

Saturday 21st November to Saturday 19th December

Welcome to another bumper edition of our parish newsletter! This one takes us almost to Christmas, so hopefully there is plenty of time to get those important dates into your diaries. There is so much happening across our four churches, and I really do hope you will make the effort to join us whenever you can.

Before Advent begins, we celebrate the great Feast of Christ the King, which brings our Church's year to a close. What a wonderful feast it is, and what a challenging one too! We proclaim Christ as King, yet the King we encounter in the Gospel wears a crown of thorns, not gold. His throne is a Cross, and his power is revealed not in domination but in self-giving love. Here is a King who does not demand that others serve him, but who gives his very life for those he loves. The feast invites us to ask a deeply personal question: Is Christ truly the King of my life? Not simply someone I turn to when things go wrong, but the one who shapes my choices, my relationships, my priorities and the way I treat others.

Then we enter Advent, one of the most beautiful and, perhaps, most misunderstood seasons of the Church's year. The world around us will already be celebrating Christmas, and I certainly don't want to be accused of being the parish Grinch! But the Church gently invites us to something deeper. Advent is not simply about counting down the days until Christmas. It is about awakening our hearts to the presence of God. We remember Christ's coming among us in Bethlehem, we look forward in hope to his coming again in glory, and we learn to recognise the many ways he comes to us here and now. He comes in the Eucharist, in the Scriptures, in moments of prayer, and often in the faces of those who need our love and compassion.

Advent asks us to slow down enough to notice him. It invites us to look honestly at our lives, to recognise where we have drifted away from God, and to make room for his grace once more. Preparing for Christmas is not simply about getting everything ready around us but allowing God to prepare something new within us. That is why prayer, reconciliation, generosity and reaching out to others are so important during these weeks.

There is something deeply comforting about the message of Advent. God does not wait until our lives are perfect before he comes to us. He enters into the messiness, uncertainty and struggles of ordinary human life. The stable at Bethlehem reminds us that God is not afraid of our poverty, our weakness or our imperfections. Indeed, it is often in those very places that his grace is most powerfully at work. Perhaps this Advent we might ask ourselves not simply what we need to do for God, but what we are willing to allow God to do within us. For when we truly make room for Christ, even the smallest opening of our hearts can become a place where his light shines and his love takes root.

We have some wonderful opportunities across the parish to help us enter into this sacred season. Please do make the most of them. Come along to our services, spend time in prayer, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and enjoy the fellowship of our parish family. Don't simply read afterwards on Facebook about what you missed! There is something very special about gathering together in faith, particularly at this time of year. We need one another, and sometimes simply being present can be a source of encouragement and hope to someone else.

It has, as always, been a wonderfully busy few weeks, and there is so much for which to give thanks. I am constantly reminded that the life of our parish depends upon the faith, generosity and quiet goodness of so many people. Much of what makes our parish special happens without fuss or recognition, through simple acts of kindness, service and love. These are not small things. They are the very ways in which Christ's Kingdom becomes visible among us. To everyone who gives so generously of their time and talents, and to those who support our parish in ways that are often unseen, thank you. You make our four churches truly one faith family.

As we journey towards Christmas, my prayer is that we will not become so occupied with preparing for the celebration that we overlook the One whose birth we celebrate. The Lord does not ask us to present him with perfect homes, perfectly wrapped presents or perfectly organised lives. He simply asks us to open our hearts and allow him to enter.

May these coming weeks be a time of renewed faith, deeper prayer and genuine hope for us all.
And amid all the busyness, may we remember that the greatest gift of Christmas is not something we give to God, but the extraordinary gift God gives to us: himself. God bless, Father Craig.

Parish Diary

SMW: St. Mary's, Leveson St. Willenhall. SJD: St. Joseph's, Church Street, Darlaston.
HTB: Holy Trinity, Oxford St. Bilston SJW: St. Joseph's, Stowheath Lane, Wolves.
Red: Online or Elsewhere

