

# GOOD NEWS

8th December 2024 • Second Sunday of Advent

Web: [stmcannock.org](http://stmcannock.org)  
 Facebook: [facebook.com/cannockcatholic](https://facebook.com/cannockcatholic)  
 Latest News (WhatsApp Broadcast List) (not a chat). Add 07766335591 to the address book of your phone, and send "Add me" and your name to us by WhatsApp.  
 Email: [stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk)  
 Stafford Hospital Chaplaincy: 01782 676400  
 New Cross & Cannock Hospital Chaplains: 01902 695098

Is this the most recent newsletter? Check here: [bit.ly/C-Latest](http://bit.ly/C-Latest)



Catholic Parish of St Mary & St Thomas More  
 Birmingham Diocesan Trust Reg Charity No. 234216  
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 Parish Priest: Fr Peter Weatherby 07766 335591  
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 Dcn: Rev Michael Vickery, Rev Paul Hender (rtd)  
 Parish Sister: Sr Mary Norbert 07368 363562  
 Catechist: Shirley Weatherby  
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 Community Centre 01543 579364

## Masses and Intentions

### Advent Two (Year C - of Luke)

#### 2nd Collection: Poor Parishes Fund

Sat 7 5pm Sam & Muriel Taylor RIP  
 Sun 8 8am Monica Thompson RIP  
 Sun 8 10:30 John Gallagher RIP  
 Tue 10 7pm Brian Briggs RIP  
 Wed 11 9:30 John Dwyer RIP  
 Thu 12 9:30 Patrick Hollingsworth RIP  
 Fri 13 9:30 Gerard Dillon (int)  
 Sat 14 10am Mary Bowker RIP

### Advent Three (Year C - of Luke)

#### 2nd Collection: Christmas Flowers

Sat 14 5pm Derek Jones RIP  
 Sun 15 8am Bernard Deakin RIP  
 Sun 15 10:30 Peter Garnett RIP

**Confessions** Sat 10:30am; or after mass by request

**Christmas Mass Offerings:** as usual, these are your offerings for your priest. Envelopes are now available from the porch. You can also go to [cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com)

**School Christmas Carol Services:**

St Mary's: Tuesday 10th 2:15pm in Church  
 St Thomas More: Thursday 19th 6pm in Church

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### SUNDAY 22nd

4pm Carols in the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes

### CHRISTMAS EVE

12noon Christmas Vigil Mass  
 4pm Nativity Mass *Wear your Christmas Jumper!*  
 6pm Carols

6.30pm Mass of Christmas Night

### CHRISTMAS DAY 10am Mass

ST STEPHEN'S DAY 26TH 10am Mass

JANUARY 1ST 10am Mass *at Our Lady of Lourdes*

## Notices

**THIS IS BAMBINELLI SUNDAY** - your Bambinelli (Baby Jesus from Crib set) will be blessed at Mass this weekend, and especially at Mass at 10:30am. Welcome to all the children and their families, and thanks to Fr Jeremy for celebrating the 10:30 mass so that Fr Peter can lead memorial services in the north of the county.

**CHRISTMAS MARKET: THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!** If you were unable to attend you can of course make a donation in Church or at [cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com)

**TAKE CARE:** Please ensure that higher value items, including cash are delivered to the **Sacristy** please, and not left in the porch or body of the Church.

**MEMORIES** of the parish continue to be welcome. Some appear in the programme for the Christmas Market - you can send more at any time to [stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk)

**Rotas for Ministers and Readers** is now available up to the end of the Year. There is also a form at the back of the Church for readers and ministers to indicate when they will be available for duty. The more names we have to choose from the better!

**Journey of Faith (RCIA)** is resting till the new year.

**SVP meeting** on Thursday 12th December at 10.30am after mass in the presbytery.

**THE NEW LECTIONARY** (Books of Readings) is now in use. New editions of the Sunday Missal are available from the Piety Stall for £17 each. If you use an app or website change your settings for the readings to "England".

**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU** for your contributions for the homeless. Your response has really made a difference.

