sunday 17th December Third Sunday of Advent		9.30am	Mass	Robert Cordell RIP
	St Margaret Clitherow	9.30am	Mass	Private Intention
	Holy Spirit	11am	Mass	Mary Jahina RIP
	Our Lady of Grace	11am	Mass	Judith Oldfield RIP
Monday 18th December Advent Feria	St Anne	12 Noon	Funeral Mass	Peter Brown RIP
Tuesday 19th December Advent Feria	St Margaret Clitherow	9am	Rosary	
		9.30am	Mass	Jennifer Jennings RIP
	Holy Spirit	6pm	Reception of Graham Doust RIP	
	Holy Spirit	1pm	Requiem Mass	Graham Doust RIP
Wednesday 20th December Advent Feria	Our Lady of Grace	9.30am	Mass	Mary Thelwell RIP (After Mass)
			Rosary	
	St Margaret Clitherow	10.15am	Rosary	
Friday 22nd December Advent Feria		10.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	St Anne	11am	Holy Hour Rosary	
		12 Noon	Mass	Thomas Martin RIP
	Holy Spirit	6pm	Mass	Bridie O' Sullivan RIP
			Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (After Mass)	
	St Anne	4pm	Rosary	The People of the Parish
Saturday 23rd December Advent Feria		4.30pm	Mass	
	Holy Spirit	6.30pm	Mass	Ellen and Wilfrid Martin RIP
Sunday 24th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	St Margaret Clitherow	9am	Rosary	Pray for Peace
		9.30am	Mass	Sr. Bueno RIP
	Our Lady of Grace	11am	Mass	Margaret Simpson RIP
	St Anne	3.45pm	Carols	
		4.30pm	Family Mass	Catherine Kitchen RIP
	Holy Spirit	4.30pm	Family Mass	Barry and Monica Hough RIP
		6pm	Family Mass	Adam & Jadwiga Wojciechowski RIP
	Our Lady of Grace	6pm	Family Mass	Pauline Dobinson RIP
	Holy Spirit	11.30pm	Carols	
		Midnight	Midnight Mass	Raymond McNamara RIP

A Second Collection for next 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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A reflection from Pope Francis for the Year of Prayer A reflection from Pope Francis for the Year of Prayer: Very often it happens that we do not pray, we don't feel like praying, or many times we pray like parrots, with the mouth, but our heart is not in it. This is the moment to say to the Spirit: "Come, come Holy Spirit, warm my heart. Come and teach me to pray, teach me to look to the Father, to look to the Son. Teach what the path of faith is like. Teach me how to love and, above all, teach me to have an attitude of hope."

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.

More updates can be found from Parish website:

Year of Prayer Sources shared from Diocese | Synod 021-2024's updates



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

Details can be found on the Parish website or Poster at the Church.



My friends our Gospel text for this Sunday contains two sections. The first is devoted to an introduction to the mission of the last of the prophets, Saint John the Baptist, and the second section is concerned with how John the Baptist witnesses to Christ, the Anointed Messiah. We need to bear witness to Christ the Light. Our mission, as brothers and sisters of Christ and members of his Church, is to reflect Christ's Light to others, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun.



It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect Christ's sharing love and his unconditional forgiveness through our lives. There are too many people who live in darkness and poverty, and who lack real freedom because of their addictions and bad choices. There are others who are deafened and blinded by the cheap attractions of this world. Many others feel lonely, unwanted, rejected, and marginalized.

This is where you become a true Light of Christ to illumine the lives of all these brothers and sisters during this Advent season through our sharing love, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness, and humble service. We will be able to accomplish this witnessing mission of radiating Christ's Light only by repenting of our sins, asking God's pardon every day, and by renewing our lives through our daily prayers, by frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by attending and taking part in the Eucharistic celebration, by reading the Bible daily in meditative, prayerful fashion, and by performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy! Through all these acts of love you will radiate the Joy and love of the Christ Child, this Christmas.

Have a blessed and safe week! Peace, John

Bishop Patrick and Fr Liam will be celebrating Christmas Mass on Saturday 23rd December 2023 at 9.30 am in a prison in Leicester

Fr Liam would like to invite you to join on this occasion. If you are over 21 and want to celebrate mass, spend time afterwards chatting with the men over a mince pie and cup of coffee, if you would like to join, please email Fr Liam.

