



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PRAY FOR US

Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Wednesbury.

Saint Mary's Road, WS10 9DL
Telephone 0121 505 7927

Parish Website <http://www.saintmaryswednesbury.org.uk>
Parish email: stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Priest: *Fr Michael Vaughan*
fr.michael.vaughan@rcaob.org.uk
www.frmichaelvaughan.com

SAFEGUARDING: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Mary Jones. She can be contacted at sg.stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk or on 0121 230 6240 if you have any concern.

The Archdiocese of Birmingham has a zero-tolerance approach to all abuse.

HYMNS – 514, 378, 300, 384.



GAUDETE SUNDAY. 2025 13th/14th December 2025.

Saturday December 13th Memorial. St Lucy.	4.15pm - 4.50pm. Confession. 5pm Deborah Jane Kensey RIP
Sunday December 14th GAUDETE SUNDAY And blessing of the Crib.	9.30am - 9.50am. Confession. 10am Malcolm & Cynthia Black RIP 2pm-4pm Sovereign Brass Christmas Concert.
Monday December 15th Advent Feria	10am No Mass.
Tuesday December 16th Advent Feria	9.15am NO Adoration, Rosary. Confession. 10am NO MASS – Church Cleaning for Christmas.
Wednesday December 17th Advent Feria	9.15am No Adoration, Rosary. Confession. 10am No Mass. 1.30pm School Carol Concert
Thursday December 18th Advent Feria	9.15am Adoration, Rosary. Confession. 10am Phyllis Mary Woodward (RIP) (School)
Friday December 19th Advent Feria	9am NO Adoration. Benediction. Divine Mercy. Confession. 10am No Mass.
Saturday December 20th Advent Feria	4.15pm - 4.50pm. Confession. 5pm James Lambley R.I.P. and deceased of Lambley family.
Sunday December 21st FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT. YEAR A.	9.30am - 9.50am. Confession. 10am People of the Parish.

Roman Catholic Initiation of Adults (RCIA) For Adults who have asked to become Catholics, and for young people at Secondary School, the Parish Catechetical program resumes after Christmas, and begins on **SATURDAY 10th JANUARY AT 10am IN THE PRESBYTERY**, with the intention of being received into the Church at Easter, Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation. For children in primary school, parents, please book an appointment to speak to Fr Michael. Thank you

Confessions Tuesday to Thursday and Sunday by request.

Communion.

Everyone is most welcome to come to the altar rails to receive Communion, or to have a blessing from Fr Michael. Please put your hand across your chest to indicate a blessing only. Thank You.

Children's Liturgy.

Is held in the church porch every Sunday at the 10am Mass. Children will be called forward at the beginning of Mass. Parents who wish to do so, are most welcome to join their Children.

Tea and Coffee. After Mass every Sunday.

Gift Aid. Thank you to those who Gift Aid their offertory. This enables the parish to benefit from the tax paid on your offering at no extra cost to you. If you would like to know how your tax can benefit the parish (which is a charity) then please have a word with Gary Linford. Thank you.

Baptism Preparation for children under 7.

The next Baptism preparation meeting will be held on **Tuesday 30th December at 7pm.** All parents wishing for their children to be baptised should attend this meeting to help you prepare for your child's baptism. For Children over 7, please book an appointment to speak with Fr Michael.

Finance.

Fr Michael would like to thank you all for your offerings, especially during these difficult financial times for everyone, and respectfully asks people to give some thought to the Church as prices continue to increase. Thank you.

Church Cleaning. Volunteers needed to help clean the church in time for Christmas please. Tuesday 16th December at 10am. Thank you to everyone who works so hard to keep our church looking clean and tidy.

Food Bank: There is a box in the Porch. Please support if you can. Breaking Bread would like to pass on their thanks to all parishioners who support their work. Thank you.

Donations. In order to ensure the church is heated and welcoming during these cold days, we are grateful for any donation you can make. Thank you.



SOVERIGN BRASS CHRISTMAS CONCERT.

Thank you to everyone who has offered to support this event, the band, St Mary's school choir, and everyone who will be coming. Thank you to the Lee family for offering to provide the refreshments after the concert.

Clergy Training Fund.

Thank you to those who regularly donate to the CTF.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK OF OUR PARISH, MAY GOD BLESS AND COMFORT THEM.

Also remember in your prayers, those who bear their illness privately, and those that care for them. Theresa Adams, Melesi Chapo, Bridgitt Cooper, Joan Dixon, Lynne Harper, Barbara Jarvis, Michelle Price, Veronica Smith, Pat Wilkins, Pat Morris.

Mass Intentions.

Please note that you can now check your Mass intentions on both the Parish website and Fr Michael's Website.

Marriage Preparation.

Please note that all couples thinking of getting Married should speak to the priest as soon as possible, 12 months before would be preferred, so that, all necessary paperwork can be processed, and the couple have time to do the necessary preparation course. Thank you.

Church Hall Bookings.

If you would like to hire the Church Hall, please email Margaret Holden using the hall email address.

Last Week's Attendance.

Total 108

SANCTUARY LAMPS

A new Sanctuary Lamp has been placed in the Sacred Heart Altar. The lamp in the Lady Altar will soon be replaced by one like that in the Sacred Heart Chapel.

Please Note

Fr Michael likes to greet people as they enter church and as they leave. He realises that this is an opportunity for people to speak to him about Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion, but he cannot get your details as he will need to speak to you and get the details of your children, so please make an appointment to see him where he can give you his full attention. Thank you.



FLOWERS.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO FLOWERS IN CHURCH DURING ADVENT. THANK YOU.

Crib Donations.

