

The Parish of St Dunstan and St Jude

First Sunday in Advent

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Sunday 28th November 2021

www.stdunstanandstjude.co.uk

Sat 27 th	<i>Our Lady</i>	11.00am	Holy Mass	Mary Deacy (RIP) Pro Populo
		11.30am-1.00pm	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
		11.30am-12.30pm 4.45-5.15pm	<i>Confessions</i> <i>Confessions</i>	
		5.30pm	Vigil Mass	Andrew Grufferty (RIP)
Sun 28 th	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.15am (<i>St Jude's</i>)	Holy Mass	Mick McCarthy (RIP)
		10.30am	Holy Mass	Persecuted Priests
		12noon	Holy Mass	Adelaide Tracey (ints.)
		6.30pm	Holy Mass	Kathleen Grimes (RIP)
Mon 29 th	<i>Advent Feria</i>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Maureen Mone (RIP)
		6.00pm	<i>Vigil and reception</i>	Margaret Quinn (RIP)
Tues 30 th	<i>St Andrew</i>	10.00am (<i>St Jude's</i>)	Holy Mass	Mary Kate (ints.)
		11.30am	Requiem Mass	Margaret Quinn (RIP)
		7.00pm	Holy Mass	Martin Monaghan (RIP)
Wed 1 st	<i>St Edmund Campion</i>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Ann Redmond (RIP)
Thurs 2 nd	<i>Rorate Caeli</i> <i>Advent Feria</i>	6.45am	Holy Mass	Edna Conkey (RIP)
		7.00pm	Holy Mass	Mary Masterson (RIP)
Fri 3 rd	<i>St Francis Xavier</i>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Liam Burns Jnr (RIP)
		12 noon (<i>St Jude's</i>)	Holy Mass <i>First Friday</i>	Elizabeth Brown (RIP)
		7.00pm	Holy Mass	Monica and Christopher Darcy (RIP)
Sat 4 th	<i>Advent Feria</i>	11.00am	Holy Mass	John and Mary Ellen Mannion (RIP Anni.) Pro Populo
		11.30am-1.00pm	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by First Saturday Devotions</i>	
		4.45-5.15pm	<i>Confessions</i>	
		5.30pm	Vigil Mass	Joe Dolan (RIP)
Sun 5 th	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.15am (<i>St Jude's</i>)	Holy Mass	Michael Dunleavy (RIP)
		10.30am	Holy Mass	Mary Kenny (RIP)
		12 noon	Holy Mass	Michael and Catherine Sugrue
		6.30pm	Holy Mass	Tom Brady



Today we begin the season of Advent and a new liturgical year. The theme of the readings for the first few days of Advent aren't so much about preparing for the celebration of the coming of Christ at Christmas but preparing for that final coming - something that the Creed reminds us of each Sunday: 'He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.'

Advent can easily be so subsumed by pre-Christmas events like carol services and nativity plays that we lose the beauty of this season of waiting. One way to make Advent special is the beautiful tradition of the Rorate Caeli Mass early on Thursday mornings. This Mass in honour of Our Lady is held before dawn as we await, in darkness, the coming of the light of Christ. The flickering candles alone help us to see as we await the rising sun. People have often come to Mass with a lighted lantern, but there will be candles available at the door too for those without.

Confessions During Advent. In readying ourselves for the final coming of the Lord that the Church encourages us to make our Confession during the Advent season. Do give some thought to going to Confession during Advent – especially if it has been some time since you last came. After all, Confession is a celebration of God's mercy. As well as the usual time on Saturday morning a priest will be available for confession on Fridays from 6pm-7.30pm. This will be a good opportunity for those who find Saturdays difficult.

Walk With Me booklets are available after Mass today that provide a simple daily Advent journey to keep us close to the Lord in prayerful expectation.

SVP: There will be an appeal at all Masses this weekend for funds to help the parishes' SVP in their Christmas activities followed by a retiring collection. If you are going cashless you can donate through our contactless point in the porch by selecting the SVP button on the screen or by internet banking into the SVP account (Ss Dunstan & Jude SVP Sort code 60-60-04. Account 46082956).

Also, the women's refuge which the SVP supports is in need of baby equipment. **Not** clothes but items like Moses baskets, changing mats, baby baths etc. If you have any of these cluttering up your house, please contact Karen Tehan on 07816 686849.

WINDOW Parish magazine: the December issue is now being assembled. The deadline for articles, news, pictures or jokes is **TODAY**. Send to robertwilcher@btinternet.com or 179, Alcester Road South or drop into the presbytery marked WINDOW.

GUIDANCE FOR MASS

As the Covid virus is still circulating in our community the diocese is recommending continuing with **social distance, face coverings, and to sanitise our hands** as we enter and leave church.

Although a number of parishes have lifted the social distancing, we have it kept this in place. The spacing markings have now been removed from St Dunstan's, but please consider other people and leave some space from the person next to you. Please also only sit on the pews with the green ticks on.

