

ADVENT

WE NOW HAVE PARISH MASS BOOKS. You will find this Sunday's readings and antiphons on **page 82**. At every Sunday Mass we will all say the **Entrance and Communion antiphons** together. If there is no cantor to sing the **Gospel Acclamation**, then we will also say that together. The **Entrance Antiphon** is said after the opening hymn and the **Communion Antiphon** is said after the priest has received Holy Communion.

DURING ADVENT WE WILL USE THE SHORT PENITENTIAL RITE You will find this on **page 8** of our new Parish Mass books We will also say the **APOSTLES CREED** after homily. You will find this on **page 12**.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE PORCH OF EACH CHURCH. Please make use of them to help us pray each day and make Advent a real time of spiritual renewal.

COPIES OF THE BOOKLET FOR THE ADVENT SUPPER are available on our parish website. This is a simple resource for a family meal at home which celebrates the spiritual meaning of Advent. [Advent Feast \(carloacutis.co.uk\)](http://carloacutis.co.uk)

THE RORATE MASS This ancient Advent candlelit Mass will take place at SS Peter & Paul Church **this Saturday 7th December** at 7.30 am. It will be followed by drinks and bacon sandwiches (including Vegetarian by request). If you would like to have refreshments, please email bca.wolves@rcaob.org.uk by **Wednesday this week**, so that we can know how much to cook!

#FOLLOW THE STAR WOLVERHAMPTON A City Centre Nativity and Lantern Parade THIS SATURDAY 7th December 2024
We meet at St John's in the Square Church at 3pm and finish at St Peter's Square about 4.30pm We stop along the way to tell the story of Joseph and Mary and the birth of Jesus, and sing carols accompanied by The Band of the West Midlands Fire Service. Please bring a lamp and join in the celebration of the Christmas Story. (LED lights only please.) There will be Alpacas joining us too!

WANTED!!

STEWARDS - to walk with participants and help especially at road junctions. (Steward' briefing at 2.30pm at St John's in the Square Church. High Vis waistcoats will be provided). **READERS** - to tell the story. **KNITTED OR CROCHETED STARS** - to give out to people along the route. **Please let Fr Mark know if you can help in any way.** Contact bca.wolves@rcaob.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT SS PETER & PAUL Friday 13th December at 7.30pm This is to raise funds for the church organ which was built 200 years ago and is now badly in need of restoration. It is believed to be one of the oldest organs in any Catholic Church in England and is an essential part of our heritage. Please come and support us!

BLESSING OF CRIBS ON GAUDETE SUNDAY 15th December. Don't forget to bring in your cribs and images of the infant Jesus on the Third Sunday of Advent for a special blessing to prepare your homes for Christmas.

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER 6.30 – 8.00pm There are several churches in the city available on this evening for you to be able to go to confession: St Michael's, Penn, Our Lady's, Old Fallings, SS Mary & John, St Joseph's, Willenhall Rd. (Wolverhampton), St Christopher, Codsall and St Anthony, Fordhouses. If you are not free on the 19th, then St Patrick's, Wolverhampton will be on Tuesday 17th from 6.30pm – 8.00pm

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WOMBOURNE invite you to the Wombourne Civic Carol Concert, Thursday 5th December at 6.30 pm, Wombourne Civic Centre.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE, Friday 6th December 9.00 am until 4.30 pm at St Benedict's Church, Wombourne. Please sign up for a half hour slot, or drop in when you are able, to pray for peace in our troubled world. For further details, please see the poster in St Bernadette's porch, or contact Vik on 07508610717.

News and Activities

APOLOGIES TO ALL WHATSAPP GROUPS Although the idea of announcing parish events through WhatsApp is a good idea, the way it was setup on Wednesday was a mistake and it meant that people could see each other's numbers. As soon as this was discovered, Fr Mark closed it down and your numbers are now secure again within any group that you are already in. We will explore a secure system in the future.

SVP CHRISTMAS CARDS - examples of the cards which are available can be seen at the entrances to the Churches. Orders to either Nick Greenwood 07590060238 or David Spinks 07544960402.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTERS sponsored by the Knights of St Columba are now available in the entrances to the Churches. Please take some for yourselves or your friends to display in your windows at home to proclaim the true message of the season.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT 5.30PM The car park at Warstones Primary School will be available for this. Please consider parking there so that there is space in our own car park for visitors.