This year's Crib donations will be given to the local charity 'Smile for Joel' the charity supporting families who are victims of murder. Joel was a pupil of our school, he along with many others, including 3 other members of his family were brutally killed whilst on holiday in Tunisia. This year marks the 10th Anniversary.

Replacement Certificates.

Please note that a charge of £10 per certificate is made on ALL Copies of Baptism and Confirmation certificates.

Saint Mary's School Christmas Carol Concert.

**Will be held in Church on Wednesday
17th December 1.30pm. All welcome.**

Today is **Gaudete Sunday**, the Third Sunday of Advent, named from the Latin word for "rejoice," signalling a shift from penitence to joy as Christmas nears. It marks the nearness of Christ's coming, encouraging hope and celebration, symbolized by priests wearing rose vestments instead of purple and lighting the rose candle on the Advent wreath, signifying that the waiting is almost over and the Lord is at hand. We shall also use Rose incense at Mass on Sunday.

Key Aspects:

Meaning: "Rejoice in the Lord always; the Lord is near" (from Philippians 4:4).

Theme: Joyful anticipation and hope for the approaching celebration of Jesus' birth.

Symbolism: Rose Colour: A "brightening" of purple, symbolizing joy and a break in the Advent fast.

Rose Candle: Lit on the Advent wreath to highlight the theme of joy.

In essence: Gaudete Sunday offers a moment of gladness and encouragement during the solemn season of Advent, reminding Christians that the birth of the Saviour is close at hand, bringing light and hope. We also remember Mary our Mother, Mother of the Church, and Our Lord's Mother, giving thanks to her for her yes to God which allowed our Saviour to

be born. This is symbolised by the priest leaving flowers at the statue of Mary. The only time flowers are used in Church during Advent. Traditionally they are then given by the priest to his own Mother.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2025.

Wednesday 24th December

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS 4pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS 5.30pm.

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS. 6pm.

Thursday 25th December

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 10am

Friday 26th December.

MASS OF SAINT

STEPHEN.11am

(Servers Mass)

Christmas Lights

Have now been placed around the large fir tree by the side of the Calvary and will be lit at night with the church during December. The tree reminds us of the cross on which our Saviour died. Thank you to those who helped put the lights on the tree. More can be added in future.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS.

Anne Baxter is now taking Donations for Christmas flowers for the Church. These would be most welcome, to ensure that the church is beautifully decorated for Christmas. If you would like to donate towards the flowers, please see Fr Michael or Anne. Thank you.

Memorial Tree.

Please support the memorial tree at the back of church, where you can write the names of your loved ones to be remembered at Masses throughout Christmas. All donations received will be shared between the Church and the bread bank. Cost £1 per Angel, which is hung on the tree.

Newsletter

We are now producing a few copies of the Newsletter in larger text for those who struggle with the small print of the current newsletter. In addition, we will also be printing the hymn numbers on the newsletter for those who have difficulty seeing the hymn boards.

Parents who have children aged 7 or over, who have not yet been Baptised, Confirmed or received First Holy Communion, please make an appointment with the Priest. Preparation for these Sacraments will begin after Christmas.

PARISH DIRECTORY.

Parish Treasurer & Church Cleaning: Kristine Moseley.

pt.stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk

Health & Safety: Paul Piddock.

hs.stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk

Gift Aid & Children's Liturgy/Catechesis: Gary Linford.

ga.stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Hall Bookings: Margaret Holden.

hall.stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk

Safeguarding & Extraordinary Minister for the Sick:

Mary Jones.

sg.stmaryoth.wednesbury@rcaob.org.uk

St Mary's School Headteacher Mrs Amy Pritchard.

Flowers: Ann Baxter. Bridget Lane. June Lefan.

All voluntary jobs by appointment.



Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of **MAUREEN MAY EVANS RIP** and the faithfully departed whose Anniversaries occur in **DECEMBER**: Gordon Bacon, Baby Bennett, Basil Bridgewater, Peg Byrne, Patrick Byrne, Martha Cowley, Graham Diggett, Albert Diggett, William Fairless, Catherine Gallagher, George Green, Kevin Groves, Graham Harper, Jean Hunter, Brenda Jennings, James Lambley, Betty Langford, Arthur Maddox, Raymond Mason, Mary Theresa Millett, Eileen Mole, Christopher Morris, Elizabeth Morris, John O'Connell, Fr Michael O'Meara (Former PP), Leonard William Peach, Helen Pennings, Magdalene Perkins nee Churchill, Catherine Rose Piggott, Lee Potts, Roy Probert, Stuart Roper, Maria Sylvana Rossi, Joseph Ryan, Ronald Turner, Winifred Ward, Kathleen Moya Wells, Mary Wilmore.

Our Lady and the Sacred Heart. Sanctuary Lamps.

To have a Sanctuary Lamp lit in one of the chapels, for your intentions or loved ones, please fill in an envelope, available at the back of church, place your £10 in and give to Fr Michael. Thank you. Candles cost £10.

The Sanctuary lamp in Our Lady's Chapel burns for:

Brenda and Tony Clarke (RIP) In Loving Remembrance. (13th December 2025)

Betty Langford – Anniversary Remembrance.

The Sanctuary lamp in the Sacred Heart Chapel burns for:

Health and Wellbeing for the Carless and Spray Families. (21st December 2025)

Maureen Evans (RIP)

Please check the Parish Website for regular updates

Please note that the cut-off for all notices to be included in the weekend newsletter is Wednesday at 12pm. Items for the Newsletter can be given to Fr Michael or emailed to Fr Michael's email address. The Newsletter is posted on the parish website before 5pm Mass on Saturday. Thank you.

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