Fr. Peter

Rota <small>Date is of Sunday</small>	Saturday 5pm			Sunday 8am		Sunday 10:30am	
	Readers	Ministers	Stewards	Readers	Ministers	Readers	Ministers
Dec 8	Kay Rimmer Doug Bruce	Eileen Clancy Wendy Owens	Gerard Dillon	Margaret Tym	David Korzonek	William Pearce, Dave Guy	Carol Garnett Sheila Houghton
Dec 15	Alex & Tamsin Davis	Cath Hunt Grace Bishop	Eileen Clancy	Amy Pritchard	Liz Fraser	Shirley Weatherby	Colman Whitelaw Doug Bruce

# Prayer List

St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock 8th December 2024



## PLEASE PRAY FOR

*For all the dead in War*

*For the people of Gaza, Israel and Ukraine;*

*for Peace in the World;*

## THE SICK and other needs

*All who are sick and their carers, including ...*

*All those who bear their illnesses privately ...*

*All who have requested prayers, but whose names are not yet on this list*

Alan, recovering from operation

Robert, having a biopsy

Brian Dils, in hospital

Janette, very poorly

Eleni, a student, anxious after incident

Bill, with dementia, having cancer treatment

Glynis, recent accident

Kathleen, liver and lung cancers

A young woman, sick and undergoing tests

Allan, 42, recovering from heart attack

Nicola, mental health and other problems

Elizabeth struggling with a pregnancy

Alan C, who is undergoing surgery

Gail, recovering from acute illness

Janette, very poorly

Frank Heaton, recurrence of cancer, surgery soon

Paul C, surgery

Hilary, in hospital

Caireen, suffering from brain cancer

Josie Morris, broken shoulder after a fall

John, brain injury after a fall.

Bernard, recovering from heart attack

Louise, 13, hospitalised with severe depression

Anne Costello, undergoing treatment

Anthony, undergoing treatment

Eileen H, undergoing treatment

Tony R, undergoing treatment

Patrick, recent cancer diagnosis

Peter M, awaiting procedure

Jay Jackson, in hospital after accident

T Hamilton, undergoing tests and treatment

Peter and Robert, recently diagnosed with cancer

Joanne, recently unwell

Yvonne, being treated for cancer

Helen Cowdell, long covid (many problems)

Ruth R., recent mastectomy

Margaret B, very ill

Adam, having surgery for brain tumour

Margaret, recovering from an operation

Mary G, recovering from stroke

Matt. T, in need of prayer

Tony H, recently diagnosed with cancer

Karen, undergoing chemotherapy

Sandra, unwell

JJ in hospital, prayers please

Helen, leukaemia, encouraging progress

John, diagnosed with Parkinson's

Joan O'Sullivan, very poorly

John, skin cancer

Dave, having treatment for bowel cancer

Stephanie, addiction, family very worried

Mary, frail, cancer treatment taking its toll

Tim, increasing dementia, in care home

Peter B, recovering from strokes

Mary S, sick, undergoing treatment

Geoff, prayers needed for continued health

Gerry, in continuing discomfort

Katie, recurrence of illness

Maureen, diagnosed with cancer, in South Africa

Charley, girl of 14 years, with long term condition

## The housebound, and long term conditions

Peter Dunton, Don Hinton, Tony Bullivant, Pat & Wilf

Palmer, Val B, Marion, Jean Nycz, Iris, Norah, Tess D,

Bernard, Mary Turvey, Greg, Keith Davies, Josie Morris,

Pat Seery, Peer Mohammed, Ray Bishop, Gina

Jaworski, Gladys Chmielecki, Nicola McCulloch,

Vincent Dockery, Peter Maciejewski

## THANKSGIVINGS

*So many blessings!*

## THE HOLY SOULS

### Recently Departed

Gordon Weatherby (funeral 11am 16 Dec in

Cheshire [churchservices.tv/congleton](http://churchservices.tv/congleton)), John Ryan,

Nicholas Ogwuike (father of Sr Sebastian),

Jacqui Buxton, John Baugh

### Anniversaries

8 Margaret Jordan, John McCabe

9 John Astbury, Michael Crofts

10 Muriel Taylor, Lydia Madgwick

11 Martin McGrath, David Wooton,  
Edmund Palmer

12 Anne Dunbar,

15 Joan Goode, David Thomas

17 Sheila Pee

Watch Live •  
Watch later

[bit.ly/cannock-live](http://bit.ly/cannock-live)  
and [facebook.com/cannockcatholic](https://facebook.com/cannockcatholic)

Add new petitions at [bit.ly/C-PleasePray](http://bit.ly/C-PleasePray).

Please send corrections, updates and additions to 07766335591 or [stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk)

## For the People of Ukraine

Mary, Our Lady of Kiev, Mother of God, we ask you to intercede for the people of Ukraine for their government, and all who suffer as a result of war.

Be with them as you stood beside your Son, suffering on the Cross at Calvary.

Give them strength and courage through faith, hope and justice.

May we, in our turn, support them through prayer and generosity that human lives may be saved, that the injured may be healed, that the dead may rest in peace, that there will be peace after war. Amen.

### Every Week (usually!)

**Children's Liturgy** Sundays at 10:30 Mass

**School Mass** in Church Wednesday at 9:30am in term, and Thursday 2:30pm in St Thomas More School

**Confessions** Saturday 10:30-11:30am

**Rosary** 9:05am before Mass on Wed, Thu, Fri

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** Thursdays after Mass

### General Information

**Baptism Applications:** [bit.ly/C-BaptismForm](http://bit.ly/C-BaptismForm)

**Mass intentions :** [bit.ly/C-MassIntention](http://bit.ly/C-MassIntention)

**Mass intentions Calendar:** [bit.ly/c-mass-calendar](http://bit.ly/c-mass-calendar)

**Add a Petition for Prayer:** [bit.ly/C-PleasePray](http://bit.ly/C-PleasePray)

**Latest Newsletter Always OnLine:** [bit.ly/C-Latest](http://bit.ly/C-Latest)

**References:** Fr Peter is very happy to provide references for parishioners. Usually he knows your face but not your name!!! - so if you would like to put his name down as a referee, please let him know in advance.

**Mass intentions.** If you want a particular date, please consider requesting a mass about 3 months in advance. Check for a dates at: [bit.ly/c-mass-calendar](http://bit.ly/c-mass-calendar)  
To request a date for a mass go here: [bit.ly/C-MassIntention](http://bit.ly/C-MassIntention)

### SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese's policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Jo Burrowes, who can be contacted at: [sg.stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

## Giving for the Future

### Planned Giving

Planned giving means making regular donations to the parish. You can set this up as you like - it does not need to be weekly - it could be monthly for example.

We recommend **Standing Orders**, at intervals of your choice, from your Bank to the Parish. It is easy to set up. Please ask for a form from Church.

### Occasional Giving

As well as planned giving, you may wish to give occasional amounts for special appeals and events, including second collections, to the parish and outside charities. Again, special envelopes can be used, but we recommend the **Digital Collection Plate** in Church and at [cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com)  
You can make donations in Church (by card, contactless or chip and pin) or online, wherever you may be.



St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock

Support our Parish

[cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com)

SCAN THE QR CODE IN YOUR PHONE  
OR USE THE LINK ABOVE

### Gift Aid

If you are a tax payer you can **Gift Aid** the tax you have paid, back to the parish. This means that for every £10 you give, the government will add a further £2.50. Only a small amount of paperwork is necessary. You can register for Gift Aid when you make a donation at [cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com), or with a form available from Church.

### Cashless collections

It would be a great help to the Parish if most parishioners paid your collection money by Standing Order. The Bank now charges us for paying in cash, while standing orders, especially with Gift Aid, would bring extra, and regular, money into the parish.

We need to increase the number of standing orders so that most donate in that way. It means we receive your offertory even when you are unable to be at Mass! Please use the form here: <https://tinyurl.com/uqsttlr> or pick up a copy from church and return it complete with your details.

### Please register your card for Gift Aid

Go to [cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com) on your Internet connected device, (phone, tablet, laptop etc) and make a donation. Choose to Gift Aid it, and fill in the short form. The card you use will then be registered gift aid, and all future donations to the parish using this card

St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock WS11 0AS

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2024

## Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th December

**12noon Christmas Vigil Mass**



**4pm Nativity Mass**

*Adults: wear your Christmas Jumper!*



6pm Carols

**6.30pm Mass of Christmas Night**



## Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th December

**10am Mass of Christmas Day**



## St Stephen's Day

Thursday December 26th 10am Mass

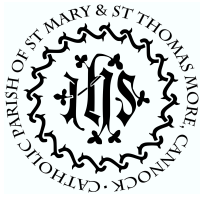
**CAR PARK for Church and Club is in Hunter Road WS11 0AE**

**WATCH LIVE or LATER from our website [stmcancock.org](http://stmcancock.org)**

**DONATE to our work at [cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com)**

# Readers' & Ministers' Rota for December 2024

<b>Rota</b> <i>Date is of Sunday</i>	Saturday 5pm			Sunday 8am		Sunday 10:30	
	Readers	Ministers	Stewards	Readers	Ministers	Readers	Ministers
Dec 1	Wendy Owens	Pat Wilson Clare Bridges	Ann Spencer & John Gay	David Korzonek	Tony Gaughan	Gerard Dillon Justine Lomas	Shirley Weatherby Carol Garnett
Dec 8	Kay Rimmer Doug Bruce	Eileen Clancy Wendy Owens	Gerard Dillon	Margaret Tym	David Korzonek	William Pearce, Dave Guy	Carol Garnett Sheila Houghton
Dec 15	Alex & Tamsin Davis	Cath Hunt Grace Bishop	Eileen Clancy	Amy Pritchard	Liz Fraser	Shirley Weatherby	Colman Whitelaw Doug Bruce
Dec 22	Vikki Wilson Lynn Jones	Pat Wilson Clare Bridges	Patrick & Patsy Warren	Sr Norbert	Margaret Harris	Gerard Dillon Justine Lomas	Caroline Baker Shirley Weatherby
 <b>Christmas Services - see special rota in Church</b> 							
Dec 29	Alex & Tamsin Davis	Eileen Clancy Wendy Owens	Ann Spencer & John Gay	David Korzonek	Amy Pritchard	Stephanie Hewitt Denisse Perks	Grace Bishop Cath Hunt



