St Mary's Parish Newsletter



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MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS
w/c Sunday 22nd November, 2026
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
(A1) (Office Proper)

Saturday	**Our Lady on Saturday**	
	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of The Universe**	
St. Lucy's	**9.00am**	Names in the Book of the Dead
St. Mary's	**11.00am**	John McGinty, RIP
Monday	**Feria**	
	9.30am	Jack Lucas, RIP
Tuesday	**Ss. Andrew Dung-Lac, Martyrs**	
	No Mass	
Wednesday	**Feria**	
	9.30am	Harriet Elgee, RIP (F)
Thursday	**St. Andrew**	
	9.30am	People of the Parish
Friday	**Feria**	
	9.30am	Eileen McDermott, RIP
Saturday	**Feria**	
	5.30pm	Graham Osman, RIP
Sunday	**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	
St. Lucy's	**9.00am**	The People of The Parish
St. Mary's	**11.00am**	Amy & Len Gilbert, RIP

Confessions Saturday 4.45pm, and by request

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of The Universe—22nd Nov. 2026

Entrance Antiphon

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

First Reading *Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17*

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia ! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord ! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David ! **Alleluia !**

Gospel *Matthew 25:31-46*

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord sits as King for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace.



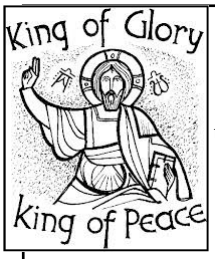
Christmas Gift Bags

The Box is now available at the back of the Church and we would be very grateful for your gifts . Small items for our Christmas Gift Bags to distribute to Parishioners who are not able to attend Mass. Please keep us in mind when you are shopping and perhaps add an extra item to your basket.

Film Night for Children

On Sunday 6th December,, in the afternoon we will show a the file "Thee Polar Express" for the younger members of the Parish

Advent Calendars and Candles & Christmas Cards are now available in the Repository



Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of The Universe

Among fairy tales there are stories are about kings who disguise themselves and go among their people to learn of their true needs. In those stories, the wise king knows his people and is able to care for them because he's shared their struggles. What a far cry from so many of the secular rulers, kings or presidents throughout human history. Today's liturgy highlights the kingship of Christ with two readings which use images of sheep and shepherding. Ezekiel has God taking on the role of shepherd—caring, and rescuing, healing—and judging us, who are God's flock. The image shifts a bit in the Gospel, where Jesus still remains our shepherd, but the role of judge gets more of the emphasis. There—like the understanding king in some of those fairy tales, Christ our King has identified completely with those who are hungry, thirsty, homeless, without clothing, in need of healing or imprisoned. This familiar scene of the last judgment sets the criteria for entrance into the kingdom of Christ: How have we recognized our King in those who come to us in need? We may have little control over the conduct of secular rulers. But our relationship with our heavenly King is clear: We are to embrace him in our loving service to one another.

I was naked and you clothed me;
sick, and you visited me

A Pope's Reflection—*Pope Benedict*

Today, the last Sunday of the liturgical year, we are celebrating the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. We know from the Gospels that Jesus refused the title of king when it was meant in the political sense, by the standards of the "rulers of the Gentiles". On the other hand, during his Passion, he claimed a unique kingship before Pilate, who explicitly asked him "So you are a king?", and Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king"; however just previously he had declared, "My kingship is not of this world". Christ's kingship is in fact a revelation and actuation of that of God the Father, who governs all things with love and justice. The Father entrusted to the Son the mission of giving mankind eternal life by loving it to the point of supreme sacrifice and, at the same time, conferred upon him the power of judging humanity, since he made himself Son of man, like us in all things. Today's Gospel insists precisely on the universal kingship of Christ the Judge, with the stupendous parable of the Last Judgment, which St Matthew placed immediately before the Passion narrative. The images are simple, the language is popular, but the message is extremely important: it is the truth about our ultimate destiny and about the criterion by which we will be evaluated. "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" and so forth. Who does not know this passage? It is part of our civilization. It has marked the history of the peoples of Christian culture: the hierarchy of values, the institutions, the multiple charitable and social organizations. In fact, the Kingdom of Christ is not of this world, but it brings to fulfilment all the good that, thank God, exists in man and in history. If we put love for our neighbour into practice in accordance with the Gospel message, we make room for God's dominion and his Kingdom is actualized among us. If, instead, each one thinks only of his or her own interests, the world can only go to ruin. Dear friends, the Kingdom of God is not a matter of honours and appearances but, as St Paul writes, it is "righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit". The Lord has our good at heart, that is, that every person should have life, and that especially the "least" of his children may have access to the banquet he has prepared for all. Thus he has no use for the forms of hypocrisy of those who say: "Lord, Lord" and then neglect his commandments. In his eternal Kingdom, God welcomes those who strive day after day to put his Word into practice. For this reason the Virgin Mary, the humblest of all creatures, is the greatest in his eyes and sits as Queen at the right of Christ the King. Let us once again entrust ourselves to her heavenly intercession with filial trust, to be able to carry out our Christian mission in the world.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Saint of the Week



