

The Parish of St Dunstan and St Jude

Second Sunday in Advent

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Philip Harrop
Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr. John Waters
Deacon: Rev. Mr. David Fairbotham
Pastoral Assistant: Sr Catherine Burke

Telephone: 0121 444 1386
Email: stdunstan.bham@rcaob.org.uk
Facebook: St Dunstan and St Jude's
Parish Twitter: stdunstanandstjude

Sunday 6th December 2020

www.stdunstanandstjude.co.uk

Sat 5 th		5.30pm	Holy Mass	The Tehan family (Ints.)
Sun 6 th	SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT	9.15am (<i>St Jude's</i>) 10.30am 12noon 6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Catherine Sugrue RIP Mary Kenny RIP (Anni.) Sean Collins (RIP) Rose Rahill
Mon 7 th	<i>St Ambrose</i>	9.30am	Holy Mass	F. Cooper (Sp. Ints.)
Tues 8 th	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10.00am (<i>St Jude's</i>) 7.00pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Special Intention Philomena Treacey (RIP Anni.)
Wed 9 th	<i>Advent Feria</i>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Tanya and extended family in Russia
Thurs 10 th	<i>Advent Feria</i>	6.45am 11.00am (<i>St Jude's</i>) 7.00pm	Rorate Caeli Mass Requiem Mass Holy Mass	Fred Evans (Ints.) Ellen Longe (RIP) Morag's Intentions for her Beloved Dead
Fri 11 th	<i>Advent Feria</i>	9.30am 7.00pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass	E. Cooper (Sp. Ints.) Kathleen O'Reagan (RIP)
Sat 12 th	<i>Advent Feria</i>	11.00am 11.30am-1pm 11.30am-12.30pm 4.45pm-5.15pm 5.30pm	Holy Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions Confessions Holy Mass	T. Cooper (Sp. Ints.) Fr Simon (Ints.)
Sun 13 th	THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT Gaudete Sunday	9.15am (<i>St Jude's</i>) 10.30am 12 noon 6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Jim Moy (RIP) Philomena Treacey (RIP) Al and Maura Coughlan and Eileen Dixon Tom Brosnan (RIP Anni.)

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Due to the restrictions on space in both our churches we have taken the reluctant but necessary decision (in common with most other churches of the diocese) to restrict attendance at Christmas Mass to those with (free) tickets. It's important that those who usually come to Mass week by week have the opportunity to be present at Mass for Christmas, and that coming to Mass is safe, and people feel safe.

Before and after Mass today (Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Masses), two of our stewards will be in the new entrance where you can collect tickets. They will be in attendance next weekend too. **Please collect tickets this weekend or next!** One person will be dealing with Christmas Eve, and another Christmas Day. We thank them for this extra commitment.

When you come for your ticket, you will be asked which Mass you would like to attend, how many tickets you would like, your name, any access requirements and if anybody you are coming to Mass with is mask exempt, so that spacing can be allocated appropriately.

Please read the following so that you are clear in your mind.

-There will be a different ticket for each of the Masses, so a Midnight Mass ticket will not get you into Christmas day at 11am. Obvious we know – but worth saying!

-There will an extra Mass at St Dunstan's on Christmas Eve. Please understand that it might not always be possible to attend the Mass at your preferred time if the building has already reached capacity.

-Initially, until we are sure of demand, there will be a limit of one Christmas Mass per person/family.

-You can collect tickets for those in your Christmas 'bubble' who will be sat with you in church at Mass (in accordance with government regulations), but not for other people/groups. They will need to come themselves.

- The seat allocations will be sorted out when you collect your tickets. Stewards will have a plan of where people will sit which maximises capacity and accommodate special needs...so no 'usual seats'!

- You will need to be at church 20 minutes before Mass begins. The logistics for Mass will be quite complex, and we will all need patience. Any surplus places can then be made available. If you come late, then your seats may well have been taken!

- If you have taken tickets for a Mass and then can't go, please return to the presbytery in an envelope with your name so that they can be redistributed. To those without.

-if you have any symptoms of COVID19 please do not attend Mass.

Christmas Eve 5pm (St Dunstan's), 6pm (St Jude's), 7pm (St Dunstan's), Midnight (St Dunstan's).

Christmas Day 9am (St Dunstan's), 10am (St Jude's), 11am (St Dunstan's).

This Thursday at 6.45am there will be the second of the **Rorate Caeli Masses** celebrated in candlelight as we await the light of dawn. It is a votive Mass of Our Lady in Advent, and is a liturgical meditation inspired by the words of Zechariah in St Luke's gospel: ***'the loving kindness of the heart of our God who visits us like the dawn from on high. He will give light to those in darkness, those who dwell in the shadow of death, and guide us into the way of peace.'***

Walk With Me booklets are still available today for those who haven't had the chance to get one, as well as some Advent calendars for children. They are great way, in all that's going on around us, to keep our minds on the Advent journey as we prepare for the feast of the Nativity.

Christmas Offering Envelopes are available at the back of both churches. Do please use them – especially if you are away at Christmas and wish to make a donation towards the upkeep of your priests. As there is no salary structure, the Christmas offering (with Easter) are the priest's main source of income for such things as buying and running their cars as well as other living and working expenses.

Christmas Cards are available to buy from the Parish office on a Wednesday or Friday 9am-5pm.