NEW LECTIONARY DEDICATIONS as the labels provided were not helpful for the dedications that some people have requested, one of the sisters in Carmel has offered to write them on special parchment. This will not only look better but it will also be a beautiful link with our Carmelite sisters in the parish. This will take more time, however, so Fr Mark will be in touch with those who have dedicated the first volumes and we hope to get them labelled before Christmas.

Mission and Outreach

FOLLOWING THE DECISION OF MPS TO VOTE IN FAVOUR OF THE TERMINALLY ILL ADULTS (END OF LIFE) BILL at the Second Reading today (29 November), Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, said: "We are disappointed that MPs have voted in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill progressing through parliament. We believe that this bill is flawed in principle and also contains particular clauses that are of concern. We ask the Catholic community to pray that members of parliament will have the wisdom to reject this bill at a later stage in its progress. "In addition to being opposed to the principle of assisted suicide, we are particularly concerned with clauses in the bill that prevent doctors from properly exercising conscientious objection, provide inadequate protection to hospices and care homes that do not wish to participate in assisted suicide and allow doctors to initiate conversations about assisted suicide. We ask that these voices be heard in the next stages of the Bill to strengthen the deep concerns about this proposed legislation. "We have expressed the view, during this debate, that genuine compassion involves walking with those who need care, especially during sickness, disability and old age. The vocation to care is at the heart of the lives of so many people who look after their loved ones and is the sign of a truly compassionate society. It is essential that we nurture and renew the innate call that many people have to compassionately care for others. ***"It remains the case that improving the quality and availability of palliative care offers the best pathway to reducing suffering at the end of life. We will continue to advocate for this and support those who work tirelessly to care for the dying in our hospices, hospitals and care homes."***

LIFE CHARITY SHOP & LIFE CARING OUTREACH Our Charity shop at 12 Lichfield St (opposite the Art Gallery) has a wide range of good quality pre-loved clothes and bric-a-brac. Please do take a look. If you have goods to donate and can't take them to the shop, they can be placed in a collecting box at St Michael's or St Bernadette's. We also welcome donations of baby clothes and equipment such as Moses baskets, which we give to the mums who request our help. If you'd like baby items collected from you, ring Rosalie on 01902 330553

FOOD COLLECTION: The Food Collection: Donations of food (tinned/dried/cereal/ biscuits etc), toiletries (shampoo/toothpaste and toothbrushes/ sanitary products/soap), essential household items (kitchen and toilet roll/washing up liquid/ washing powder) AND SELECTION BOXES would be greatly appreciated by our Free School Meals families. This week's donations have been distributed by St Paul's C of E Primary School. Thank you for your continued generosity.

AND We are still collecting SELECTION BOXES for our Ukrainian refugee children, some of whom will be celebrating their second Christmas away from home and family. Your boxes will be wrapped after the 11.30 Mass on December 15th. If you would like to help, please come and join us in the hall. Thank you!

SVP WINTER CLOTHING APPEAL: We are entering into a new Jubilee Year where we are being called to be Pilgrims of Hope. This advent, and Christmastide, the St Vincent de Paul Society are asking for your help to bring hope in your city. The SVP in Wolverhampton are supporting families seeking asylum and who have no clothing for the Winter. Do you have spare winter clothing you could donate? Coats and Jumpers, Hats, Scarves, Gloves, etc for adults and children. If you can donate these items, please place them in the SVP collection points if your church has one. Alternatively, contact the SVP District President via email secretaryF021402@svp.org.uk to make other arrangements. Thank you

Formation

CALLING ALL READERS – The new Lectionaries are now available in the Sacristy of each church for you to come and look at them and acquaint yourself with the new layout in preparation for the next time you read. Please remember not to say anything written in red. Never say: 'The response to the psalm is' and at the end of the reading never say: 'This is the word of the Lord'. The correct phrase is 'The Word of the Lord'. Please ask one of the priests if you need guidance.

LOURDES DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE 2025 The dates for the annual Birmingham to Lourdes pilgrimage have been announced as Saturday 24th May to Friday 30th May 2025. If there is any interest in going as a group from Blessed Carlo Acutis parish, joining other pilgrim groups and parishes from across the Archdiocese of Birmingham, please register your interest by using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/mbqnvRbtPn> or informing one of the priests.

NEW MISSALS WITH THE READINGS FROM THE NEW LECTIONARY (published by Hodder) can be ordered via St Michael's Piety stall. (07932 609625) Cost should be £19.



PLEASE BOOK FOR 'FLAME' THIS WEEK It is a Catholic Congress (for those 14 and over) held in London at the Wembley Arena. The event will consist of a concert with inspiring speakers, incredible live music, prayer and adoration. Catholics from all over the country head to Flame every year. *THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL* decided that the parish should pay for the coach in order to help our young people. You therefore only have to pay for the event itself. The tickets cost £33.00 Please book your place for Saturday 15th March 2025 by filling the registration form using this QR code. <https://forms.office.com/r/HfAz9hRxCg>

Finance

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS PARISH 300 CLUB: As the BCA Parish 200 club will have more than 200 members next year, it is now renamed as BCA Parish 300 Club. This means now that any ticket only has a 1 in 300 chance of winning each month.

The Annual Subscriptions are now due. Kindly pay Sr Lydwin at St Michael Church, Mr Bill Finnegan at SS Peter & Paul and Mr Charles Beare at St Bernadette. We encourage new members to join the 300 Club. The Annual Subscription is £12.00 which entitles the members to one chance in the Monthly Draw. All proceeds are for the Heating in three churches of our parish.

Winners of BCA 200 Club Winners of November Draw:

No 221 Bill Finnegan £50.00 No. 8A Anne Bayley £10.00

You can donate through the website by using this QR code.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR SUNDAY 24 th November 2024						
	SS PP	St M	SB	Card Readers	Website	Total
Gift Aid		60.00	10.00	35.00		105.00
Non-Gift Aid	178.05	359.17	83.70	90.00		710.92
Attendance	204	94, 229	80			607
Standing Order: October 2024: £4341.79						
Second Collection last week Catholic Youth Service £373.04						
Next Second Collection: 8 th December Poor Parishes						



Regular Prayer

SILENT ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Monday 5.45 pm – 6.20 pm in Lady Chapel at St Michael's. Thursday 10.00am to 11.00am at St Bernadette's. Saturday 10.30am- 11.30am in Lady Chapel at St Michael's.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP at SS Peter & Paul the "Divine Light Prayer Group" meets every Sunday after 10:15am Mass. Come along and join us in our Praise and Worship. All Welcome.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP Meetings are every 4th Thursday of the month, 3.00pm at St Bernadette's. All are welcome.

LEGION OF MARY meets in the Guild Room every Sunday after the 10.15am Mass at SS Peter & Paul, and after the 11.30am Mass in the Lady Chapel at St Michael's. All Welcome!

LAY ASSOCIATES OF SISTERS OF ST ANN KNOWN AS THE LASA PRAYER GROUP will break up for Christmas vacations from 10th December 2024 and will meet in the Lady Chapel at St. Michael's on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 5.00pm for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to join in for prayer.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT THE CARMEL MONASTERY: Every Sunday from 4.30pm until after vespers at 5.40pm. and every first Friday of the month from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. All are welcome.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR PRAYERS FOR THEIR HEALTH: Mary Robs, Harry Murphy, Zsofia Toth, Dennis Oparaji, Christine Ball, Janusz Rogowski, Patricia Jones, Patricia Dufficy, Mick Gallagher, John Chell, Jan Taylor, Rodney Young, Morris Young, Elaine Howell, Magdalena de Rosario, Mary Ware, Antonia Colabella, Valerie Hinton, Rodney McKinney, Elizabeth Firth, Michael Foley, Ray O'Gorman, Sheila Powell, Sheila Percy, Rose Curtis, Margaret Gay, Maurice Gay, Josephine Mann, Andy Hyatt, Johny Burke, Charles Halldron, Ben McKearney, Steve Kavanagh, Antony Cosgrove, R. J, Holly Burke, Peter and Margaret Holmes, M Mary, Katherine Poole, Ann Bayley, Patrick Quinn, Margaret Stokes, Pat Pool, John Dolan, Liam Dolan, Marie Looker, Lorna Ciraulo, Helen Porter, Brendan Bleakley, Freya Haynes.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: Veronica Bury, Tom Collis, Sean McDonald, Varghese Puthussery, Mgr Graham Wilkinson, John Clarke, Mick McDonough. **May they rest in peace.**

*This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.
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