Receiving Holy Communion. There have been increasing occasions where people have walked away with the sacred host without consuming it. So:

- 1) **It is very important for the respect we ought to give to the most holy sacrament, that if you do receive the holy eucharist in the hand that you consume the host immediately before stepping away from the priest. Please also remove your face covering from your mouth immediately before so that you can receive.**

It is also respectful to leave a reasonable space before the person in front of you. There's no rush, and we won't run out of the Blessed Sacrament

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE

5.00pm	St Dunstan's	Vigil Mass of Christmas
6.00pm	St Jude's	Vigil Mass of Christmas
7.00pm	St Dunstan's	Vigil Mass of Christmas
Midnight	St Dunstan's	Solemn First Mass of Christmas Night

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am	St Dunstan's	Mass of the Dawn (said)
10.00am	St Jude's	Mass of the Day with Carols
11.00am	St Dunstan's	Sung Mass

Christmas Masses: There will be a ticket system in place for Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day again this year. It is not so much about restricting numbers, but with the current climate and the possibility of a winter spike, a ticket system will help us to spread people across the Masses. Free tickets will be available at all weekend Masses on the second, third and fourth Sundays of Advent. To help with organisation, tickets for St Dunstan's will be available only from St Dunstan's and tickets for St Jude's will be available only from St Jude's.

Fundraising at St Jude's. There will be tombola starting on the first Sunday in December and then every Sunday up to Christmas. If you have anything you would like to donate, such as an unused present, a box of chocolates or a bottle of alcohol, please bring them to church and leave them in the sacristy.

Blessing of the Graves – an annual event when we can gather together to pray for departed relatives and friends and commend to the Lord's mercy. There will be a short service for the faithful departed at 2pm at Wythall and St Nicolas. For those who wish to buy grave votive lights to light at the blessing, they are available from the piety stall.

We pray for those who have died recently: Anne Courbet, Christina Reagan, Geraldine McGee, William Reid, Margaret Cox, Eugene McGlynn, and John Lyden.

Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. If you, or someone you know, is sick or can't leave the house and would like Holy Communion, would you let one of the priests know, or email or call the presbytery.

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting is on Tuesday 7th December after evening Mass at 7.45pm in St Dunstan's Church. If you would like to come to this meeting, please contact the Parish office and leave your name and phone number.

Lectio Divina in the Conference Room after morning Mass every Monday. You are invited to read and reflect on the Gospel of the day and think about God's word and reflect on your encounters with God and everyday life with its joys and challenges.

Sycamore Course. For those who are curious about our faith or who have perhaps not had much chance to learn about our faith. This Thursday, at 7:45pm, after the evening Mass.

Little Lambs: Do you have pre-school aged children and are free on a Friday morning? Come and join us at Little Lambs. A chance for a coffee and chat with other parents, grandparents and carers whilst the children play in a COVID safe environment. Come and join us in the Conference Room from 10.15am to 12.15pm this Friday.

Parish Census: Thank you to all those parishioners and regular church attenders who have already completed and returned their form. If you are still to complete a form, please could you do this as soon as possible as our new database is being updated. You can return your completed form to the box in either church or you can find the form on the home page of the parish website if you would prefer to complete the form and email it back to us.

Contactless Payments. You will find our new contactless terminal in the new entrance to St Dunstan's church. Use your contactless debit, credit card or smart phone or device to make a donation. Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader. You can also opt-in for Gift Aid to increase your donation by 25%. If you are a UK taxpayer, then donating with Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received.

Jam is back! Ewa van Lierop's delicious jams, marmalades and chutneys will be on sale after the 5.30pm Mass on Saturday 4th December and the 10.30am and 12 noon Masses on Sunday 5th December. All proceeds will go to the Jane Smith Education Fund, currently helping Christian education in South Sudan.

Traidcraft Charity Christmas cards and crafts. Catalogues and cards will be available to order after 10.30am Mass each Sunday until the 12th December.

Card and letter writing: There is a meeting on Thursday 2nd December at 2pm at 179 Alcester Road South to write greetings cards and letters of support to prisoners of conscience to reassure them that they are not forgotten and to government agencies to ask for justice. Information will be available from Amnesty and ACAT (Action by Christians Against Torture).

Bishop Challoner TSA is working in partnership with CEFEL and The Catholic Education Service to deliver National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) for Teachers. We are also offering a new NPQ in Leading Behaviour and Culture. NPQs are currently fully funded for all state-maintained schools. Apply here: <https://www.cefel.org.uk/npq/> Applications close on 17th January 2022 for programmes starting February 2022.

The Parish Office will be open from 10am to 12.30pm on Mondays and from 9am to 4pm Tuesday to 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 need to see 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. You will not be invited in the office unless you have a pre-arranged appointment.

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. You do not need an appointment for this.

COLLECTIONS

	St Dunstan's	St Jude's
Gift Aid	£686.60	£107.00
Non-Gift Aid	£820.24	£223.41
Jubilee Fund	£251.36	-
Fabric Fund	-	£ 63.71

There will be a second collection this weekend for the **SVP** Christmas activities.

Standing Orders are a great way to make regular donations. If you would like a standing order form for either church, please contact the Parish office.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.’

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. **R.**

SECOND READING

Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

COMMUNION HYMN

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
2. O come, thou wisdom from on high,
and order all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai’s height
in ancient times, didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
4. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict’ry o’er the grave.
5. O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
6. O come, though dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death’s dark shadows put to flight:
7. O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid every sad division cease,
and be thyself our Prince of peace.

*The organ voluntary after Mass today is J.S. Bach,
Fantasia in G, BWV 572*