

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF WALSALL

St. Mary's, St. Patrick's & St. Thomas of Canterbury



Diocese of Birmingham
www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk
Registered Charity No.234216

Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S THE MOUNT

Roman Catholic Church

Vocationists

WALSALL

www.stmarysthemount.co.uk

Telephone:01922 622633



Vocationists
www.vocationist.org
Registered Charity No. 1135796

St. Mary's the Mount Parish Family wishes You All a Warm Welcome

Parish Priest: Fr. Jobin Kollappallil, SDV

Assistant Priest: Fr. Fabien Ramiandrisoa, SDV

Brother: Edmar Lapus, SDV

St. Patrick's: Fr. Roberto Ciardo, SDV

St. Thomas of Canterbury: Fr. Christogonus

Ugwuakposim, SDV

Chaplain of Manor Hospital: Fr. Christogonus

How to prepare for Christmas spiritually?

What does it mean to be ready for Christmas? Many times, we think we are ready for Christmas when we have the gifts we need to exchange in our hands, when we have enough money to spend on Christmas shopping or when we are ready to visit our friends and family members with special gifts. However, we often forget what is truly essential: preparing ourselves spiritually.



Giving gifts, making decorations, cooking delicious food: these are certainly part of the celebration of Christmas, but as usual they distract us from what is essential: the spiritual part. The true purpose of Christmas is that God sent His Son, Jesus, to be born of a virgin in a stable in the small town of Bethlehem. Thirty-three years later, he would become the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world. We must value spiritual preparation for Christmas just as much as decorating, visiting and preparing food. So, prepare yourself to celebrate Christmas in the real way, as humbly suggested in the following:

Read the Christmas Story in the Gospel:

The Gospels are a great place to begin your journey to prepare for Christmas. The only way we will truly know and appreciate the story of Jesus' miraculous birth is by reading about it in God's inspired word. You can find the nativity story in chapters one and two of Matthew and Luke.

As you read, here are some questions to consider:

1. God told Joseph to name the baby "Immanuel," which means, "God with us." Reflect on the past few months. How have you seen 'God with us' in your life?
2. Matthew 2 says that Herod and all of Jerusalem were disturbed by the news of Jesus' birth. Why do you think that was? How does Jesus' presence 'disturb' earthly life?
3. When the angel told Mary of her pregnancy, she said, "I am the Lord's servant, may your word be fulfilled in me." How can you imitate that heart of submission in your life?
4. After the shepherds saw Jesus, they eagerly went to tell everyone around them. Think about how you can engage in discussions about Jesus this season.

Prepare your heart so that you may also enjoy the spiritual joy of Christmas.

Exchange spiritual gifts by giving your outstanding good qualities to others who need them and by receiving the ennobling soul-qualities of those who are great and who love you for your own good.

May you have a good spiritual preparation, waiting for Jesus coming among us!

May you know how to create an environment of PEACE where there is war and discord!