Day	Place	Time	Activity	Intention
Sat 21st November **Feast of Christ the King** Sun 22nd November	SJD SMW SJD HTB SJW	4.00pm 5.30pm 8.30am 10.00am 11.30am	Mass of Sunday Mass of Sunday Mass of Sunday Mass of Sunday Mass of Sunday	Joyce May RIP Paul Blue RIP Elizabeth Szromek RIP Mary Croot RIP Tommy Kelly RIP & Cath Kelly Health
Mon 23rd	SJW HTB SJW Online	10.30am 11.00am 11.30am 8.00pm	Mass & *Crumpets* Bereavement Café Forget Me Not Café Sycamore for Adults	Scholastica Iberi RIP
Tues 24th	SJD	10.00am	Mass & *refreshments*	Pat Rogers Health
Wed 25th	HTB SJW SJW SJW	7.15am 12 noon 1.00pm 7.30pm	Mass Mass Over 50's Club Te Deum	Johnson Association Katherine Lewis RIP
Thurs 26th	HTB HTB SJW SJW	10.00am 10.30am 1.00pm 6.00pm 7.15pm	Adoration & Confession Mass & *refreshments* Newman Walkers #HeartSong Confirmation Group	Anne Wilkes Health
Fri 27th	HTB SMW	9.15am 10.00am 6.00pm	Trinity Tots Mass & *refreshments* *#HeartSong Trip*	Marion Shinners RIP
Sat 28th November **1st Sunday of Advent** Sun 29th November	HTB STM SJD SMW SJD HTB SJW	11.00am 11.00am 4.00pm 5.30pm 8.30am 10.00am 11.30am	Rosary Christmas Fair at St. Thomas More Mass of Sunday Mass of Sunday Mass of Sunday Mass of Sunday Mass of Sunday *with Act of Commitment for FHC*	Margaret Yates & Fran Avis RIP Dec'd members of Rea & York Families Leah Sydenham Health Varghese Arackal RIP Dec'd Reid family
Mon 30th	SJW Online	10.30am 8.00pm	Mass & *crumpets* Sycamore for Adults	Irene & Graham Linton Health
Tues 1st	SJD SJW	10.00am 7.00pm	Mass & *refreshments* Advent Rosary Reflection Service	Lazar family Thanksgiving
Wed 2nd	HTB SJW SJW	7.15am 12 noon 1.00pm	Mass Mass Over 50's Club	Kathleen Mary Scoyne RIP Roger Dace RIP
Thurs 3rd	HTB HTB SJW SJW	10.00am 10.30am 1.00pm 6.00pm 7.15pm	Adoration & Confession Mass & *refreshments* Newman Walkers #HeartSong Youth Sycamore	Pauline Croot Health
Fri 4th	HTB SMW STM	9.15am 10.00am 11.00am	Trinity Tots Mass *- No refreshments!* Parishioners Party at St. Thomas More	Gladys & Alec Blue RIP
Sat 5th December **2nd Sunday of Advent** Sun 6th December	HTB SJD SMW SJD SJD HTB SJW	11.00am 4.00pm 5.30pm 7.00pm 8.30am 10.00am 11.30am	Rosary Mass of Sunday Mass of Sunday Christmas Bingo Singalong Mass of Sunday Mass of Sunday Mass of Sunday	Pat Rogers Health Paul Blue RIP Mary Galt RIP John Manjalay RIP Maurice Duffy RIP
Mon 7th	SJW SJW Online	10.30am 11.30am 8.00pm	Mass & *crumpets* Forget Me Not & Bereavement Groups Christmas Party Sycamore for Adults	Cliff Barber RIP
Tues 8th	SJD SMW	10.00am 1.00pm	Mass & *refreshments* Christmas Film Afternoon	Roger Dace RIP