Children Greeters for Christmas The Parish First Holy Communion Catechists are thrilled to see many Class of 2023 members actively participating in our Masses, Music Groups, Altar Serving, and Offertory Processions. This Christmas, we invite children in Primary School Year 1 and above to join our Greeting Teams, welcoming everyone with a Christmas smile and hymn book. Adult Greeters will provide support, and parents are welcome too. If interested, approach a Greeter at your usual Mass to give us an idea of numbers. Just dress warmly, arrive 20 mins before Mass, and bring your Big Smiles!

Parish Friendship Group - Social Evening on 6th 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 by the weekend 16th/ 17th of December. Volunteers will be available at the back of our churches after Mass next weekend to collect names. 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 Thursday 9th 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



Let us pray for those who have died recently: The Reception for Graham Doust is at 6pm on the 19th December and the Requiem Mass is at 1pm on the 20th December at Holy Spirit.

Update from our Churches

Holy Spirit: ♦ **Thank you from Craft Club** Many thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas crafts and cake stalls on the 26th of November. We made a fantastic £627.45. This will all be sent to Fr Vincent in Uganda for building his church and putting a roof over his head. Liz and Cathy. ♦ **Christmas flowers** If you would like to donate Red roses, Red Carnations, Red spray carnations or a poinsettia plant in memory of a loved one (they will be used in the arrangements in church) please leave in the buckets of water provided on Saturday 23rd and up to 10 am on Sunday 24th. Donations of greenery: Holly, spruce, fir, ivy, eucalyptus or any evergreens would be great. Many thanks. Liz

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Our Lady of Grace: ♦ **Cotgrave Churches Singing Carols Together** In the Precinct, Friday 22nd December 5:00pm. All are welcome - do come and join us. ♦ **Our Lady's foodbank** Thank you for your support of our foodbank collections. Please continue to give what you can in this difficult time.

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St Anne ♦ **Extra Bereavement Listening Hour** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th December from 11am to 12 noon in the Meeting Room at St Anne. There is a safe place to remember loved ones and celebrate their lives in this festive season. Come to join others who understand, share memories, or listen, and light a tealight. ♦ **Christmas Fayre - Thank you** St Anne's Social committee extends heartfelt thanks to our Parish for the tremendous support we received enabling us to raise £1780 for Father Vincent's building fund in Uganda. The success of the event goes beyond the monetary achievement as it united our local and Parish communities over coffee, cake, and chat! We had great fun in the planning and execution of the Fayre thereby creating a win-win situation! Our Parish made it possible, we couldn't have done it without you! Sincere thanks for your generous contributions in so many ways! ♦ **St Anne Friday refreshments after Mass - Christmas break** There will be no refreshments on December 15th, 22nd and 29th. We wish you a blessed, peaceful Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you on Friday January 5th when normal business will be resumed! ♦ **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** There is no Adoration of Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday 21st and 27th December. ♦ **Carols prior to the 4.30pm Family Mass** A selection of carols prior to the Family Mass will be started from 3.45pm ♦ **Volunteers welcomed - Your parish needs you!** A recent appeal at St Anne resulted in 20 parishioners coming forward to take on tasks ranging from welcoming to cleaning, Fr John also authorised two new Extraordinary Ministers at last Sunday's Mass. Are you willing to help our parish? Have a word with one of the priests or your church greeters.

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St Margaret Clitherow: ♦ **Flower Rota - Planning for the upcoming year** We currently have a team of 11 enthusiastic volunteers, often working in pairs and uniting for special occasions like Christmas and Easter. We extend a warm welcome to anyone new in the Parish who would like to join us. If you are interested, we will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday December 23rd, at 11:15 AM. Feel free to join us on that day or get in touch with me, Paddy Hawtin, at 01159373490 or via email at padpod44@gmail.com. ♦ **Annual Catholic/ Methodist Carol service** is on Sunday December 17th at 6.30pm in the Methodist church. All are welcome! ♦ **Keyworth / Cotgrave SVP** send sincere thanks for your very generous response to our request for bags of goods for Framework, Friary, Emmanuel House and local Food Banks. Your donations have been very well received and will benefit the many people who use these services. Bags are still coming in and will be delivered next week. A HUGE thank you to you all.