



**Parish Priest:** Mgr. Mark Crisp, Giffard House, 51, North Street, Wolverhampton. WV1 1RJ.

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**Pastoral Assistants:** Sr. Lydwin & Sr. Rita, Sisters of St Ann of Providence,  
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**Facebook page:** @rcwlwest **Twitter:** Mark Crisp @wlvrcchap

**Weddings and Baptisms** by appointment. **St Michael's Hall Bookings:** [st\\_michaelshallpenn@gmail.com](mailto:st_michaelshallpenn@gmail.com)

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## 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020- Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B

Timetable of Online Masses and Services.

For Online Masses, go to [www.rcwlwest.com](http://www.rcwlwest.com)

Saturday Vigil Mass Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30 pm St Michael <i>Kate Reynolds RIP</i> 9.00 St Bernadette <i>pro populo</i> 10.15 am SS Peter & Paul <i>Middleton, Crane, Grogan &amp; Leutchford families</i> 11.30 St Michael <i>Maurice Gallier RIP</i> 2.30 pm St Michael <i>Syro-Malabar Rite Mass.</i> 6.00pm Zoom <b>Blessing of Cribs</b>
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December Advent Feria	9.00 am Online Mass <i>Bill and Sheila Botwood – In thanksgiving</i> 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm St Michael <b>Adoration and Confessions</b>
Tuesday 22nd December	10.45 am SS Peter & Paul Funeral Mass <i>Nicolina Morgillo RIP (by invitation only)</i> 6.00 pm Online Mass <i>Sean Kemble</i>
Wednesday 23rd December Advent Feria	12.00 Midday SS Peter & Paul and Online <i>Patrick Guiton RIP</i> 12.30 pm SS Peter & Paul <b>Confessions</b> 6.00pm St Bernadette <i>Maureen Dickens RIP</i>
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve	4.00 pm St Michael <i>Theresa Gannon</i> 4.30 pm St Bernadette <i>Sue Spears RIP</i> 5.30 pm SS Peter & Paul <i>Joan &amp; Philip Dunne RIP</i> 8.00 pm St Michael <i>Spiritual Transition</i> Midnight SS Peter & Paul <i>Deceased members of all three parishes in 2020</i>
25 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day	9.00 am St Bernadette <i>May Goodenough</i> 10.00am St Michael <i>John Corbett RIP</i> 10.30 am SS Peter & Paul <i>Nellie &amp; Harry Jones</i>
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December St Stephen's Day	12.00 pm SS Peter & Paul <i>Canon Gerry Breen</i> <b>NO VIGIL MASS</b>
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December Feast of the Holy Family	9.00 St Bernadette <i>pro populo</i> 10.15 am SS Peter & Paul <i>Bob Jones RIP</i> 11.30 St Michael <i>Sandra Treanor RIP</i> 2.30 pm St Michael <i>Syro-Malabar Rite Mass.</i>

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

**Please Note – the Masses on Christmas day are completely different from normal Sunday Mass times! And please remember you can only come to Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas day, if you have already booked.**

### **Booking places for Christmas Masses and Sunday Masses**

FOR ST MICHAEL, please email or ring Sr Lydwyn 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 from 17/12 to 24/12 or email [judithpitt64@gmail.com](mailto:judithpitt64@gmail.com)

***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.***

**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***

**A Chance to Reconcile with the Lord before Christmas?** There will be Adoration and Confessions available across the city on **Monday December 21<sup>st</sup> 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 after Mass at SS Peter & Paul on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Zoom Blessing of Cribs** On the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent December 20<sup>th</sup> 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 [rcwlwest@gmail.com](mailto:rcwlwest@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!

**Another National Carolling Opportunity** 5.30 on Sunday Dec 20th: carols on the doorstep via Premier Christian Radio (Freeview channel 725, or DAB. ) **Fifteen minutes, a handful of carols-** so plenty of time to attend the Crib Blessing at 6pm. More information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/CarolsOnTheDoorstep> or [www.newcastledistrictmethodist.org](http://www.newcastledistrictmethodist.org)

St Bart's is streaming its Carol Service, Sunday Dec 20th at 5.30. Details via its website.

If you want to see St Michael's old crib this year, it is on public display in the windows at Springdale Methodist Church, which unfortunately cannot yet re-open for worship.

**Something to lift your spirits over Christmas:** Musicians and readers from SS Peter & Paul Church put on a virtual Carol Service on Tuesday Evening. You can watch this any time over Christmas and sing along with the carols at home. Simply follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNXpwVxh8KU>

**Virtual Nativity Play from SS Peter and Paul Catholic primary Academy.** If you have 20 minutes to spare, let the children brighten up your day with this wonderful production [www.sspeterandpaul.co.uk/our-virtual-nativity](http://www.sspeterandpaul.co.uk/our-virtual-nativity)

**New Year's Eve** There will be a special Mass St SS Peter & Paul and Online at 11.30 pm on New Year's Eve to pray our way into 2021 and ask God's blessing upon the year ahead. We certainly need to place our future into God's hands as we continue to struggle with the effects of the coronavirus. There will be a time of Adoration before this Mass and Praise and Worship songs will be led by the students of Wolverhampton University.

**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](mailto: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](http://cloistercards.co.uk). Requests/payment can also be dropped through their letterbox.*

**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 give your subscriptions to Val Walsh and Mary Faherty.

## ***Mission and Outreach***

**Today is Sea Sunday** when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them, we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops. Today's second collection is for Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), the Catholic Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. For an appeal talk, and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does, please visit [www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday). This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work. To donate, please visit [www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate) or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. Thank 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! 336534

**Friends of the Holy Land Christmas Appeal** With the current Covid-19 crisis the usual Christmas time pilgrimages to the Holy Land cannot take place this year. This has had a major impact on the livelihoods of the Christian communities in Bethlehem, Nazareth and elsewhere. Friends of the Holy Land is a UK organisation which gives hope to vulnerable Christians in Palestine. Some of you will have made a Pilgrimage to the Holy places such as the Pilgrimage by St. Michaels in 2011 led by Father Stephen Squires. You can find more and if you wish may make a donation at the website <http://www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/christmas>

***The Crib donations collection this year will also be going to this important Charity***

**The FOOD COLLECTION:** The Food Collection continues at St Michael's 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 have been distributed to local Penn families. Thank you so much!

**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.

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

	<b>SS Peter &amp; Paul</b>	<b>St Michael</b>	<b>St Bernadette</b>	<b>Second Collection:</b>
<b>Non-Gift Aid</b>	35.00	317.35	30.00	
<b>Gift Aid</b>	145.36	189.00	25.00	

### **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:** Ann Middleton, 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, 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

*These parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Registered as a charity  
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