

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

My heart is full of affection for you, and I often remember you before the Lord. It is my hope that what you yourself would like best is that we should meet in our Lord in perfect unity of heart. This is the true centre of the greatest love, of the greatest union of hearts; indeed, this is the only centre, a very ocean of love.

(Antonio Rosmini)

### Next Week's Gospel Reading

#### Third Sunday of Advent

( 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017)

#### **Gospel – John 1:6-8, 19-28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

#### **Prayer for the Parish -**

Almighty God, Who governs all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of your people. Grant to our parish all things needful for its spiritual welfare and, through the guidance of Your Holy Spirit, may we be of one heart and mind in the fold of Your Holy Church. To the honour and glory of Your Name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Prayer for Vocation -**

O God, you are the Lord of the harvest. We pray to you that men and women may hear the call of Christ your Son, to work in your vineyard. May they answer the call generously. May we, with them, serve you faithfully all our days so that your faithful people may grow in numbers and favour in your sight. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish Priest: Father Tom Thomas

Assistant Priest: Fr. Justus Okibo

In Community: Fr John Buckner, Fr. David Tobin, Fr. John Bland, Fr. Charles Sormany and Br. Joseph Gardner

Permanent Deacon: Gerard Nosowski

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Gift Aid Administrator: Michael Borg 01788 811732

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## ST MARIE'S RUGBY

*Served by the Rosminians*  
*Archdiocese of Birmingham*  
*Registered Charity No.*  
*234216*



Week starting 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

IN THE PARISH

**Sunday Collection** - Thank you for last Sunday's offertory collection.

**This Week-end** - the Second Collection is for the Poor Parishes Fund. Please give generously.

**Next Week-end** - Retiring Collection will be for the RUG Group. Please give generously.

**Eucharistic Adoration** - Closes after 7 p.m. Mass this Monday (11<sup>th</sup>) and resumes on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**Chocolate Sale** - After Mass today, towards the Church Spire Restoration

**Restoration Funds** - total raised

**Church Spire Restoration** - You can still sponsor Half a brick for £50, a Full brick for £100, or sponsor one Angel Wing for £750. The name of the sponsor can be added to the brick. **We need** as many Sponsors as possible. Please contact the parish office or Fr. Tom. There are now repair works needed on our South Wall, Stations of the Cross, Hibbert's Chapel Ceiling & also Lighting inside the Church. Thank you for your all continued help.

**Silent Prayer Meeting** - this Thursday (14<sup>th</sup>) at 2 p.m. in the convent

**Life Ascending** - Our Day of Recollection at Mater Ecclesiae Convent this Thursday (14<sup>th</sup>) has had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

**Mothers Prayer Group** - will meet this Friday (15<sup>th</sup>) after 10 a.m. Mass at 12 Churchill Road.

**UCM** - Carols & Shared Supper will take place next Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00 pm at Hanover Gardens. There will be **NO** Mass that evening.

**Hospital Service** - Next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2:15 pm - 2:40 p.m. in the chapel of St Cross Barby Road. All welcome.

**Cribs and Gifts** - Now on sale in the Coach House.

**Rotas for all Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and the Winter Shelter** - These have been emailed to all those for whom we have email addresses. If you have not received your copy please contact Kathy Smith on 01788 891940. There are copies in the Sacristy for those that prefer paper.

**Christmas Market / Gospel Choir** - A **BIG** Thank you to all who came, and made the afternoon and evening such a success. Special thanks must also go to the Fund Raisers, Helpers and Choir. A total of £1662.60 was raised, towards the Spire Restoration Fund.

**Confessions before Christmas** - will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. Priests from the Denary will be available to hear the confession and will be a fitting preparation before Christmas and New Year.

**Thank you** - A Big thank you to all the Cooks, Servers, Drivers, Rugby School Choir and Primary Children and Teachers for their wonderful support for a meaningful celebration Mass and Meal for our Parishioners on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Also many thanks to our 'Sunday Coffee Mornings' for meeting this expense. Maddie for the children's 'Goodie Bags', Mary for the 'Flowers'. Finally to Maureen Borg, Parish Secretary for all the correspondence sent, and arrangements.

## Welcome!

Have you joined us for the first time?

Please complete a card from the main porch and hand it to the clergy.

Come and meet other parishioners for coffee or tea in the Parish Hall after Sunday morning Mass

**NB Please remember to inform the Parish Office if you move house or change your contact details.**

**Parish Office open from 09.00 – 12.30 on Tuesday Wednesday Thursday and Friday**

### IN THE PARISH continued...

**Pastoral Care Project** - the Archdiocese has released the latest version of 'My Funeral Mass' document, it is available in the porch. If you know of anyone it will benefit, please take one to them, or let Fr. Tom know.

