



St. Michael's Bulletin



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

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT. NOVEMBER 30th 2008

Vigil 5.30 pm Holy Souls

9.00 am Patrick Slattery	1030 am Jack Daly
Monday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass	Tuesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service
Wednesday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass	Thursday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass
Friday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass	Saturday Vigil 5.30 Peter Fay

TODAY WE BEGIN THE SEASON OF ADVENT

This is an important time in the Church's year. It is a time of preparation and waiting in expectation of a great happening. In our modern world we do not like waiting; we want everything NOW. A sense of instant gratification actually spoils our enjoyment of life because we miss out on the tantalising experience of anticipation.

Waiting for something should help us appreciate the enjoyment of that event when it does arrive. ADVENT should help us concentrate our minds on the great event of Jesus birth, and help us prepare for it so that we can appreciate and enjoy it to the full when it does arrive.

To help us through Advent there are "My day by Day" booklets for Advent and there are copies of "Walk with Me" as well as Advent Calendars on the table at the back. Please take one. And take a Parish Diary- or two-, please.

THIRD WORLD GROUP (now called "OUTREACH")

At our meeting on Thursday we discussed what Charity we would support as an Advent project. Because of the high-profile cases recently of child abuse and neglect we chose BARNARDO'S, a home-based charity which seeks to break the cycle of deprivation for so many abused, vulnerable, forgotten and neglected children and young adults. We also wish to deepen our awareness of the needs of those families in which children fail to find a proper grounding for their lives...as has been the case with instances in our recent news bulletins.

How do we support these children and their families?

This is the task which BARNARDO's has taken on. Let us support them well. They have a very potent advert running at the moment on TV. If you have seen it you will have been touched by it.

Please see their website www.barnardo's.org.uk

We all receive requests from charities and it is difficult to refuse so let us concentrate our giving on this project.

CHRISTMAS CARD.

The original idea of a Christmas card was to send a greeting to someone you will NOT see at Christmas. But we now send them to people we see every day: many think that this tradition has got out of hand, so to help us out of this I have placed a large Christmas card to help us break out of this. It is from you to me, and from me to you, and from each of us to everyone else in the parish. Please sign it and make a contribution to the swing-bin. In doing so we are saving each other a great deal of money so you can afford to be generous to the Barnardo's swing-bin.

MASS FOR MARRIED COUPLES

At St Anne's on Friday 5th December at 8.00 pm, this Mass celebrates Marriage and Family life.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE.

There are names and addresses of such prisoners on slips on the table at the back. Please take one – or two.

MASS OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION.

Next Sunday at 1030am, the children will lead us to a better understanding of the theme of "Caring & Sharing".

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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, Jason Thatcher, Michael Boyle, Jack Edwards and Donald Garland.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY.

We pray for Patrick Joseph Slattery, Fr David Higham and all who died recently, for all killed in wars, disasters and accidents. For victims of terrorism and oppression; for those who die of starvation or neglect. We also remember in our prayers Madge Barnard Smith, Peter Fay and Mary Dowd whose anniversaries fall at this time. Grant them the joy of Your Presence.

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May we all have a peaceful week. Fr Chris