# **Masses at St Mary's, Cannock** *especially for children and families*



**October 12th Saturday 5pm**

*The Football Mass*

**November 10th Sunday 10:30am**

*Remembrance Mass*

**December 8th Sunday 10:30am**

*The Bambinelli Mass*



**December 24th 4pm**

*Nativity Mass*



**January 19th Sunday 10:30am**

*Commitment Mass*

*(First Holy Communion and Confirmation)*

*February/March - Lent*

**March 29th Saturday 5pm**

*Mothering Sunday*

**April 20th Easter Day 10:30am**

*Easter Day Mass*

**May - First Holy Communions**

*Saturday 10th 1230 St Thomas More Chilc*

*Sunday 11th 1030 St Mary's Children*

**June 24th Tuesday 6:30pm**

*Confirmations (Bishop Timothy)*

**Saturday July 12th 4pm**

*Blessed John Sugar Mass*





# The Christmas Tree

Have you ever really looked at your **Christmas Tree**?

In every house, in every town and every city it can be seen. It is drawn on cards and is on display in shop windows. In the middle of a cold and barren winter, it stands tall and strong and unfailingly green. While other trees are lost of leaves, while plants recede into the ground, while buds hide and wait below frost and snow, and the land lies dull as if dead or dying, the evergreen Christmas tree is a symbol of hope, a promise of new life, a assurance of victory of life over death.

And what of the **decorations** on the tree? - the baubles, glimmering and sparkling, catching the light as they move gently in their place. They claim our attention, so perfectly formed, like small worlds, yet so frail, so needful of our care. They remind us of the universe created by God, full of colour and beauty, yet so fragile - held in place by the strand of God's love. This is the universe which Christ came to save.

And the **lights** flash in their places, small candles, only pinpricks in the darkness now - but they represent a much greater Light. They remind us that the child whose birth we celebrate is the Light of the World, who has come to cast away the darkness of the night, and light the way for us to the place where darkness vanishes for ever.

And on the tree we often find an **angel** - a messenger from heaven, who proclaims the coming of the Saviour to the lowly Virgin and who reminds us of all the heavenly host, who surprise the shepherds and sing the glory of the one who is born.

And with the angel - or even without the angel - there is usually a **star**. Bold, dominant and commanding the scene. A reminder of another star. And another place. A star which points to heaven - and marks a place on earth. A star which says that this humble place is where heaven touches the earth, where divine and human meet, where God dwells with men, where the word becomes flesh.

# One Prisoner's Christmas Gift

One remarkable feature of our parish is that three of our parishioners work as prison chaplains. Their work not only has an impact on the lives of those who are serving time, but the inmates themselves are also able to contribute to the life of our parish too.



Here is just one example - Tony (not his real name) - as told by one of our prison chaplains.

*When Tony was fifteen, he got a job selling something that makes you feel good for a short while, and by the time he was 23, Tony was running his own business. His success, however, was short-lived.*

*The police shut down Tony's business, the courts confiscated everything he owned and he was sent to prison for fourteen years.*

*I met Tony when he told me that he wished he had never stopped going to church and would I mind if he started coming to Mass in the prison? Two weeks later he made his first Confession in about fifteen years.*

*Tony asked me permission to miss Mass one week because there was a pottery class on and he'd always wanted to try it. A year later, he sent some sculptures to national competitions.*

## Before ...



The Hand of a King

*And he's learnt to refurbish statues.*

*Some of the work Tony is doing is on our Nativity characters. Two of the figures have been displayed in front of the altar.*

## ... After



A shepherd boy

*The work already done includes the Baby Jesus. He is no longer missing half a hand. And additionally, the shepherd's foot is back in one piece.*

*Hopefully by Christmas, you'll see the finished work in all its glory.*



# THE NEW LECTIONARY

*A new edition of the Lectionary, the book which contains the readings which are proclaimed at Mass, will come into use in England and Wales in Advent 2024. The new edition uses the English Standard Version - Catholic Edition for the readings, and the Abbey Psalms and Canticles for the Responsorial Psalms. Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions.*

## **Are there changes to the readings?**

This is a new publication of the Lectionary using different scripture translations — the content remains the same. So, for the reading for each Sunday will be the same.