INFORMATION

- **Parish Contributions:** Last Sunday Offertory: £1102.54 (Standing Orders: £821 Offertory Collection: £281.54). **Overseas Charities: £7. Counting:** This Sunday: Team A, next Sunday: Team B. ***This Sunday, there will be a second collection for the poor parishes of the diocese.***
- **Bambinelli Sunday:** Next Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as *Bambinelli Sunday*. Please bring the statues of baby Jesus from your cribs, so that they can be blessed in church.
- **Advent Retreat:** This year, the Advent Retreat, for our churches in Walsall, will be on Saturday 16th December in our church, beginning with Holy Mass at 9am, followed by talks, Adoration & Confession. The retreat will be led by Fr. Justin Karakadu, SDV. We would like you all to join us for this retreat. ***Please note change to the time of Mass.***
- **Penitential Rite:** Our penitential rite in preparation for Christmas will be on Friday 22nd December, starting with Eucharistic Exposition & Penitential rite at 5.30 pm. Holy Mass will be at 7pm and there will be opportunity for Confessions until 8.30pm. Three priests will be available to hear Confessions, including a visiting priest.
- **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols:** This will take place in church on Sunday, 17th December, at 4.00 pm, followed by a glass of mulled wine and mince pies in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome. (The Carols will last for one hour.)
- **Bro. Edmar:** Bro Edmar has been admitted to the Minor order of Acolytes, a step nearer to the sacred order of priesthood. He will be ordained to the order of Acolytes on Monday 18th December at 7pm Mass. We invite everyone to join and witness this celebration, and to pray for Bro. Edmar on this joyous occasion. There will be light refreshments in the Parish Hall afterwards.
- **Church Cleaning:** We would like to do a full clean of the church in preparation for Christmas on Friday 22nd December at 4pm. Everyone is welcome to help.
- **Christmas Flowers and Decorations:** If anybody would like to make donations towards buying flowers to decorate the church in preparation for Christmas, please contact Shiela Parker or one of the priests.
- **Church Christmas Decorations:** We will be decorating the church on Saturday 23rd December from 10.30am. We invite people to come and help decorate the church.
- **Altar Servers' Training:** The next session will be on Tuesday 12th December.
- **Come & Programme (RCIA):** The next session of the RCIA programme for 2023-2025 will be on **Monday 8th January, and not on 18th December, as planned.**
- **Give a Home to Baby Jesus:** As part of our Advent preparations, we offer parishioners the opportunity to welcome the statue of *Baby Jesus* into their homes between now and 24th of December. If you are interested, please sign the sheet at the back of church, next to your preferred date. Guidelines are also provided. **You will receive Jesus from the church after 4pm on the day you wish to bring Jesus to your home and should return the statue to the church the following day, before 3pm.**
- **Diocesan Directory 2024:** The new diocesan directory for the year 2024 is available for purchase from the piety stall at the back of the church, priced at £3.50. ***Christmas Cards, diaries and other items are also on sale from our piety stall.*** Please take a look at these items, before or after Mass.
- **ORDO/Liturgical Calendar:** The new Ordo, Advent 2023 to December 2024, is also available at £6.50.
- **Christmas Bazaar:** Christmas Bazaar 2023: Many thanks to all who supported this event. It was nice to have some fun. We were able to raise £2757.38. This will be shared with the school, Overseas Charities and the Parish. There is a list of Grand Draw prize winners in Church - so please check to see if you are one of the lucky winners. Thanks to all who helped to make it such an enjoyable event, and thanks to those who came along and supported it.
- **RIP:** Please pray for the soul of Frank Daniels who died on Tuesday 14th November. His Requiem Mass will be on Monday 11th December at 10.00 am, followed by a burial at Streetly Cemetery.
- **RIP:** Please pray for the soul of Christine Lobo, who died suddenly on Wednesday 22nd November. She is the mother of former altar servers, Chriswina & Kegan. Her funeral will take place in our church on Wednesday 20th December at 10.30am.
- **Burial of Ashes:** 1) The ashes of the late Ruth Braid will be buried in our cemetery after 9am Mass this Sunday, 10th December. May she rest in peace. 2) The ashes of late Josie & Mike Norman will be buried in our cemetery on Saturday 16th December.

- **Readers' Rota:** Our new readers' rota has begun. This rota takes us through to the Epiphany and includes the Christmas Day Masses. Copies of the rota are available in the sacristy - readers please take one.
- **Bidding Prayers:** The new rota is now available for collection from the sacristy. **We are looking for some more people to join the rota. If you are interested in offering this service to the parish, please speak to one of the priests. Guidance will be provided.**
- **Food Bank:** We are now resuming our collection of items for our Food Bank. This week we are in need of tea, rice, long-life milk, cereal and tinned potatoes. Donations can be left in the trolley in the entrance to church - **only food items please.** We are now supporting 7 families with your donations.
- **Refreshments:** Refreshments are available in the parish hall on Thursdays (following 10am Mass) and on Sundays (following 9am Mass).
- **School News:** Pope Benedict XVI said, "A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school over and above this, should help all its students to become saints." That is what we seek to do at St. Mary's. Our Year 2 prayer service shone out this message for all. We have to put our hope and trust in the lord, to help us grow as people of God. We will keep our parish and families in our prayers.
- **St. Mary's the Mount Nursery School:** Applications are invited from parents whose children will be 3 years old in September 2024.
- **Safeguarding:** The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese's policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Paul McGill and Doreen Sehdeva. They can be contacted at: sg.stmary.walsall@rcaob.org.uk Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for December 2023: For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

Prayer for Vocations

Divine Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant us and all the faithful true generosity in following your call and bestow on us the grace of your Holy Spirit to persevere in overcoming all obstacles to our vocations. Give the church in our Diocese and throughout the world many holy priests, fervent religious and committed lay people. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels, Saint Justin Maria Russolillo and all Saints, we humbly ask you to hear our prayers and multiply the ministries by which we may serve You and one another in faith and love. Amen. Hail Mary....

