

Statue Visitation for the Consecrated Life

Parishioners are invited to receive the statue of Our Lady for one week and place her with flowers and candles in a prominent position in the home. Each day you are committed to praying the rosary to which parishioners can be invited to join in if you so wish. If you would like to participate in this, please see one of the clergy or contact the parish office.

ROTA SO FAR

Sunday 16th December 2018 Linda Gordon
Sunday 23rd December 2018 Susan Salam
Sunday 30th December 2018 Vera Whyte
Sunday 6th January 2019 Ann Glennon
Sunday 13th January 2019 Vincent Sampays

If your date is not convenient for you, please either swap with someone else or let the parish office know.

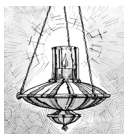
COULD YOU WELCOME THE STATUE OF OUR LADY INTO YOUR HOME? - YES? - PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE!

St Mary's Alvechurch Ecumenical Faith Group

On the third Wednesday of every month at 10.30 am – all welcome

THE SHRINES OF OUR LADY & THE SACRED HEART

To have the lamp burn for your intentions or loved ones, please contact the parish office, suggested donation £5.



LIFE Care Service

Free National Helpline 0808 802 5433

If you wish to contact the parish St Vincent de Paul group, please telephone 07531 818731 (the SVP phone) and leave a message with your contact details so we can return your call.

"My house shall be called a house of prayer"

Please be sensitive to those who want to pray in silence before Mass. Before Mass **Talk to God** During Mass **Listen to God** After Mass **Talk to each other**

Important—Parish Office Hours

The office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday as normal, but **closed on Wednesdays**, except for sick calls and funerals

MISSIO—RED BOXES

The 2019 Mission Today Calendars are available in the porches for Red Box Holders. If your Red Box needs emptying could you please drop it in to the Parish Office. If you are unable to get your box to the parish office for emptying, please phone Steve on 01527 404248 to get it emptied.

Fellow Catholic Parishioners please come and join us

The Catenians - a Catholic men's association

'Strengthening family life through friendship and faith'

The Redditch Circle meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Abbey Hotel and welcomes new members. For further information please contact Andrew Farrell on 07767831548 or Brian Green on 01527 543111

Mount Carmel Seniors Group

Thursdays at 2.30pm St Benedict's, Batchley

January 3rd Talk about prospective trip to the Palace of Westminster

January 10th Trip to the Pantomime Peter Pan at the Hippodrome—**coach leaving St Benedict's at 12.30pm**

January 24th Seated Exercise

Vacancy

Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Bicester are looking for a **PARISH YOUTH WORKER** Full time (35 hrs per week) Fixed term—(initially 12 months, with possible extension beyond) £23,000—£25,000 per annum. Applications for this post will be by CV and covering letter, which should outline how your skills and abilities match those required for this role. Applications should be returned to Canon John Y Batthula, Henley House, 12 Causeway, Bicester, OX26 6AW by no later than Friday 25th January 2019.

Piano & Organ Tuition

- Offering tuition in the Redditch, Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Worcester area
- Beginners through to Advanced
- Classically trained with years of teaching and performance experience
- Call Hannah Gibson on 07476 372311 or email hannah.gibson1991@gmail.com



(Hannah plays the organ here for funerals, weddings and for the choir)

PLEASE do not leave bags of clothes in the church or bring them to the parish office. We will only accept what has been specifically asked for by the SVP Group.

Legion of Mary

Mondays 10am
Parish Centre
All welcome

Important—Parish Office Hours

The office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday as normal, but **closed on Wednesdays**, except for sick calls and funerals

The Parish Safeguarding Representatives are

Mrs Jane Craig & Mrs Linda Gordon
Email: safeguardingOLMC@gmail.com



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, REDDITCH

Beoley Road West, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 8LT (01527) 63096

Email: office@mtcarmel.co.uk Website: www.ourladyofmountcarmel.co.uk

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No.234216

Parish Clergy: Fr Anthony Rohan, Fr Jason Mahoney

Permanent Deacons: Revs Des Chilton & Peter Griffiths

NEWSLETTER 1844 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 23RD DECEMBER 2018 YEAR C

Parish Mass Bk Page 32 Micah 5:1-4 Psalm 79 Hebrews 10:5-10 Gospel Luke 1:39-45

Fourth Sunday of Advent

With the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Lord's Birth is at hand. With the words of the Prophet Micah, the Liturgy invites us to look at Bethlehem, the little town in Judea that witnessed the great event. Unfortunately, in our day, it does not represent an attained and stable peace, but rather a peace sought with effort and hope. Yet God is never resigned to this state of affairs, so that this year too, in Bethlehem and throughout the world, the mystery of Christmas will be renewed in the Church. Today, as in the times of Jesus, Christmas is not a fairy-tale for children but God's response to the drama of humanity in search of true peace.



