



OUR LADY & ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER
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 Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Damian Nwankwo
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 The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.
 Registered Charity No. 234216
 "The visit of the Magi". Matthew 2:1-12 Psalter Week 2

Pope's intention for January: For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church; Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord January 6th – 7th January 2024

Sat 6 January	Vigil for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Parish Maintenance Collection		5.30 pm Mass: Jim Jennings RIP
Sun 7 January	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Parish Maintenance Collection		10.00 am Mass + online via Zoom Pat Fyfe RIP
Tue 9 th Jan	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am	Celebration of the Word & Communion
Fri 12 th Jan	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.30 am	Celebration of the Word & Communion
Sat 13 th Jan	Vigil for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Second Collection for Pax Christi.		5.30 pm Mass: Saturday 13th January Divine Healing on Maureen Walsh Michael Walsh and Peggy Lennon
Sun 14 th Jan	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Second Collection for Pax Christi		10.00 am Mass + online via Zoom

Message from Fr Damian: The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to all people, as told in the Gospel of Matthew through the visit of the wise men.

The story of the magi carries with it an extraordinary richness. In it, Matthew teaches us about the mission of the Son of God. Jesus is 'made manifest' as Messiah not only for his own people but for those who come 'from the east', for all the peoples of the earth. At the same time, this is the Messiah heralded by the prophets, and so the Scriptures are fulfilled.

Jesus is born into danger, as the cruel tyrant, 'Herod the Great', is the first to threaten his life, a foretaste of what is to come. The presentation of gifts from the people of the world completes the Christmas scene. The magi represent the nations, but also the age-old search among the peoples of the earth for true wisdom. This wisdom is found in Christ.

Fr Damian's Silver Jubilee Year and Holidays: Fr Damian will be returning home tomorrow to Nigeria. Later in the month, he will celebrate the observance of the start of his Silver Jubilee of Ordination year with his fellow seminarian class and his diocesan Bishop. He will take his holidays with his family while away. He will return in mid-February. Please pray for him as he starts his Jubilee Year. Cover has been arranged for our Saturday and Sunday Masses. We will have a Celebration of the Word & Communion on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 9.30 am.

For any urgent pastoral issues please contact Fr Patrick Mileham at St Mary Immaculate, Warwick 01926 492913 Or email the parish email olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk.

Prayer Intentions: We pray for all on our parish sick list and for those who care for them, May Christ be near them to bless them and keep them. We pray for our recently departed, especially Helena Astle, and Fr Chris Greaney who passed away in the week, for Joy Gough, and Pat Fyfe who died recently and for our parish anniversaries, Jim Jennings, Mark Hampton, Margaret Edwards, Margaret Jones, John Connell, Paul Lavelle, Percival Moulder, James McKeever, Edwin Harrop, Rose Reilly, Gordon Hall, Edward Hollywood, and Bridget Gamble, may we all be reunited in the Kingdom of God.

Parish Maintenance Collection: This weekend we are having our Parish maintenance fund collection, which we are hoping to repeat on the First Sunday of every month, this fund helps us to maintain our Church, Chapel and Cemetery. Please help donate if you can.

Christmas Tree Collection for the Stratford Foodbank: Our Christmas tree gifts this year will be used to support the work of the Stratford Foodbank. In the last three months of 2023, they have fed 845 adults and 481 children. 11,934 meals. That is a 23% increase in the number of meals in the same three months from 2022! Please support us with anything you can spare. Your donation will help them support families in our local community who are left with no other option but to go without food and other essential items.

The “100 Club”: The 3 lucky winners in our December draw shared £237 prize money. We still have more numbers available. The available numbers are listed next to the 100 Club box at the back of the church. Please sign against a number and complete the forms with bank details or a cheque and pop it in the 100 Club Box. Once again, thank you for your continuing support and encouragement. For any queries, please contact Annette Howell at 07771847214 or email netandsteve@gmail.com.

Second Collection 13th – 14th January Pax Christi: *Pax Christi – the Peace of Christ* – This international movement for Peace is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. It is the vision of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in any form. Pax Christi is rooted in Catholic Christianity but is open to all who share its values and work for Peace, Reconciliation and Non-violence.

Missio Red Boxes. Can you please return your box as soon as possible? If you would like a box to collect for the Holy Father’s Missionary Society, please contact Mary Clarke at 01564 795396.

Pat Fyfe RIP: Pat passed away on 9th December after a short illness. She was a big supporter of the Parish in her work for Missio and as part of the prayer and rosary group. Her interment will be at Robin Hood Crematorium on Friday 19th January at 1.00 pm.

Safeguarding Information From The Archdiocese Office: Our Lady and St. Benedict’s parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Catherine Treacy. She can be contacted at: sg.olasb.woottonwawen@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted at 0121 230 6240 safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Birmingham Archdiocese Link: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/

Warwick Deanery Website: www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk/

Follow the Readings at Mass: www.universalis.com/mass.htm / or www.alivepublishing.co.uk/

Archdiocese of Birmingham Vision: *“Our Vision is to be a Catholic Diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour”.*

Archbishop Bernard’s Christmas message: please follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfzC56Llus>