Wed 9th	HTB	7.15am	Mass	Margaret Fogarty RIP
		10.30am	Carol Singing at St. Matthews Place	
	SJW	12 noon	Mass	Mark Price Thanksgiving
	SJW	1.00pm	Over 50's Club	
	SJW	1.00pm	N.O.W Group	
Thurs 10th	HTB	10.00am	Adoration & Confession	
	HTB	10.30am	*Mass & refreshments*	Kathleen Mary Scoyne RIP
		1.00pm	Newman Walkers	
	SJW	6.00pm	#HeartSong	
Fri 11th	HTB	9.15am	Trinity Tots Christmas Party	
	SMW	10.00am	*Mass & Christmas Decoration Making*	Kath Hill RIP
Sat 12th December	HTB	11.00am	Rosary	
	SJW	1.00pm	Christmas Fair in the Parish Club	
3rd Sunday of Advent Bambinelli Sunday	SJD	4.00pm	Mass of Sunday	Joyce May RIP
	SMW	5.30pm	Mass of Sunday	Paul Blue RIP
	SJD	8.30am	Mass of Sunday	Anne Wilkes Health
Sun 13th December	HTB	10.00am	Mass of Sunday	Varghese Arackal RIP
	SJW	11.30am	Mass of Sunday	Dec'd Byrne & Timmins families
	HTB	3.00pm	Youth Group Christmas Party	
Mon 14th	SJW	10.30am	Mass & *crumpets*	Katherine Lewis RIP
	Online	8.00pm	Sycamore for Adults	
Tues 15th	SJD	10.00am	Mass & *refreshments*	Anne Hughes RIP
	SJD	2.00pm	School Carol Service in Church	
	SMW	7.00pm	Blue Christmas Service	
Wed 16th	HTB	7.15am	Mass	M.E.Connelly RIP
	HTB	10.00am	School Carol Service in Church (Yr 5&6)	
	SJW	12 noon	Mass	Anne Cooper RIP
	SJW	1.00pm	Over 50's Club Christmas Party	
	SJW	4.00pm	School Staff Advent Reflection	
	STM	7.00pm	Christmas Carol Service	
Thurs 17th	HR Sch	9.30am	Carol Service in School (book via school)	
	HTB	10.00am	Adoration & Confession	
	HTB	10.30am	*Mass & refreshments*	Pauline Croot Health
		1.00pm	Newman Walkers	
	SJW	6.00pm	#HeartSong	
	SJW	7.15pm	Youth Sycamore	
Fri 18th	SMW	10.00am	*Mass & Refreshments*	Sheilagh Matthews Health
Sat 19th December	HTB	11.00am	Rosary	
	SJD	4.00pm	Mass of Sunday	Raymond Wilkes RIP
4th Sunday of Advent	SMW	5.30pm	Mass of Sunday	Caroline & George Rea RIP
	SJD	8.30am	Mass of Sunday	David John RIP
Sun 20th December	HTB	10.00am	Mass of Sunday	Dec'd Roberts & May fam
	SJW	11.30am	Mass of Sunday	Phyliss & George
	SMW	5.00pm	Parish Carol Service	Buckley RIP

2nd Collections:
22nd: Youth Service
28th: Xmas Gift for Young People.
Building fund other weeks.

Places of welcome after Masses on Mon, Tues, Thurs & Frid

Confessions are usually heard after Weekday Masses, Thursdays at HTB at 10.00am and by appointment.

The Legion of Mary meets Sundays at
10.15am at SJW
11.15am at HTB



St Joseph's, Wolverhampton

Forget Me Not Club

Meets on
Monday 23rd November
at 11.30am

at St Joseph's Club

BEREAVEMENT

Café

Meets on
Monday 23rd November
at 11.00am

at Holy Trinity, Bilston



All meet together for a Joint Christmas Carol Service & Party

The Darlaston and Wolverhampton
Forget Me Not Clubs, along with the Bereavement Café,

Monday 7th at 11.30am

at St Joseph's Social Club

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School | St. Joseph's Catholic Church Darlaston | St. Newman Parish | Holy Trinity Catholic Church Bilston | St. Thomas More Catholic School | St. Giles School



All Welcome to our Christmas Fair

for Holy Trinity Church, St. Joseph's Church and School,
St. Thomas More Catholic School and St. Giles School

Hosted at St. Thomas More School

Lots of fun stalls and lots to do!

Saturday 28th November 11.00am – 1.30pm

Darlaston Lane, Willenhall

Santa will be there too!

St John Henry Newman Parish

Four churches – one faith family

The Parish Advent Challenge

Two Challenges this year!

1 Donations to Food Banks



We would appreciate donations of Kettle meals, new socks, chocolates and small toiletries to be given out at Christmas to those in need.

2 Collection of Gifts for Children

We would appreciate donations of gifts for children whose families may be struggling this Christmas.

We have already identified those in need and will make sure the gifts are delivered to them in time for Christmas.



At the back of each church there is a **Christmas tree** where you can select what you would **like** to **donate.**

Please make sure your donation or gift (or money) is at church by ***Monday 7th December.***

Thank you for your support in living out the true spirit of Advent.