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2023

Saturday 16th December	Advent Retreat: beginning with Holy Mass at 9am
Friday 22nd December	Penitential Rite & Confession – beginning with Adoration at 5:30pm
Tuesday 26th December	St. Stephen's Day: Altar Servers' Mass of Commitment at 10am

CONTACT DETAILS OF PRIESTS

St. Mary's	Fr. Jobin Kollappallil, SDV	Address: St. Mary's the Mount Presbytery, Vicarage Walk, Walsall, WS1 3NF Tel: 01922 622 633 Web: www.stmarsthemount.co.uk Parish Email: stmary.walsall@rcaob.org.uk Fr. Jobin: fr.jobin.kollappallil@rcaob.org.uk Fr. Fabien: fr.fabien.ramiandrisoa@rcaob.org.uk FB: Stmarys Mount; Twitter: @marys_mount Blog: stmarysthemount.tumblr.com
St. Patrick's	Fr. Roberto Ciardo, SDV	Blue Lane East, Walsall, WS2 8HN. Tel: 01922 622633 Email: stpatrick.walsall@rcaob.org.uk
St. Thomas's	Fr. Christogonus, SDV	Dartmouth Avenue, Walsall, WS3 1SP. Tel: 07404816951 Email: fr.christogonus.ugwuakposim@rcaob.org.uk

Second Sunday of Advent 10th December 2023
Sunday and Weekday Masses

Week II

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	OFFERED BY
Saturday 9 th	5:30pm 6:30pm 6:30pm	St. Mary's St. Patrick's St. Thomas's	Pro Populo Holy Mass Holy Mass	
Sunday 10 th <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	9:00am 10:00am 10:00am 11:00am	St. Mary's St. Patrick's St. Thomas's St. Mary's	Ruth Braid - <i>RIP</i> Holy Mass Holy Mass Pro Populo	Family
Monday 11 th St. Damasus I <i>Pope</i>	9:15am 10:00am 10:00am 7.00pm	St. Patrick's St. Mary's St. Thomas's St. Mary's	Holy Mass Requiem Mass for Frank Daniels - <i>RIP</i> Holy Mass Holy Mass	Holy Mass
Tuesday 12 th Our Lady of Guadalupe	9:15am 10.00am 10:00am	St. Patrick's St. Mary's St. Thomas's	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	
Wednesday 13 th St. Lucy <i>Virgin & Martyr</i>	9:00am 9:15am 6:00pm 7:00pm	St. Mary's (SCH) St. Patrick's St. Mary's St. Mary's	School Mass Holy Mass Adoration for Vocations Mass for Vocations	
Thursday 14 th St. John of the Cross <i>Priest & Doctor of the Church</i>	10:00am	St. Mary's	Ancy Simmy - <i>RIP</i>	Simmy & Family
Friday 15 th	9:15am 10:00am 6:00pm 7:00pm	St. Patrick's St. Thomas's St. Mary's St. Mary's	Holy Mass Holy Mass Adoration & Confessions Christopher Egbuonu - <i>SI</i>	F Egbuonu
Saturday 16 th	9:00am 10:30am 5:30pm 6:30pm 6:30pm	St. Mary's St. Mary's St. Mary's St. Patrick's St. Thomas's	Holy Mass Advent Retreat, Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	
Sunday 17 th <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	9:00am 10:00am 10:00am 11:00am 4:00pm	St. Mary's St. Patrick's St. Thomas's St. Mary's St. Mary's	Frank Daniels - <i>RIP</i> Holy Mass Holy Mass Sarah & Michael Johnson & Bierd Family - <i>RIP, DA</i> Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols	Byers Family A & P Johnson

C=Conversion, RIP=Rest in Peace, DA=Death Anniversary, S=Sick, B=Birthday, TH=Thanksgiving, WB=Well-Being, H=Healing, HE=Health, RC=Recovery, SI=Special Intention, M=Marriage, BP=Baptism, G=Guidance, SE= Success in Exams, WA=Wedding Anniversary, HS=Holy Strength, Ch=Church, SCH=School, BD= Beechdale, PC=Parish Centre

Let us Pray for those who are Sick

Wendy Bubb, Mary Powell, Martha Ekezie, Moira Law, Madeleine Holland, Anne F Kazmie, Patrick Kelly, Anne Dixon, Cliff Maybury, Anne Kinsey, Faisal Kazilbash, John Horton, Una Greevy, Aga, James McGeough, Mavourneen Smith, Marie Hornblower, Judith Dunthorne, Angela Gonsalves, Margaret Powell, Lee Chit Wei