**Welcoming our Younger Parishioners** - We will have a box of books for children to borrow during Mass and would be grateful for any *donations* of books in good condition for younger children. These will be left in the porch for collection on arrival and return on departure. Donations to the sacristy initially please. We would welcome books in the languages of all our Parish Families.

**Parish Magazine** - All are welcome to suggest a name for our parish magazine. Our volunteers are Maddie Murphy, Claire Ormsby Potter, Irene Torcal and Fr. John Bland. They will approach all parish groups for news and updates as well as photos of the teams. Please support them and get involved in this parish project. More volunteers are always welcomed, please contact / see Fr. Tom

**Calligraphy** - We are looking for someone in the parish who is able to do calligraphy and would be willing to bring our Remembrance Book up to date. The book records the names of those whose ashes are interred in our Garden of Remembrance. There are only two names to be added. If you are able to help, please contact Father Tom.

**Gift-aid** - New parishioners are welcome to join the gift aid scheme of the parish if you are a tax payer every £1 you pay, we can claim 25p from the Government. Please contact **Mike Borg** if you are interested on 811732 or e-mail: michaelwba18@gmail.com or Fr. Tom

**St Marie's 500 Club** - The last and bumper draw of 2017 has given the following winners: [1] at £60 no 86; [2] at £40 no 209; [3] at £20 no 166. Cheques in the post! Happy Christmas to all and many thanks. Now, unless you have a standing order, it is time to renew or join for 2018, so please leave cash or cheque [to St Marie's (Rugby) 500 Club] in the office. Cost still £12 per number for all the monthly draws for 2018. Why not join in? Any queries to Margaret on 541705.

**APF / Red Boxes** – Calendars are now ready for collection from the porch. Will all Promoters and Red Box holders, please collect packages and return monies by next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### DIARY FOR THE WEEK 9<sup>th</sup> December - 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017

#### **SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> December – Vigil for Second Sunday of Advent**

**Confessions** 5.30 to 5.55 p.m.

**Mass** at 6.00 p.m. for Deceased Members of Arnott & Webb Families R.I.P.

#### **SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent**

**Mass** at 10 a.m. for Den Harries R.I.P. and at 6.00 p.m. for Betty Kerry R.I.P.

**Confessions** from 9.30 a.m. - 9.55 a.m.

**Polish Mass** at 12.30 p.m.

**Coffee/Tea** after 10 a.m. Mass in the Parish Hall

**Parish Shop** open in Coach House after 10 a.m. Mass

#### **MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> December - Advent Feria**

**Mass** at 10 a.m. for Private Intentions for Fr. Tom and at 7.00 p.m. for Kate Doonan R.I.P.

Oratory Mass for Holy Souls

**Adoration** 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. in the church. (Morning Prayer at 8:50 a.m.)

#### **TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> December - Advent Feria**

**Mass** at 10 a.m. for Well-Being of Mary O'Reilly

Oratory Mass for Well-Being of Maria Vaughan

#### **WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> December - Memorial St Lucy**

**Mass** at 10.00 a.m. for Mary Gillespie R.I.P.

Oratory Mass for Cacilda Carvalho R.I.P.

11 a.m. Requiem for Gerald Hamilton R.I.P.

#### **THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> December - Memorial of St John of the Cross**

**Mass** at 10 a.m. for Benedict McBreen R.I.P.

Oratory Mass for Well-Being of Bernadette Stundon

**Choir Practice** - 7:45 p.m. in Church.

#### **FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> December - Advent Feria**

**Mass** at 10 a.m. for Holy Souls

Oratory Mass for Holy Souls

#### **SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> December - Advent Feria**

**Confessions** 10 to 11a.m. and from 5.30 to 5.55p.m.

**Mass** at 9:30 a.m. for All Parishioners

**Mass** at 6 p.m. for Shirley Deery R.I.P.

#### ✠ PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE SICK: ✠

Tom Donnelly, Elsie Johnson, Jade Lambert, DeeDee Flint, Piotr Fior, John Ritter, Kerry Livesey, Rupert Nigam, Paul Kelly, Patrick Hannifin, Baby Freddie Fereday, Rose Loveridge, Bert Ritossa, Lenny and Marie Niner, Claire Lycett, Alfredo Valderroma, Octovio Granja, William Hearne

#### ✠ FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES FALL AROUND THIS TIME: ✠

Mary Judge, Peter Fletcher, Mary Mann, Joan Rea, Fiona Hoey, Betty Kerry