Rorate Masses

Holy Trinity, Bilston at 7.15am on Wednesdays in Advent



2nd December
9th December
16th December
23rd December



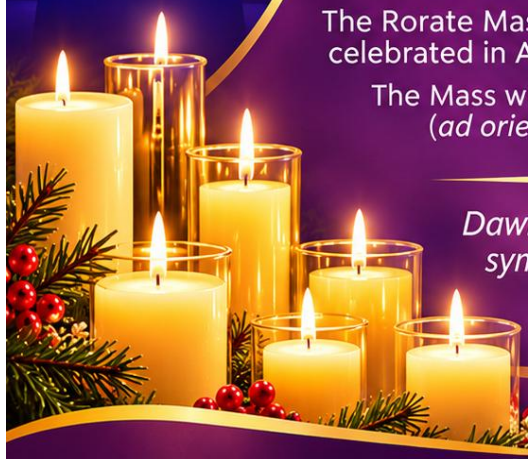
Rora-te cæ-li, dé-su-per,

The name comes from the opening words of the Entrance Antiphon, ***Rorate cæli desuper***, Latin for ***"Drop down dew, ye heavens"***.

The Rorate Mass is a Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated in Advent. It is traditionally celebrated by candlelight.

The Mass will be said in English, with the priest facing East (*ad orientem*), accompanied by Gregorian Chant.

Dawn is just breaking as it finishes, symbolising the coming of Christ, ***the Light of the World.***





Our Special *Advent* Rosary Reflection Service

Tuesday 1st December

at 7.00pm | **at St. Joseph's, Wolverhampton**

A wonderful way to enter into the spirit of Advent.

Join us for a time of prayer, reflection and adoration as we pray the Holy Rosary, preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

Between each decade there will be short reflections on Advent themes,
helping us to watch, pray and prepare for the Lord.





STM Christmas PARISHIONERS PARTY

Friday 4th December 2026
11:00am – 12:30pm

St Thomas More Catholic School
Darlaston Lane, Willenhall, WV14 7BL

ALL WELCOME – THE MORE THE MERRIER!

Gather with us as one community for food, refreshments, merriment and laughter, Christmas games, musical performances, sing-a-longs and a visit from Santa himself!

"Fr Craig has promised not to cheat on the quiz this year!"

PLEASE RSVP BY TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2026
Contact Jack Bowen, Lay Chaplain
st-bowen-j@st-thomasmore.walsall.sch.uk
or telephone 01902 368798
Please include your full name to confirm your attendance.

A Christmas Bingo Singalong Night

St. Joseph's, Darlaston

Saturday 5th December | 7.00pm

Test your holiday tune knowledge with our festive music bingo!
Listen for the Christmas classics, mark them off your card, and sing along!

Entry: £2.50
includes a glass of sherry and a mince pie

You can bring your own food and drinks.

Bingo tickets are purchased on the night, in addition to entry.

St. Newman Parish

St. Mary's Catholic Church Willenhall

Christmas Table Decoration Making Morning

Friday 11th December

St. Mary's Church, Willenhall

10.30am – 11.30am

Come and create your own beautiful Christmas table decoration to take home.

Materials provided – but do bring along something that can be recycled as well.

And there'll be a few mince pies to enjoy too!

St. Newman Parish

Christmas Fair

Saturday 12th December

1.00pm – 3.30pm

St Joseph's Catholic Club, Willenhall Road, East Park

Santa Grotto will be there!

- Hot Baps
- Raffles
- Various Tombolas
- Homemade Cakes
- Face Painting
- Homemade Pickles and Jams
- Crafts

Fun for all the family!

Holy Rosary Catholic Primary Academy

The Holy Rosary School Mini Vinnies will be helping out too!

St John Henry Newman Parish

GAUDETE SUNDAY



St John Henry Newman Parish

BLESSING of the BAMBINELLI

At all weekend Masses on the 12th & 13th December we will bless baby Jesus crib figures.





The beautiful Advent tradition, **"Bambinelli Sunday"**, was instituted by Saint Pope John Paul II during his Papacy.

The tradition follows that on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) children and adults bring their baby Jesus figures from their homes to St Peter's Square where they are blessed by the Pope.

So on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, everyone is invited to bring their own baby Jesus crib figure to Mass that day to be blessed. It can be one you've made or one that you usually have each year.

A suggestion is, following the blessing, that you take your "Bambinelli" home, wrap it and open it on Christmas morning when the youngest member of the family would place it in the crib.

St. Newman's Ambassadors of Christ Youth Group

Christmas PARTY!

For our Youth Group



Lovely Refreshments!



Good Old Fashioned Party Games!



Open to Year 5 and above

Sunday 13th December

3.00pm – 6.00pm | Holy Trinity

Please sign the form online to register your child.

