*Welcome to St Andrew’s,*

*the Parish Church for Birchills and Reedswood*

**Sunday 15th December 2019**

**The Third Sunday of Advent**

**10.30 am Sung Mass**

**Hymns at Mass:**

Processional: 851

Gradual: 100

Offertory: 102

Communion: 965

967

Recessional: 983

God’s word for us today:

*The references for the readings are given overleaf, together with the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation in full.*

**Times of Masses this week:** *(Psalter week 3)*

*Morning Prayer is said before all morning Masses.*

Monday: **8 am**

Tuesday: 10 am

Wednesday: 7.30 pm (Evening Prayer 7.15 pm)

Thursday: 8 am

Friday: 10 am

Saturday: 9 am (St Peter Canisius)

**Next Sunday 22nd December 2019**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**10.30 am Sung Mass**

**Saints of the Week:**

**Saturday: St Peter Canisius** was born in Holland in 1521 and joined the Society of Jesus. He worked in Germany and Austria fighting to safeguard the Catholic faith by his writings and teachings. His most famous book is his “catechism”.

There are few Saints commemorated this week, as on Tuesday 17th we move into the second part of Advent, with the prayers and readings at Mass concentrating more on our preparations for celebrating the Saviour’s birth. The antiphons each evening at Evening Prayer, before and after the Magnificat, are the great O antiphons, “O Emmanuel”, etc, which are used in the hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel, which we shall sing next week.

**The Departed:**

**Recently dead:** Sheila Bakewell *(Requiem Mass Monday 23rd December, 1 pm in church, followed by committal at Streetly Crematorium at 2.30 pm)*

**Years’ Mind:** *we pray for those whose anniversaries fall about now:* John Flavell; Albert Sheldon; Anthony Lefevre; Elizabeth Sheldon; Kathleen (Kate) Read; Michael Houghton, Bishop; and John Harris.

**Prayer Intention for the month of December (Month of the Advent):**

**Universal: the Future of the Very Young: that every country take the measures necessary to prioritise the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.**

**Prayer Intentions for this week:**

Sunday: the people of the parish; Bishop Jonathan;

Monday: the Prime Minister and Government, especially those with new responsibilities

Tuesday: the sick, disabled and housebound

Wednesday: Members of Parliament

Thursday: that our hearts may be ready to welcome the Saviour anew at Christmas

Friday: children, teachers and school staff as term ends

Saturday: the European Union and our future relationships with it

**Rotas:**

**Welcomers:** today Mandy and Amy

Next Sunday Mary and Ray

**Readers** today: Rebecca and Angie

Next Sunday: Sheila and Ray

**Intercessor:** today Paul; next Sunday Joanne

**Eucharistic Ministers:**  today Margaret +1

Next Sunday: Ray and Jan

**Church Cleaning:** 16th December; Margaret and Mary

**Flowers**: there are no flowers in church during Advent.

**Notices**.

**Today Sunday** 15th we need a few volunteers after Mass please to help put up and decorate the **Christmas tree**!

**Gift Day**: Many thanks to all who contributed. Total amount raised is not yet available.

**Reedswood Academy**: KS1 pupils are coming to church for their Christmas concert tomorrow (Monday) at 9.30 am. Mass is at an earlier time because of this.

**Birchills C of E Community Academy**: children from Birchills will be in church for their Christmas services on Thursday this week (19th); KS1 at 9.30 am and KS2 at 1.30 pm. All welcome.

**Advent Course**: we shall watch the last episode of “Broken” followed by a short discussion of the issues raised, on Wednesday (18th December) after Evening Mass. No Thursday afternoon session this week.

**Carol Singing at Sainsbury’s:** next Sunday 22nd December between 2 and 4 pm. Please come and join us and help raise money for Acorns Children’s Hospice.

**Christmas Services**: Midnight Mass Tuesday 24th at 11.30 pm; Christmas Day Mass at 10 am (no evening Mass).

**Patronal Festival** at St Stephen’s, Hilton Street Wolverhampton, Thursday 26th at 10.30 am, Preacher the Bishop of Lichfield. All welcome, mince pies and hot drinks afterwards.

Your Parish Priest: Fr Iain Templeton SSC

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