November 24th, Saint Andrew Dung-Lac

Andrew Dung-Lac, a Catholic convert, was ordained to the priesthood, was one of 117 people martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. Members of the companions group gave their lives for Christ in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and received beatification during four different occasions between 1900 and 1951. All were canonized during the papacy of Saint John Paul II. Christianity came to Vietnam through the Portuguese. Jesuits opened the first permanent mission at Da Nang in 1615. They ministered to Japanese Catholics who had been driven from Japan. Severe persecutions were launched at least three times in the 19th century. During the six decades after 1820, between 100,000 and 300,000 Catholics were killed or subjected to great hardship. Foreign missionaries martyred in the first persecutions, included priests of the Paris Mission Society, and also Spanish Dominican priests and tertiaries. In 1832, Emperor Minh-Mang banned all foreign missionaries, and tried to make all Vietnamese deny their faith by trampling on a crucifix. Like the priest-holes in Ireland during English persecution, many hiding places were then offered in homes of the faithful. Persecution broke out again in 1847, when the emperor suspected foreign missionaries and all Vietnamese Christians of sympathizing with a rebellion led by of one of his sons. The last of the martyrs were 17 laypersons, one of them a 9-year-old, executed in 1862. That year a treaty with France guaranteed religious freedom to Catholics, but it did not stop all persecution. By 1954, there were over a million Catholics—about seven percent of the population—in the north. Buddhists represented about 60 percent. Persistent persecution forced some 670,000 Catholics to abandon lands, homes and possessions and flee to the south. In 1964, there were still 833,000 Catholics in the north, but many were in prison. In the south, Catholics were enjoying the first decade of religious freedom in centuries, their numbers swelled by refugees. During the last Vietnamese war, Catholics again suffered in the north, and again moved to the south in great numbers. Now reunited, the entire country is under Communist rule. **Reflection:** It may help a people who associate Vietnam only with a 20th-century war to realize that the cross has long been a part of the lives of the people of that country, the faith rooted in Vietnam's soil proves hardier than the forces that willed to destroy it.

CAFOD—WORLD GIFTS

With Advent approaching you may well reflect on the season and the act of giving. Each gift is an example of the work CAFOD's partners are doing right now to change the lives of the poorest members of our global family. Leaflets are available in the Porch giving full details.



Flowers for the Church at Christmas

There will be Special Collections on 5th & 6th December for flowers to adorn our Church this Christmas

Daily Prayer For The Holy Souls

Immortal God, holy Lord, Father and Protector of all You have created,
we raise our hearts to You today for those who have passed
out of this mortal life. In Your loving mercy, Father of all,
be pleased to receive them in Your heavenly company,
and forgive the failings and faults they may have done
from human frailty.
Your only Son, Christ, our Saviour, suffered so cruelly
that He might deliver them from the second death.
By his merits may they share in the glory of His victory over sin
and death. For all the faithful who have died we pray,
but in particular for those dear to us, parents, relatives and friends.
nor do we forget all who did good to us while on earth,
who helped us by their prayers, sacrifice and example.
We pray also for any who may have done us harm,
and stand in special need of Your forgiveness.
May the merits and prayers of our Virgin Mother, Mary, and those
of all the Angels and Saints, speak for us and assist them now.
This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD GOD OF HOSTS
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY

5 Steps to prepare yourself for a Holy Advent

Ask God to help you draw nearer to Him.

The more we yearn for Christ in Advent, the closer we come to a real celebration of Christmas. Isn't that a common fear we have during Advent? That Christmas will come like it always does and we will be no better for it? There is much that might trouble our hearts this time of year: family issues, financial worries, the things we need to accomplish, etc. Where does Jesus fit in among these worries? Deep down inside, we Catholics know that we have a chance for transformation during Advent—but we often forget to ask for it in prayer. Let us ask God to help us prepare our hearts for His coming and to aid us in having a good and holy Advent. After all, it is what He longs for us, too.

Begin to practice silence

We all recognize the constant whir of music, technology, ringing phones, beeping notifications, and loud conversations within our lives. They follow us everywhere we go. We can point fingers of blame but often enough they will only end up pointing back at us. To live in this world is not only to exist amongst the noise but often to be that noise. While some intuitively know that silence is essential, knowing it and living it are two different things.

Gather your essential Advent items

By thinking ahead now and putting together a list of Advent supplies, we can ensure we have the right supplies when we need them.

Prioritise

Preparing our homes is less important than how we prepare our hearts. Sometimes we worry needlessly about creating the perfect season for those around us, but the true purpose of any of our Advent customs (even those we never finish) is to "draw us into the mysteries of God." If we can recall this now, we will be less susceptible to the stress of the coming season.

Prepare for a good confession now.

The Church calls us to repentance during Advent, making it an important time to go to confession. Perhaps getting yourself and your family to confession can be your top priority this Advent. Readying ourselves for a good confession is as important as going to confession. Without proper preparation, we can miss those sins and imperfections that we should bring to The Lord or we can rush through the sacrament. If we make a good confession it will help us to realize how much we are in need of a Saviour!

Voices of Hope — an online Advent Retreat.

This Advent you are warmly invited to Voices of Hope, a four-session contemplative retreat with the men and women of Scripture who waited for Christ — Eve and Job, Ruth and David, Hannah and Isaiah, Simeon and Anna. Join the open online retreat on the Sundays of Advent (29 November – 20 December, 7:00–8:15pm), live on Zoom and recorded so you can catch up at any time. It is completely free to join; an optional donation supports the work. Offered by the Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality. Details and registration:

https://cacs.org.uk/voices-of-hope/

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GLORY, SHEPHERD, FOOD, FIRE, ANGELS, HERITAGE, STRANGER, DEVIL, THRONE, HUNGRY, CURSE, VIRTUOUS



Please remember in your prayers



Baby Polly Phillips, Matthew & Duncan Graham,
John D., Mary McGinty, Regina Elliot,
Francesca Adams, Mary Hall, Michael Power
Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling, Kate Cradock,
Alex Smith, Jonathan & Lindy Wiltshire,
Simon Wilder, Mary Sturgess, Theresa Davies,
Flavia Stampa Gruss, Kay Hulbert, Pam Barbour,