Christmas Stars



We will again be decorating the Christmas Tree in church with stars in memory of loved ones, Christmas wishes to members of the parish or for a special intention. There is no set cost but a donation would be appreciated. STARS are available near Our Lady's Shrine.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

Mount Carmel 5pm First Mass of Christmas, 8pm (Polish) 10pm Service of Readings & Carols followed by Mass
Hadzor 7pm Carols followed by Mass

Christmas Day

Mount Carmel 8.15am, 9.45am (Polish), 11.15am
Alvechurch 9.45am, Feckenham 10.15am

St Stephen's Day 26th December

Mount Carmel 9.30am Mass for ALL Altar Servers

Friends of the Holy Land

Winter/Spring Newsletter is now available from the church porches.

Parish First Holy Communion Class

The First Holy Communion Class for children in non-Catholic schools will begin on Wednesday 23rd January at 6pm in the church. If you would like your child to attend, please contact the Parish Office on 01527 63096.

Pray for the Church Campaign

Pope Francis has requested that we invoke the intercession of Saint Michael, the Archangel each time we celebrate

Mass — Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle, be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host by the power of God thrust down into hell Satan and all the wicked spirits

who wander through this world for the ruin of souls. Amen

Please note : There is only one collection at all Christmas Masses which is your traditional Christmas Offerings to your Clergy.

Altar Servers—

Save the Date! Saturday 9th February 2019

Guild of Saint Stephen's Thanksgiving Mass by His Grace, Archbishop Longley 12 noon St Chad's Cathedral, Queensway, Birmingham—if you wish to go please let Paul Brewster or one of the clergy know.

Thank you

A BIG THANK YOU from the Parish SVP to the many parishioners who helped make last Saturday's Christmas party in Birmingham a great success. Over 218 men and women joined us for Christmas Dinner and a day of Christian friendship at this special time of year. As always your donations towards the cost of the party have been fantastic. Thank you for your continued and wonderful support throughout 2018 and our best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas!

Cleaning the Church for Christmas

Volunteers from 11am Monday (Christmas Eve)

Readers for Christmas Eve 10.00pm

Service of Readings & Carols followed by Mass If you are available to read at the above, please give the parish office a ring on 01527 63096

Flowers for Christmas

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Christmas flowers, please use the wall slots at the back of church.

Mass Times & Intentions

Fourth Sunday in Advent Cycle C

Week beginning Sunday 23rd December 2018

Saturday

Mount Carmel 5.00 pm Elizabeth Morrissey (b'day a)

Hadzor 5.00 pm People of the Parish

Sunday

Mount Carmel 8.15 am Dec'd members of the Conlon Family

9.45 am Mass in Polish

11.15 am George & Mary Hawkes

6.00 pm Ints of Catherine Conboy

Alvechurch 9.45 am Gertrude & Joseph Lynch

4.00 pm Candlelit Carol Service

Feckenham 10.15 am Patrick, Mary & Adrian Kennedy

Monday

Mount Carmel 9.10 am Morning Prayer

9.30 am Hugh McManus

Christmas Eve

5.00 pm First Mass of Christmas Sally & Peter Baker

8.00 pm Polish Mass

10.00 pm Service of Readings & Carols followed by Christmas Mass

Alan Gourley

Hadzor 7.00 pm Christmas Mass

Bea Radford

Tuesday Christmas Day

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Mount Carmel 8.15 am Val Fanning

9.45 am Polish Mass

11.15 am Deacon Doug Taylor

NO EVENING MASS

Alvechurch 9.45 am George, Valerie, Paddy & Peter Higgins

Feckenham 10.15 am Liam Boyd

Wednesday Feast of Saint Stephen

Mount Carmel 9.30 am Mass for all Altar Servers

Tess & Packie Ellicott (Wedd Anniv)

