

Parish Christmas Fair Sat 8 Dec 12 noon- 2pm Please add the date to your diary and help advertise the fair by telling friends and family. We need unopened bottles (spirits/wine/beer etc and soft drinks), books, bric-a-brac, plants and groceries – **no** clothing. Cash donations are always welcome. Plus any goods we can use as raffle prizes. We greatly appreciate your support and generosity. Please speak to Fr Dominic or George Gallagher if you want to volunteer. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help.

Moseley Churches Together Local Christmas Church Services Cards available from the porch. Looking for volunteers, maybe children to put them through letterboxes in local roads.

Visit the piety stall for your Advent Calendars, Candles, Christmas Cards and Gifts
Lots of lovely new stock for you to choose from.

Children's clothing for Africa...See Solomon or please leave it in the labelled box in the porch.

Visiting the Sick: Holy Communion can be brought to the sick and housebound by Father Dominic, Deacon Mick or Ministers of the Eucharist. Please inform Fr Dominic if you, or somebody you know, would like to be visited.

Going into hospital or a home? If you know you are to be admitted it is best to approach Fr Dominic for the Sacrament of the Sick. If you or a friend or family member are in hospital you must ask one of the nurses to contact the Catholic Chaplain.

Dec			Forthcoming Parish events
Sun	1	10.00	Second Collection – St Vincent de Paul Christmas Party for Birmingham Homeless
Sat	8	12-2	Parish Christmas Fayre
Sun	9	10.00	Second Collection – Poor Parishes Fund
Mon	24	7.30pm	Carol Service
Mon	24	8.00pm	First Mass of Christmas

Please take this newsletter home to read

		Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216			
		St John the Evangelist & St Martin de Porres 31 George Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12 9RG 0121 440 3025			
Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Innamorati SCJ		www.ssjohnandmartin.org.uk innamorati@btinternet.com admin@ssjohnandmartin.org.uk		Deacon: Michael McKearney	
Dec 2018		First Sunday of Advent		Readings: Sun B, weekdays 2.	
Mass Times	Sat	1	10.00	Holy Souls	Parish
	Sun	2	10.00	First Sunday of Advent	Joseph Picardo
	Mon	3	9.30	St Francis Xavier	Communion Service
	Tue	4	9.30	Feria at St Martin de Porres	No Mass
	Wed	5	9.30	Feria	Marceline Picardo
	Thu	6	9.00	St Nicholas at Ss John & Monica	Special Intention
	Fri	7	9.30	St Ambrose	Special Intention
	Sat	8	10.00	Immaculate Conception	Parish
	Sun	9	10.00	Second Sunday of Advent	Special Intention
Confessions		Saturdays 10.30 – 10.45 (after Mass) and by request			

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: John Dillon, Archbishop Edward Ilsley, Patrick Michael Melvin, Eva McIntyre, Francis Connaughton. Thomas Kelly. James Beirne. Edward Scanlon. Adrian Doherty. Mary Moriarty. Marceline Grace Picardo. Marie Therese O'Connor. Elizabeth Merrick.

Please pray for those who are sick: Margaret and Majella McAtavey, Sr. Stella, Soraya Wilson, David Mishra, Dawn McGhie, George Gallagher, Beatrice Akomanyi, Joseph Kilmartin, Marie O'Riordan, Hilde Ward Mason, Philamena Holahan, Alan and Tess Shepherd, Marian Jones, Gerald McEvoy, Rafe Davis.

You are invited to refreshments in the Hall after the Sunday Mass

Journey in Faith is at 7.00 in the Presbytery **on Tuesday**. We welcome anyone, who would like to become a Catholic. Catholics who have never been prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation are also welcome, as are those who wish to know more about the Catholic Faith or update themselves since they were at school. Non Catholics are invited to attend if they have Catholic children. Please let Fr Dominic know if you are interested.

St Paul's School for Girls Annual OAP Christmas Party Mon 17 Dec 1pm-3pm. Please contact the school by Fri 7 Dec if you wish to attend. Tel 0121 454 0895

Lectio Divina Sun 9.30-9.50 Margot Hutchinson Centre

During the Sundays of Advent, you are invited to a short time of prayer and reflection in the Margot Hutchinson Centre. The Lectio Divina, or Divine Reading, is a traditional form of prayer going back many centuries; it essentially concentrates on a slow, thoughtful reading aloud of the Gospel and is a wonderful opportunity to prepare for Mass. We will begin promptly at 9:30 and should be finished by 9:50 to allow plenty of time for people to make their way to the Church for Mass.

Please take the *Walk with Me* booklets and calendars if you haven't already done so. This will help you to keep in mind what advent and Christmas really means. if you haven't already done so.

Advent gifts for homeless people. We are collecting the following in the church porch

Sun 9th Dec coats

Sun 15th Dec scarves

Sun 23st Dec sweets & chocolate

See the **Cafod World Gifts catalogue** for imaginative and amusing gifts which make a difference to the poorest people in the world help people in need worldgifts.cafod.org.uk



Please take this newsletter home to read

Be on your guard

The shops in Birmingham are all decorated and the streets filled with lights but nothing is mentioned of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Advent reminds us not to forget what it is really about. It is a time of prayer and expectation; looking forward to the greatest gift, Jesus Christ, God made man.

This time looks forward to two things; the birth of Jesus who has come to save the world from sin and secondly the final coming of Jesus when he will judge both the living and the dead.

Many people are today looking for some kind of identity and purpose in their life. The birth of Jesus gives us the answer; he is the reflection of the unseen God, God made man in whose image, each one of us are made and who shows us the way we should live to be truly happy.

But advent is also a time of reflection as to where we are going and what is our purpose of our life: are we just following the world in its search for material things? This morning we are asked to think and pray through the words of Scripture and the prophesies foretelling the coming of the Messiah. Advent helps us to realise that our true fulfilment is only found in God, "so stand erect hold your heads high because your liberation is at hand".

Jesus in the gospel today says; "be on your guard and stay awake". We can be expected at any time to give an account of our life.



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