## **What's new?**

There will be provision for Saints who have been added to the Calendar since the last Lectionary was published in 1981. In addition, some of the revised liturgical rites, such as Marriage, have additional readings.

## **Will the text be compulsory?**

Yes. From Advent (December 2024) this text must be used in England, Wales and Scotland.

## **When will the Lectionary published?**

Parishes have already started ordering their copies of the Lectionary. Copies are expected to arrive in parishes during October.

## **How many volumes are there?**

The current Lectionary (1981) is in three volumes. The new Lectionary, however, will be in four volumes: One notable change is that all the readings will be given in sense lines and verse numbers as an assistance to the reader. This means that readings will require more space, so more pages.

## **Will I need a new Sunday Missal?**

The words and prayers of the mass will not change, but the translation of the readings will differ. Many people may wish to get a new Sunday or Weekday Missal, especially if they read at mass or like to follow the reading as they are read in Church.



## **Is this going to be expensive?**

Each parish will need the four main books, which will cost about £200 each. Each book comes with Bookplates to be inscribed with the names of donors or in memory of someone.

## **What about the Mass Sheets we use at mass, and readings online?**

Providers of these services are already preparing new materials. The new readings will come into use when they are available.

## **What is this new translation, the English Standard Version - Catholic Edition?**

The English Standard Version is the latest in a series of English translations which go back to the 16th Century. These translations have all been based on a 'word for word' principle. The ESV is directly based on the Revised Standard Version which was used in many Churches prior to 1981. Small changes have been made to modernise the language and reflect the latest scholarship.

## **What are the Abbey Psalms and Canticles?**

The familiar responsorial psalms - the Grail Psalms - have been part of Liturgy in English for almost 70 years, even before the mass was celebrated in English.

In 2008 a revision of these texts was undertaken by the monks of Conception Abbey, Missouri. These texts eventually received confirmation from the Holy See. This text is now known as *Abbey Psalms and Canticles*, and will be used in future liturgy texts in English.

## St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock | Second Collections 2024

Date	Collection	Type	Amount
Jubilee Appeal	Collections, Donations, Fundraising running total	Parish	£24473.00
Crib Offerings	Friends of the Holy Land	Direct to Charity	£109.58
Sun, 28 Jan 2024	Lepra	Direct to Charity	£187.05
Sun, 18 Feb 2024	ACN	Direct to Charity	£600.75
Sun, 25 Feb 2024	Uganda	Direct to Charity	£928.74
Sun, 3 Mar 2024	Cafod (Harvest)	Direct to Charity	£179.00
Sun, 10 Mar 2024	Cathedral Maintenance	Diocesan	£82.77
Sun, 17 Mar 2024	Easter Flowers	Parish	£61.00
Fri, 29 Mar 2024	Holy Places	Diocesan	£68.00
Sun, 31 Mar 2024	Easter Offerings	Priest	-
Sun, 14 Apr 2024	SVP (BI John Sugar Conference)	Local SVP	£83.00
Sun, 21 Apr 2024	Clergy Training Fund Annual collection	Diocesan	£137.00
Sun, 12 May 2024	Catholic Communications	Diocesan	£30.00
Sun, 16 Jun 2024	Day for Life	Diocesan	£33.00
Sun, 30 Jun 2024	Peter's Pence	Diocesan	£56.00
Sun, 14 Jul 2024	Apostleship of the Sea [Direct]	Direct to Charity	£157.00
Sun, 15 Sep 2024	Evangelium Sunday	Diocesan	
Sun, 22 Sep 2024	Fr Hudsons Society	Direct to Charity	
Sun, 6 Oct 2024	Cafod (Harvest)	Direct to Charity	
Sun, 20 Oct 2024	APF - World Mission Day	Direct to Charity	
Sun, 3 Nov 2024	Johnson Association (Retired and Infirm Clergy)	Diocesan	
Sun, 17 Nov 2024	SVP (BI John Sugar Conference)	Local SVP	
Sun, 24 Nov 2024	Catholic Youth Service	Diocesan	
Sun, 8 Dec 2024	Poor Parishes Fund	Diocesan	
Sun, 15 Dec 2024	Christmas Flowers	Parish	
Wed, 25 Dec 2024	Christmas Offerings	Priest	-
Sun, 2 Mar 2025	Cathedral Maintenance	Diocesan	
<b>Total</b>			<b>£27,185.89</b>