11.00 am Polish Mass

Thursday Feast of Saint John

Mount Carmel 9.10 am Morning Prayer

9.30 am Giovanna Fusco (b'day a)

6.30 pm Exposition

7.00 pm Ints of Fr Cornelius

Friday Feast of the Holy Innocents

Mount Carmel 9.10 am Morning Prayer

9.30 am Victims of Abortion

Saturday Feast of Saint Thomas Becket

Mount Carmel 9.10 am Morning Prayer

9.30 am Cynthia Beamond (b'day a)

(The following fulfils Sunday Obligation)

Mount Carmel 5.00 pm Paddy Slattery (b'day a)

Hadzor 5.00 pm Howard & Maud Galton

Feast of the Holy Family

Week beginning Sunday 30th December 2018

Mount Carmel 8.15 am Jan Srebniak

9.45 am Mass in Polish

11.15 am Thomas & Peggy McGillen

6.00 pm Mary Rogers (a)

Alvechurch 9.45 am People of the Parish

Feckenham 10.15 am Val Fanning

Confessions at Mount Carmel

During Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction 10am-10.15am

On the 1st Saturday of the month the Rosary will be said after Divine Mercy Devotion

Tuesday Evenings 6.30pm-7pm

Parish Diary

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C, Psalter Week 4

4pm St Mary's, Alvechurch Candlelit Carol Service

7.30pm AA Meeting in Parish Centre

Counters Team E

Monday—Christmas Eve

Church Cleaning from 11am

7.30pm Narcotics Anonymous in Parish Centre

Tuesday—Christmas Day

Masses as listed

7pm AA Meeting in Parish Centre

Wednesday—Feast of St Stephen

9.30am Mass for all Altar Servers

Saturday

Tea & Coffee after 5pm Hadzor in the Newman Room

7pm Narcotics Anonymous in Parish Centre

Flowers Anne & Ella Colley

Sunday—Feast of the Holy Family

7.30pm AA meeting in Parish Centre

Counters Team F

Mt Carmel 500 Club Subscriptions due.

If you are not a member of this and would like to be, please contact the parish office for a membership form. Cost for one number is £12 per annum, £24 for two etc. 1st Prize is £140, 2nd Prize £40 and 3rd Prize £20 drawn at the end of each month.

Vacancy at St Thomas More Catholic First School

Temporary SEND Teaching Assistant Level 2 for Early Years

Please contact the school for an application pack—tel 01527 525821 or email office@st-thomasmore.worcs.sch.uk

Vacancy at Mount Carmel Catholic First School

Temporary Grade 2 Teaching Assistant for KS1 & KS2 required ASAP, Fixed term contract, 27.5 hrs per wk term time only + INSET days. Closing date for applications NOON Friday 21st December. Interview date Thursday 10th January. Visits to the school are welcome, Applications must be made on the Catholic Education Service Application Form. Form & Application Pack available from and returnable to Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Downsell Rd, Webheath, tel 01527 546398

SAINTS & FEASTS FOR THE WEEK ...

Sunday

Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers

Wednesday

Feast of Saint Stephen

He was the first Christian martyr. Stoned outside Jerusalem, he died praying for his executioners. He was one of the seven deacons who helped the apostles; he was 'filled with faith and the Holy Spirit', and was 'full of fortitude'. The Church draws a comparison between the disciple and the Master, emphasizing the imitation of Christ up to the complete gift of self. His name is in the Roman Canon.

Thursday

Feast of Saint John, Apostle

Born in Bethsaida, he was called from mending the nets to follow Jesus. He became the Beloved Disciple of Jesus. He wrote the Fourth Gospel, three Epistles and the Apocalypse. His passages on the pre-existence of the Word, who by his Incarnation became the light of the world and the life of our souls, are among the finest of the New Testament. He is the evangelist of the divinity of Christ and of fraternal love. With James, his brother, and Simon Peter, he was one of the witnesses of the Transfiguration. At the Last Supper, he leans on the Master's breast. At the foot of the Cross, Jesus entrusts his Mother to his care. John's pure life kept him very close to Jesus and Mary. In later years, under Emperor Domitian, John was exiled to the island of Patmos.

Friday

Feast of the Holy Innocents

The Church celebrates the memory of the small children of the neighbourhood of Bethlehem. They were put to death by Herod, who was seeking to kill Jesus. These innocent victims bear witness to Christ to a world which would not receive him.

