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Pastoral Assistants: Sr. Lydwin & Sr. Rita, Sisters of St Ann of Providence,
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13th December 2020- Gaudete Sunday Year B Timetable of Online Masses and Services.

For Online Masses, go to www.rcwlvwest.com

Saturday Vigil Mass Sunday 13 th December Gaudete Sunday	5.30 pm St Michael John Corbett RIP 9.00 St Bernadette Holy Souls 10.15 am SS Peter & Paul Chris Walsh RIP 11.30 St Michael Bernado Pulejo RIP 2.30 pm St Michael Syro-Malabar Rite Mass. 7.00pm SS Peter & Paul pro populo
Monday 14 th December Memorial of St John of the Cross	Midday - 1.00pm SS Peter & Paul open for Adoration 6.30pm St Michael Mass Sonia's Mother
Tuesday 15 th December	9.30 am SS Peter & Paul and Online David Blee Midday - 1.00pm SS Peter & Paul open for Adoration 6.00 pm Online Mass Jim Madden RIP 7.00 pm Online Carol Service
Wednesday 16 th December Advent Feria	12.00 Midday SS Peter & Paul and Online Fr. A Timlin RIP 6.00pm St Bernadette Success of Job Offer
Thursday 17 th December Advent Feria	9.30am - 10.30 am St Bernadette's open for Adoration 12.00 Midday St Michael John Arkwright
Friday 18 th December Advent Feria	9.30 am St Bernadette Jenny Pugh 12.00 Midday SS Peter & Paul Julia Moroney RIP
Saturday 19 th December Advent Feria	9.00 am Online Mass John Mulvihill RIP 10.30am - 11.30am St Michael Adoration and Confessions
Saturday Vigil Mass Sunday 20 th December	5.30 pm St Michael Kate Reynolds RIP 9.00 St Bernadette pro populo 10.15 am SS Peter & Paul Middleton, Crane, Grogan & Leutchford families 11.30 St Michael Maurice Gallier RIP 2.30 pm St Michael Syro-Malabar Rite Mass. 6.00pm Zoom Blessing of Cribbs

For the moment, Mass is celebrated in private at the Carmelite Convent but the sisters continue to pray for us, day and night.

Good News- the phone is mended at St Michael's Please now use the original number and forget the temporary one.
So, you can now use 01902 341 343 again!

Ventilation in Church We are required to ensure that there is ventilation during Mass. All our churches will therefore be drafty, so it is essential that you wear warm clothing.

Parish News and Activities

Online Carol Service As we cannot sing in church, we are putting on an online carol service this Tuesday evening at 7.00pm so that you can sing at home. We will have a couple of singers and some readers in the church, but it will not be open to the public. So, turn on your computer and join us virtually and sing to your hearts content!

Zoom Advent Feast If you have not already been able to celebrate the Advent feast, I will be leading one by Zoom on Saturday 19th December at 7.00pm. All you need is to download the booklet from the **Advent and Christmas Resources** page of the website. You will need 7 candles and you need to prepare four saucer size dishes which will contain some olives, pistachios, some vinegar and, in the last dish a tiny drop of olive oil with some cotton wool or paper tissues. You will then need a glass and a drink of your choice and have your meal prepared, ready to eat when we get to the end of the rituals (which take half an hour). If you would like to participate, please send an email to rcwlvwest@gmail.com marked **Advent Feast**.

A Chance to Reconcile with the Lord before Christmas? There will be Adoration and Confessions available across the city on **Monday December 21st from 6.30 pm – 8.00pm** in the following Churches: St. Michael's St. Anthony's, St. Thomas of Canterbury, St. Joseph's (Wolverhampton), Our Lady's Ss. Mary & John's (Snow Hill), & St. Patrick's. See the poster in the porch or on the website for more details. There will be three priests at St Michael's. There will also be Confessions at the usual time on Saturdays at St Michael's and an extra session at SS Peter & Paul on December 17th.

Virtual Crib Festival 2020: Please consider adding a touch to your door and window displays this Advent which signals our Christian hope. Across Penn, across denominations, we invite you to be part of a Virtual Crib Festival, to spread a little light and joy to our world through our windows etc. Share the message of the Nativity particularly across the weekend of Gaudete Sunday (Dec 11- 14): light up a crib, create a reflection in pink (liturgical colour that Sunday), doodle "Joy" in lights: any response to a small or major part of the Nativity. Do spread this good news - and the request to join in - across and beyond our parishes. (CWL is encouraging this local initiative nationally: can you?) *This is an initiative from Churches together in Penn, but we can all participate across the whole of our parish.*

Doorstep Carols: share the good news in traditional fashion. Dec 16th at 6pm: join in singing from your own steps and gardens to spread a little joy. Radio stations across the land will broadcast the same carols to keep us all in time. (BBC West Midlands Radio 95.6 FM) Carol sheets freely available from www.doorstepcarols.co.uk: but you will know them all. Household-bubble and safe-distancing friendly! If you are willing to inform your street/ face book friends check the website for "Street organisers" (there is a flyer just to alert neighbours, primarily). *(Keep your scene for the Virtual Crib Festival up for this?)* **Some people have expressed that they would be embarrassed to sing at their doorstep so some of us will gather socially distanced on the lawn at St Michael's Church instead. Bring a lantern!**

Zoom Blessing of Cribs On the 4th Sunday of Advent December 20th at 6.00pm there will be a special zoom meeting where Fr Mark will bless everyone's cribs. All you will need is the codes for the meeting and then be able to point your laptop or phone to your crib at one point of the meeting. We will start with a welcome, then look at everyone's cribs and then there will be a short service of blessing of your cribs and your homes. If you would like to take part, please email rcwlvwest@gmail.com and mark your email "Crib Blessing".

Christmas Message from the Sisters at the Carmelite Convent There is a beautiful card from the sisters on our website assuring us of their prayers for us this Christmas!

Booking places for Sunday Masses.

FOR ST MICHAEL, please email or ring Sr Lydwin on 01902 341343 on Thursday and Friday.

FOR SS PETER & PAUL, please ring or text Val on 07934905283

FOR ST BERNADETTE, please ring Judith on 01902 620 764 between 6.30pm and 7.30pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays or email judithpitt64@gmail.com

Christmas Masses *It is essential that you book to attend Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You may only book for one Mass so that as many people as possible get a chance to attend Mass. Please let friends and family know that this is the case. To book, use the same contacts as for Sundays.*

Christmas Mass Schedule (This has been worked out according to the availability of stewards and cleaners)

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December	Christmas Day Friday 25th December
4.00 pm St Michael Family Mass 1 4.30pm St Bernadette Family Mass 2 5.30pm SS Peter & Paul Family Mass 3 8.00pm St Michael Vigil Mass Midnight St Michael <i>Keralan Syro-Malabar Rite Mass</i> Midnight SS Peter & Paul Vigil Mass	9.00am SB 10.00am SM 10.30am SSPP

Please encourage families to make use of all three family Masses that are being provided on Christmas Eve.

Please be aware that any of the Masses from Christmas Day until New Year's Day are part of what is called the Octave of Christmas and are therefore Christmas Masses. If you are uncertain about gathering in larger crowds, you may consider coming for one of the Christmas Octave Masses instead.

FairTrade Hub: socially distanced visits (after Dec 2nd) to purchase FairTrade seasonal items can be booked at Beckminster Methodist Church. Contact: 0784500793 to arrange a slot. Mini olive wood cribs and other gifts available: a super range of patterned socks, too! (Photographs/prices can be forwarded via mibeyg@hotmail.co.uk)

Christmas Cards: Because of Covid 19 restrictions there is no general selling via Piety Stalls; for those unable to place orders for Carmel's Christmas cards St Michael's Piety Stall offers "dial and drop": ring 336534 and see how we can help. *NB There is currently no access into Carmel though cards produced by the Carmelites can be ordered there. Over 50 Christmas designs can be viewed at: cloistercards.co.uk. Requests/payment can also be dropped through their letterbox.*

Join the Catholic Women's League for the **Joyful Mysteries Rosary** at 7.30pm on Thursday 17th December via Zoom. Easy to join us so please contact Sarah on 07948963325 or email: sarahandrews1970@yahoo.co.uk and she will give you the codes. God bless everyone this Holy Season.

SS Peter & Paul 200 Club Subscriptions are now due for 2021. This can be done by putting cash with a note indicating your 200 Club number into an envelope and leaving it in the Mass Collection Basket. Alternatively, you can post a cheque with a note indicating your 200 Club number, to 11 Castlecroft Gardens, Finchfield, WV3 8LN. Please make the cheque payable to SS Peter & Paul Church. Many thanks, Bill Finnegan.

Mission and Outreach

The FOOD COLLECTION: The Food and Christmas Present Collection continues outside St M on Tuesday 1-2, Thursday and Saturday 10-11 and before all Masses AND at SSPP before the 10.15 Sunday Mass. This week's donations are being distributed to local families via Stratton St Methodist Church WV10. Thank you for your continued support!

