

Dear Brother and Sisters

On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist. He prepared the way for Jesus and for salvation. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah. The people of Judea and Jerusalem came to him listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness. They also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for Jesus, who is greater than John.

This season of Advent is a time of grace for us. It is to prepare our hearts so that we are ready to receive Christ at Christmas. We should not get lost in the mere celebration of Christmas and forget what Christmas is all about. Advent is a time of grace to remind us that Jesus is the reason for Christmas. Advent is not a call to recognize our sin alone, but it is an invitation to change our lives. During this Advent we prepare our hearts for Christ by turning away from sin and evil and giving ourselves completely to God so that when Christ comes, or when we are called from this life, we are ready and prepared. The better way of doing this is making a very good confession receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We are also called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in the service of one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to live as disciples of Jesus.

Fr. Jibu Mathew

PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Dr. Kuriakose Thadathil Email: kthadathil61@gmail.com

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Fr. Jibu Mathew

PARISH DEACON Rev Terry Charles (Retired)

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR / SECRETARY Payal Gordhan

PARISH SCHOOLS Holy Name School Head Teacher Mr A. Neenan 0121 357 3216

St Mark's School Head Teacher Mrs D. Linley 0121 357 9892

Stuart Bathurst Mr. H Karyl Head Teacher 0121 556 1488 Marist Convent 0121 357 6341

Safeguarding Officers Thomas and Usha Braich

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Mary Arulandhu, Annette Keates, Arthur Lynch, Anis Kazmie, Brendan Grogan, Bernie Mortlock, Catherine Freeman, Claire Harbutt, Carmen Mulholland, Christine Enid and John King, Joyce Finch, Debbie Ferris, Margaret and David Curtis, David Quigley, Christine McGivern, Teresa Goddard, Bridget Green, Haydee Stanton, Linda Lowe, Jackie Tammam, Janet Chamberlain, Rudolf and Irene Sampays, Grace Sharron, Bridget Whitfield and Patricia Lacey.

RECENTLY DEAD AND ANNIVERSARIES

Please remember **Diane Liddell, Mary Teresa Radford** and all those who have died recently. We also remember Mary Smith, James Jennings, William Revell, John Leahy, Maragret Flaherty, Teresa Sanders, Ernest Cole, Anne Simkiss, Grenville Elmore, Susanna Sullivan, Helena Campion, Alexander Butler, Marie Finn, Maragret Morrison, Irene Chapman, Margaret Bates, Dr. Greaves, Anthony Leighton, Ernest Phillips, Mary Sheils, Paul Lemont, Umberto Infanti, Michael Donnelly, Sid Hobson, Clarence Coppock, Owen McCann, Harold Senior, Elizbeth Walker, Maureen Finn, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

The Requiem Mass for Mary Teresa Radford on Monday 18th December 2023 here in Holy Name Church at 11:15am, followed by Cremation at Perry Barr Crematorium.

Reception into Church on Sunday 17th December at 6:30pm.

The Funeral Service for Diane Liddell is on Thursday 21st December 2023 at 10:30am here in Church followed by Cremation at Sandwell Valley Crematorium at 11:30am.

ST MARK'S SCHOOL CAROL CONCERT

St Mark's School invite the Parishioners to come and enjoy their Carol Concert on Wednesday 13th December at 6pm in Church. All are welcome.



This Week Saturday 9th December – Sunday 17th December (Psalter Week 2)	Holy Mass Intentions	Devotions & Other Events
Saturday 9th December Advent Feria	12:30pm Teague and Doris Roarty RIP Patty Grennan RIP	12:00pm Confession
Sunday 10th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT RETIRING COLLECTION FOR POOR PARISH FUND	8:30am Ernest Cole RIP James Martin RIP 10:30am Michael A Cahill RIP	Coffee & Tea in the Parish Centre after 10:30am Mass By Helena, Marie and Friends
Monday 11th December Advent Feria	11:30am Susanna Sullivan RIP Ints of Chrisler and Zylon Fernandes	11:00am Divine Mercy
Tuesday 12th December Advent Feria	9:15am Bernadette Sullivan RIP Denise Watson RIP	7:00m Advent Penitential Service
Wednesday 13th December Memorial St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr	11:30am Pat Galvin RIP Colum Conway RIP	11:00am Rosary 6:00pm St. Mark's Carol Service in Church
Thursday 14th December Memorial of St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church	9:00am Mass at St. Mark's School Graham Lingwood RIP Ints of Joan Lingwood	
Friday 15th December Advent Feria	11:30am Ints of Anne Galvin Ints of Sandra Pearson	11:00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 16th December Advent Feria	12:30pm Georgette Tammam RIP Patrick Duffy RIP	12:00pm Confession
Sunday 17th December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT RETIRING COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND CHURCH DECORATION	8:30am Gene Brant RIP 10:30am Varkey Scaria 3:00pm Syro Malankara Holy Mass	Coffee & Tea in the Parish Centre after 10:30am Mass By Holy Name Choir 6:30pm Reception into Church for Mary Teresa Radford

Last Week's Offertory Collection: £ 369.98SENIOR CITIZENS PARTYMany thanks to all the helpers at the party last Saturday. It was a great opportunity to get together and meet up with old friends.Bit Aid Envelopes: £170.00Our Advent Penitential Service will take place on Tuesday 12 December at 7pm. As we continue our preparation of Christmas, we follow the teaching of John the Baptist by seeking forgiveness for our sins and failings, through the Sacrament Reconciliation. We will reflect together on the message Advent before making our personal confession and receiving absolution.Standing Order for the month of Our Advent periodGIVING TREE	or ng of		
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to distribute them before Christman Many them is for yo			
Last Sunday: 354 continuing generosity to those in need.			
Thank you for MARIST WAY MEETING			
supporting your This will take place on Tuesday 12 th December at 2.30pm in the)		
Parish. convent. All are welcome.			
LIFE CHARITY			
There is a special Mass on Tuesday 40 th Deservation 0000 white	h		
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