

St Bartholomew's Catholic Church

Fathers Deodat Msahala, Augustine Ghado & Deacon Ged Perkins

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Sunday 6th December 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Yr B)

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 6th December 2020

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

6.15pm (Saturday 5th December)

People of the parish.

8.30am Christy Nawrat RIP.

11.30am Gerard Kearney RIP.

5pm SVP intention.

2nd Week in Advent

Monday 7th December 2020

St Ambrose, Bishop and

Doctor of the Church (Memorial)

10am Thanksgiving & Special Intention
(Muoghalu family).

PVT – Intentions of George Cassar.

Tuesday 8th December 2020

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
(SOLEMNITY)**

10am Andrew Strain RIP.

PVT – Success of COVID vaccine.

Wednesday 9th December 2020

10am Ann Strain RIP

PVT – Ellis Foundation Mass.

Thursday 10th December 2020

10am – November Deceased List.

PVT - Thanksgiving & Special
Intention (Muoghalu family).

Friday 11th December 2020

10am Julie Lambert RIP.

PVT – The Holy Souls.

Saturday 12th December 2020

10am Margaret Strain RIP.

(Confessions follow until 11.30am)

Sunday 13th December 2020

Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Gaudete Sunday

6.15pm (Saturday 12th December)

Theresa Nestor RIP.

8.30am People of the parish.

11.30am Intentions of Bishop Patrick

Lynch, upon his retirement.

5pm Margaret Cregan RIP.

**Fr Augustine continues to record a
private Mass daily. He hopes to live-
stream Masses on YouTube very soon.**

Please go to: <https://bit.ly/35jyczn>

**For a list of parishes within this
Archdiocese broadcasting Masses,**

Please go to: <https://bit.ly/3c81Qsf>

LOCKDOWN IS OVER AT LAST!

Public Masses 10am (Mon – Sat).

Confessions every Saturday

after 10am Mass until 11.30am.

Sunday Masses - all except 10am.

Track & Trace Forms still apply.

Private prayer sessions have ceased.

Stewards will be on duty.

Please volunteer as a steward in order to help us avoid the need to cancel Masses. NHS & Public Health guidelines apply.

STANDING ORDERS & FINANCE

Please set up a Standing order if your financial circumstances allow. Those of you who received full boxes of envelopes will find inside a Standing Order Form. Standing Orders currently assure us of just **£750.00** per week (figure to be revised). Please contact the Parish Office for details of Standing Orders and to enquire about the Gift Aid Scheme, should you be a tax payer and be in a position to join.

Please see the Home Page of our Parish Web Site for details of how each of you can help to uphold parish finances, according to your personal means.

MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions may still be booked by phone, email or in writing.

A “November Deceased List” Mass will now be said once a month for all those named on lists enclosed in last month’s Holy Souls envelopes.

RETIREMENT OF BISHOP PAT

Bishop Pat has now retired, with the blessing of His Holiness the Pope.

Bishop Pat has provided tremendous support to all those parishes under his care, not least St Bartholomew’s, as the principal celebrant of Confirmation in particular. We all wish him sincere good wishes, love and prayers, and the best of health as he now rests from his many years labouring in the Lord’s Vineyard.

FATHER DEO IS BACK

Please note that, as per current COVID regulations, Father Deo will be self-isolating up to and including Monday December 14th 2020.

Our thanks to Fr Augustine for keeping things going, having only arrived just before Fr Deo went away.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL WHO ARE ILL AND/OR HOUSEBOUND

These include:

John Ambler, Jessica Anane,
Margaret Asubonteng-Mensah,
Juliette Blake, Alan Blaquiere,
Anita Blaquiere, Barry Breese,
Erna Breese, Frances Carter, Jean Cowie,
Reeda D’Souza, Audrey Draude,
Teresa Florek-Smail, Raffaella Forte,
Raffaele Forte, Giovanni Franco,
Rachel Gadd, Elaine Gunther,
Anna Harris, Agnes Healy, Jim Hughes,
Terry Jupp, Scarlett Kurowski,
Joseph Lunn, Elsie McCleave,
James McDonald, Elenor McLaughlin,
Otiss McLaughlin, Michael Madigan,
Ajitha Mahatantila, Gerard Mascarenhas,
Mary Meyern, Sheila Newman,
Mary O’Sullivan, Thomas Pereira,
Sheila Price, Tony Price, Parwar Saib,
Frederic Saint-Rose, Alice Scott,
Elizabeth Scott, Christine Shaughnessy,
Ronald Smail, Fr David Standley,
Jo Taylor, Edythe Thirlwall, Joe Vassallo,
Monica Vergara, Mary White,
Ethelda Williams, Carole Winch,
John Windsor, Charmaine Wise,
Margaret Worrell, Georgette Yoo Foo.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office is **closed**. It is being manned remotely, on an intermittent basis. Do keep in contact by phone, email or via the contact form on our parish web site. Please wait patiently for a reply.

ADVENT

This weekend, we light the second purple candle, representing faith. It is also known as the Bethlehem candle, in recognition of the journey made by Our Lady and St Joseph to Bethlehem. Last weekend, we lit the first purple candle, representing the Hope which Jesus brings to us, as we await His coming into our hearts at Christmas. Next Sunday is Gaudete Sunday. “Gaudete!” is Latin for ‘Rejoice!’ The Rose candle will be lit as we rejoice in anticipation of the birth of Christ. Once again, our thanks to Maria Newey for making our Advent wreath.

READINGS FOR MASS THIS SUNDAY

First Reading – (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11)

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare, in the wilderness, a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges, a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God’. Here is the Lord, coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast, and leading to rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

(Psalm 84:9-14 response v 8)

**R: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy,
and give us your saving help.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **R**
3. The Lord will make us prosper,
and our earth shall yield its fruit,
justice shall march before him,
and peace shall follow his steps. **R**

Second Reading – (2 Peter 3:8-14)

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that, with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then, with a roar, the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation – (Luke 3:4,6)

Alleluia! alleluia!

**Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!**

Gospel – (Mark 1:1-8)

The beginning of the Good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: ‘Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: ‘Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight’ and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Once we have formulated our plans for Masses over Christmas and New Year, we shall let you know. We expect to have Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve; however, as instructed by Archbishop John, there will not be a Midnight Mass on New Year’s Eve. We shall not be issuing a parish Christmas card this year, and we shall instead convey our greetings to you in the newsletter and, of course, on our parish web site.

2021 PARISH DIARY

Diaries are now available from the Repository. If you would like to get hold of one, we are not making a charge, but ask that you make an offering instead.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS TO OUR PRIESTS

As per tradition, your offerings at Christmas are your personal gift to our priests, Father Deo and Father Augustine. If you are a member of our Gift Aid Scheme, please use the dedicated envelopes from your boxes or packs. If you wish, you may make your Christmas Offering on line. You will find details on our web site. In order for us to claim Gift Aid, it is important that your Gift Aid number is quoted in the reference box on line.

As for our specially printed Christmas Offerings Envelopes, we have a very limited supply; these will be available from our stewards at Mass. If you are a Gift Aider, and you cannot locate your own numbered envelope, please be sure to write your Gift Aid number clearly on the Christmas Offering envelope. Should you have any queries about how to make your Christmas Offering, please seek guidance from the parish office.