Christmas Cards for Other Parishioners. Due to current restrictions, sadly Christmas cards cannot be left out in either church this year as items other people touch can become a source of infection. Please give any Christmas cards directly to the person they are for.

Telephoning the presbytery. We are still receiving messages on the answerphone asking us for information – but not leaving a contact number. If you leave your name and number, then we will endeavour to get back to you.

When you come to church please do not leave newsletters in church after you have read them as they can become a source of infection. Please take them home with you.

Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound. Please contact the presbytery if you or family members would like this, as a number of parishioners are still isolating and do not wish for outside visits.

Government restrictions for funerals still stipulate a maximum of 30 attending.

We pray for those who have died recently: Carol Kinehan, Ellen Longe, Margaret Shivrington and Teresa Creamer.

We pray for those who are being Baptised today: Joseph Levi Donovan at St Dunstan's.

Baptisms. The next meeting for parents wishing to arrange a baptism for their child will be **this Tuesday** at 7.45pm in St Dunstan's Church. Baptisms will resume from next Sunday.

Government restrictions for Baptisms still stipulate a maximum of 6 attending.

Could you commit time to be a Steward? More volunteers are always welcome - and may well prove necessary as winter is now with us - if the present pattern of services will continue each week. It is important to remember that Masses cannot happen without them at this time, and if there aren't stewards available, they will need to be cancelled. At the moment we are just managing to cover by asking those who are already stewards to do more. If you can help spread the load let us know - just speak with Fr Philip or Fr John or email the presbytery office.

Confessions have now resumed at the normal times. As there will be no penitential services this Advent, and social distancing means using the side chapel at St Dunstan's. As Christmas approaches, and a number of people will wish to make their confession, could we emphasise again, as we are still in a time of pandemic, **that the time spent in the confessional is to be kept to a minimum (5 minutes max) to both make it as safe as possible, and so that others have opportunity for the celebration of this sacrament.**

Church Cleaning will take place on Wednesday after Mass. If you can help you will be very welcome.

Please note that the toilets are presently closed due to COVID regulations, and the side chapel will be out of bounds apart from for Confession.

Weekly offerings can be placed in the baskets in church or posted through the Presbytery letterbox. Please place offerings in either the usual Gift Aid envelopes or a plain envelope marked 'St Dunstan' or 'St Jude'.

Window the Parish Magazine will be on sale next weekend for £1. Get your copy and read lots of interesting articles and stories.

Bishop Challoner and St Dunstan's Parish Youth Group meet via Zoom on Wednesdays 6.30 – 7.10pm. Contact staff-chaplains@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk for more information and to register your interest.

St Dunstan's Catholic School - Prospective Nursery and Reception parents: Please visit our school website to view our virtual tour, giving an insight into our school day. Application forms and closing dates for applications are also available from the school website <https://www.stdunstans.bham.sch.uk/> Please email or call for any further information you may require: 01214644648 or enquiry@stdunstans.bham.sch.uk

Christmas Dinner. This year as a Parish, and with support from the SVP, we will be raising money for families struggling financially this Christmas. Through our faith we are taught to help whenever we can, but as this tough year draws to a close, we should put emphasis on not only helping ourselves, but also to encourage others to do so where they can. Through this, the love of God can be a shining light through the darkness that this year has brought to so many. The money we raise will be used towards Christmas dinners for children and their families in our three schools who find themselves in some need. If you would like to make a donation, please go to gofund.me/60bed2b3 or put your donation in an enveloped marked 'Christmas Dinner', and post through the presbytery letterbox. **There will also be a retiring collection for this after all Masses next weekend.**

Christmas Day Lunch 2020 (organised by All Saints with support from St Dunstan's). This year, as we can't gather in All Saints Hall for Christmas lunch, we are delivering lunchtime meals to local homes. Do you know of anyone who might benefit from having a Christmas meal delivered to their home? Maybe someone elderly, housebound or living alone. We are now taking bookings for a delicious lunch that will be provided by Jojo's Kitchen in Northfield. To help towards costs, a donation of £5 per person is requested.

We also need volunteer drivers who can collect meals from Northfield and deliver them. Preferably there should be two people in the car from the same household or bubble. Any gifts of satsumas, chocolates, Christmas crackers or individual sized bottles of wine will be gratefully received.

For more information, to book, or to arrange dropping off donations, please phone 07882555146 or email christmastogetherkh@gmail.com Bookings must be received by Sunday 20th December.

Help Wanted to knit scarves to aid a Christian hospital in Palestine. Double knit any colour, and any amount. Scarves can be collected. Please contact Gill Myall on 443 5198 or 0781 661 6418.

The Parish Office will now be open from 9.00am until 5.00pm on Wednesday and Friday each week. In order to minimise the number of people in the office and for the safety of those at work, until further notice we ask you to observe the following:

If you have an enquiry: please phone or email first to see if it can be sorted in this way.

For those wishing to book Mass intentions: please bring a sealed envelope clearly labelled with the intention details (person's name, required date etc) and include the offering inside. This can then be handed in at the office and if requested a Mass card be signed and given.

If you need to speak to the Parish Administrator or one of the Priests: we would ask that you phone or email in advance, so that an appointment can be arranged at a convenient time for both.

COLLECTIONS

	St Dunstan's	St Jude's
Gift Aid	£575.51	£49.00
Non-Gift Aid	£301.00	£111.10

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven, **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

SECOND READING

Corinthians 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'