



St. Michael's Bulletin



Saint Michael's is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Registered Charity N. 234216

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT. DECEMBER 14th 2008

Vigil 5.30 pm Special Intention (DH)

9.00 am *Mary Comfry*

1030 am *Our Parish Family*

Monday 7.00 pm Mass of Reconciliation & Healing

Tuesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Wednesday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass

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Friday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass

Saturday Vigil 5.30 Simon Barrow

Also this week: Wednesday at 1000 am Bishopswood School Carol Service

GAUDETE SUNDAY

We are now mid-Advent and the PINK candle on our wreath is lighted. Today is "Gaudete" Sunday, which means "Rejoice, for the Lord is near". In days when Church discipline was much stricter the PINK candle signalled a slight breather in the harsh discipline of Advent. Things have changed greatly and the Church does not now have a harsh discipline in our Advent preparations, so we need to take much more personal responsibility for ensuring we are ready to celebrate the great Feast. We must strengthen our faith in the Presence of God made man among us, and deepen our confidence that with His help we will be able to survive anything life may throw at us.

MASS OF RECONCILIATION & HEALING.

Our Advent Penitential Service will be on Monday at 7.00 pm. You are all most welcome.

Known as "The Advent Amnesty", this service not only prepares us for the coming feast by ensuring that our hearts are cleansed, but it also helps us to heal those wounds and scars left by our previous failings and infidelities.

Confession helps relieve us of the baggage we carry: our service this evening may help repair our jagged edges and bring a little light and warmth back into our lives so that we feel renewed and refreshed, ready for anything.

Christ's coming to us at Christmas requires our coming to Him during Advent.

ADVENT PROJECT.

We are supporting BARNARDO'S during Advent. This organisation sets itself the task of breaking the cycle of deprivation in the lives of families and individuals who are caught in a trap of emotional and financial poverty. The swing-bin at the back has so far received £156.26. Thank you; but I'm sure there is more to come.

CHRISTMAS CARD.

It has been suggested that the large Christmas card should be sent to Fr Ellis once we have all signed it. Agreed?

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE.

There are names and addresses of such prisoners on slips on the table at the back. Please take one or two of these slips and try to send a card of greeting to one or more such prisoners to let them know they are not forgotten.

CHRISTMAS TREE OF GIFTS.

The Christmas tree still has a few little tags left. Please take a tag off, buy the present requested and then place it under the tree. It will be given to a house-bound parishioner or to a homeless person at Christmas, with your love.

May I remind the children to bring a Birthday card for Jesus on Christmas day.

MEN'S CHURCH CLEANING TEAM

Could we have a good clean before Christmas, please? Ladies are welcome. On Saturday from 9.00 am.

CHOIR PRACTICE. On Saturday from 1030 am onwards, to sharpen us all up for Christmas

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FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS.

Lord, send Your Healing Spirit on all who are in any way sick or distressed: we pray for Claudina Rodrigues, Eugenie Micotti, Alison & Betty Gosling, Ena Wilson, Marguerite Brosnan, Pat Sullivan, Joseph Bradley, Mike Coulehan, Harry Littlefair, Peter Gibson, Tess Lynch, Nancy Keogh, Michael Boyle, Jack Edwards, Donald Garland, Peggy Grey and Mary Comfry.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY.

We pray for Nora Gallagher and all who died recently, for all killed in wars, disasters and accidents: victims of terrorism and oppression; and for those who die of starvation or neglect. We also remember Albert Eeckelaers, Lesley Farquahar, Margaret Hall, Wojciech Motyka, Bill Condon, Peter Ellison, and George Raynard whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Grant them the joy of Your Presence.

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May we have a calm and peaceful week. Fr Chris