We look forward to welcoming all our young people and we will serve them for a change!

Blue Christmas

Tuesday 15th December
at 7.00pm
St Mary's Church
Leveson Street, Willenhall

A special service for those who will be ***mourning someone this Christmas,*** *whether years ago or more recently.*

During the service we light candles in ***memory*** of our loved ones and mention them ***by name***.





Afterwards, there are teas and mince pies in the hall.



Guided by Christ - Inspired to Service - Aspiring for Excellence
GOD'S SERVANT FIRST
ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Newman Parish

Prepare the Way: A Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday 16th December 2026 at 7:00PM
ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL, WILLENHALL



TICKETS – £3.00
ON SALE NOW FROM SCHOOL RECEPTION AND ARBOR

OR YOU CAN BOOK TICKETS VIA THE PARISH OFFICE

The St. John Henry Newman

Parish Carol Service

by candlelight

St. Mary's Catholic Church,
Leveson Street, Willenhall, WV13 1DA

"Let your light shine..."
Matthew 5:16

Sunday 20th December at 5.00pm



An evening of familiar carols and readings as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the church hall

Raffle and tombola

and even a visit by *Santa himself!*

All are welcome!

Advent CONFESSIONS

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Willenhall Road, WV1 2QN

During this time there will be **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** and two priests available to hear confessions.



Tuesday 22nd December
6.30pm – 8.00pm



Prepare properly for Christmas by being Reconciled with the Lord.

Take this opportunity during Advent to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to be renewed in God's love and to welcome the Lord at Christmas with a peaceful heart.

Christmas Services in the St. Newman Parish

St. Newman Parish

Christmas Eve – Thursday 24th December

5.00pm
St Joseph's Catholic Church,
Willenhall Road, Wolverhampton,
WV1 2QN

7.00pm
St Joseph's Catholic Church,
Church Street, Darlaston,
WS10 8DY

11.00pm
Holy Trinity Catholic Church,
Oxford Street, Bilston,
WV14 0PX

Christmas Day – Friday 25th December

9.00am
St Mary's Catholic Church,
Leveson Street,
Willenhall, WV13 1DA

10.30am
Holy Trinity Catholic Church,
Oxford Street,
Bilston, WV14 0PX

REGNARE ERE EST SERVIRE

Mass for the Feast of St Stephen
Saturday 26th December
Altar Servers' Mass at
10.00am
At this Mass, our Altar Servers **renew their Guild Promise** and **new members are enrolled.**
All are invited to attend.
Afterwards, all Altar Servers are invited to a cooked breakfast in the parish hall.
No evening Masses.

Sunday 27th December
The Feast of the Holy Family
(No vigil masses)



Masses:
8.30am at St Joseph's Darlaston
10.00am at Holy Trinity Bilston
11.30am at St Joseph's Wolverhampton

Parish Information

Priests	Fr. Craig Fullard (Parish Priest) Fr. Frank Johnson (Focolare)
Deacon:	Rev Mr Maxcel Biakai Ngamsha
Office:	St. Joseph's Presbytery, Stowheath Lane, Wolves. WV1 2QN.
Tel:	01902 452841
Email:	stnewmanparish.wmids@rcaob.org.uk
Website:	www.stnewmanparish.org
Schools:	Holy Rosary, Holy Trinity, St. Joseph's, St. Thomas More
Mass Int:	Envelopes at the back of each church.
Churches:	St. Mary's, Willenhall. WV13 1DA St. Joseph's, East Park. WV1 2QN
(For Sat Nav):	Holy Trinity, Bilston WV14 0PX St. Joseph's, Darlaston. WS10 8DY

Safeguarding



The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Safeguarding Representative is Marie Ramsbottom. She can be contacted at: sg.stnewmanparish.wmids@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 / safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

C.C.T.V. CCTV is in use at all sites. Please see noticeboards for details



This Parish is part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham. Registered Charity No 234216

Financial Support

Your generosity is essential to everything we do. Thank you.

You can **donate online** via the parish web page.

We encourage giving via a **standing order** as this is most cost effective and helps us budget. You can change the amount or cancel it whenever you wish.

Our bank details are:

Account Name:
RC Archdiocese Birmingham
Sort Code: 60 02 46
Account Number: 99500671
Bank: NatWest, Wolves
Queen Square WV1 1TR

If you are a tax payer please **Gift Aid** your donation at no extra cost to yourself. see website for details.