ADDRESSING LOCAL NEED: Much-welcomed supplies can be dropped off at any time for the Good Shepherd Ministry via 2, Richmond Rd WV3 9HY Thank you for your kindness.

"Double the Love": this Mary's Meals "porridge at school" project in a Liberia recovering from Ebola reaches orphans and the poor. Until January 31st 2021 donations to the project will benefit from UK Government Match Aid, pound for pound up to £2 million. Do consider doubling the impact of your Christmas giving! If you cannot manage website or telephone banking do you have a friend who could help? More information: Catherine on 336534

Donations of Goods for the Life Charity Shop: Our shop at 12 Lichfield Street has reopened and we can once again welcome your gifts of clothes, bric-a-brac, books etc, Small amounts can be handed in at the shop, but if this is difficult for you or if you have large amounts to give, please ring Rosalie on 01902 330553, and arrange to drop off goods at her house or to have them collected from you.

Hats sent to Sea: Thank you so much, knitters and hat suppliers: 58 warm hats have gone to Apostleship of the Sea who will ensure they reach seafarers in our ports. Please do continue to knit this winter: gathering has begun for a January posting! Stella Maris/ AoS celebrates Sea Sunday on December 20th. 336534

Climate Ambition Summit will be held on 12 December. Prior to this, we are invited to a webinar “**Faith, Science, Youth –a call for an ambitious Climate Summit**” which will take place this Wednesday, 9 December at 1pm (GMT) organised by the Vatican, CAFOD and partners. Do sign in even if you are not free on 9 Dec. You can watch the recording when it suits you. Link to register: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HZEWWe1SQjyNetvgKKatlw

Finances

Many thanks to all who have started using Standing Orders for their offerings to the parish. The total of Standing orders for November was: St Michael's: £ 1497.75, SS Peter & Paul's: £ 261.00, St Bernadette's: £677.18

Offertory Collection for Sunday 6th December 2020

	SS Peter & Paul	St Michael	St Bernadette	Second Collection:
Non-Gift Aid	368.83	422.30	96.55	
Gift Aid	320.00	159.00	65.00	

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued this important guidance concerning the new vaccines against the coronavirus.

The development of a vaccine against COVID-19 presents an important breakthrough in protecting others as well as oneself from the virus; a virus which has not only caused a global pandemic and led to a huge loss of life but has also placed a great burden on healthcare workers and systems.

Each of us has a duty to protect others from infection with its danger of serious illness, and for some, death. A vaccine is the most effective way to achieve this unless one decides to self-isolate. At present, debate concerns the use of the vaccines developed by Pfizer & BioNTech, Moderna, and AstraZeneca.

Some have questioned the use of the Astra Zeneca vaccine since it has been developed from cell-lines originating from the cells of an aborted foetus in 1983. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Pontifical Academy of Life have expressed the view that one may in good conscience and for a grave reason receive a vaccine sourced in this way, provided that there is a sufficient moral distance between the present administration of the vaccine and the original wrongful action.

In the COVID-19 pandemic, we judge that this grave reason exists and that one does not sin by receiving the vaccine. Both the Pfizer & BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have a different source since they are mRNA-based vaccines. On 2 December 2020, the Pfizer & BioNTech vaccine was approved for use in the UK. Each Catholic must educate his or her conscience on this matter and decide what to do, also bearing in mind that a vaccine must be safe, effective, and universally available, especially to the poor of the world.

Catholics may in good conscience receive any of these vaccines for the good of others and themselves. In good conscience, one may refuse a particular vaccine but continues to have a duty to protect others from infection.

Right Reverend Richard Moth
Chair, Department of Social Justice
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: John Owen, R. J., Keith Tomlins, Brian Dyce, David Souberry, Ben Sherry, Holly Burke, Mason Kavanagh, Paula Box, June Abbiss, Peter Holmes, Alice Stevens, George Brown, Chris Starkey, M Mary, Thomas Mackin, Stephen Briggs, Hilary Elsdon, Katherine Poole, Teresa Mitchell, Ann Bayley, Helen O'Brien-Coleman, Mary Abbiss, Peggy McHale, Patrick Quinn, Fred & Celia Norton, Jean Hollingshead, Margaret Stokes, Leah Nixon, Pat Pool, John Dolan, Liam Dolan, Marie Looker, Lorna Ciraulo, Pat Eades, Helen Porter, Mary Kirby, Sheila O'Toole, Tony McGinn, Brendan Bleakley.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: Peter Paul Jarai, Jamie MacFarlane, Stephen Brooks **May they rest in peace.**

Safeguarding Representatives: Steve & Chris Callow (St Michael) 01902 340775,
Ann Shorthouse (St Bernadette) 01902 326334

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