Saturday

Feast of Saint Thomas Becket

(1118-1170) St Thomas was born in London. After studying in Paris, he first became chancellor to the king and then in 1162 was chosen to be Archbishop of Canterbury. He changed from being 'a patron of play-actors and a follower of hounds', to being 'a shepherd of souls'. He threw himself into the duties of his new office, defending the rights of the Church against Henry II. This prompted the king to exile him to France for six years. After returning to his homeland, he endured many trials and was murdered by agents of the king.

Diocesan Education Service

A Day for Practising Catholics aspiring for Leadership Positions in Catholic Schools across the Archdiocese of Birmingham. **Saturday 19 January 8.30-3.30pm at Don Bosco House, Coventry Rd, Coleshill, B46 3EA (There is no cost for this course)** To book a place telephone 01675 464755 or visit www.bdes.org.uk

Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage

Sunday 3rd February, 11am at St Chad's Cathedral Celebrant His Grace, Archbishop Bernard Longley

Any couples who are celebrating a milestone anniversary (10,15,20,25,30,40,45,50,60 and every year over 60) are asked to contact lianne.pap@rc-birmingham.org marking the email 'Marriage Mass'. Lianne is also looking for the longest married couple in our diocese, the longest at the moment is 62 years—any parishioners who have been married for longer, should also get in touch with Lianne either by email, or phone 0121 360 8118 Ext 166.

Singing by Heart A dementia friendly singing group

Every third Thursday of every month 2pm-3.15pm at the Salvation Army, Ipsley St, B98 7AR. Tel 67498 (answer machine) or email linda.sayner@salvationarmy.org.uk

Lamp at the Shrine of Our Lady

This week the lamp burns for the intentions of CATHERINE CONBOY Next week for the BROWNE, DYHOUSE & QUIRK FAMILY

Lamp at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart

This week the lamp burns for the McKENNA, McILROY & BUTLER FAMILY next week for the intentions of GERRY & DELIA BREE

For the dead ...

Your prayers are asked for MARK ANTHONY BRADBURY Funeral Service 12.30pm Thursday 27th December at the Abbey Chapel, ROYDON JAMES Funeral Service 11am Friday 28th December at the Abbey Chapel, PAMELA HAMFLETT Funeral Mass 11am Thursday 3rd January 2019. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Please pray for the sick...

Deacon Des Chilton, Carmel Fiolka, Pauline Clarke, Jane-Christina Thomson, Bob & Caroline Holland, Mick Halloran, Chris Figgett, Thomas Henry Burnside, Bridget Heatley, Brian & Devan Dixon, Brian Dixon Snr, Pat Conner, Margaret Daly, Maureen Reavey, Gregory Daniel, Maura Lee, Sean Harkin, Margaret Clarke, Anthony Obinna, Mary Hickey, Grazyna, Kazik & Krzys Juskiewicz, Delia & Gerry Bree, Gino Belmonte, John Henry Birtle, Martin Twomey, Margaret Maddison, Fiona Short, Jane Elliott, James Daniel Durrant, Gillian Reeves, Christopher Carr, Christine Watson, Mark Yates, Josie Clarke, Stuart Pearson, Francis & Judith O'Hare, Eugene Kirk, Tom Nicholas, Julia Hopkins, Phil English, Gerry Crilly, Rae James, Jayne Spiers, Betty Flahive, Mary Eve, Sylvia Burge, Maureen Fowler, Emrys Hughes, Candice Butcher, Charlie Gallagher, Rose Butler, John Kilker (father of parishioner), Frank Carr

Congratulations

We welcome into God's family NEFERITTI ALESSANDRA BANTON baptised at Mount Carmel last weekend

WEEKLY STATISTICS

Weekend of 15/16 December 2018

1st Collection £683.62

2nd Collection £341.53

Mass attendance 586 (does not include Polish count)

These figures do not include Standing Orders



BLESSED ARE YOU
AMONG WOMEN
AND BLESSED IS
THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB

Father Hudson's 115th Annual Fundraising Ball

26th January 2019 7.30pm-1am
at the National Conference Centre, Solihull B92 0EJ
Help raise vital funds to help Fr Hudson's Care Support people in need in our region. Tickets £40. Contact 01675 434059 or email fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk

