

# St Bartholomew's Catholic Church

Father Deodat Msahala, Father Paul Ubebe OMV & Deacon Ged Perkins

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Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(YEAR B)

## Mass Times and Intentions:

*Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

GAUDETE SUNDAY

6.15pm (Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023)

Intentions of Candice Bartholomeusz

8.30am Stacey & Sanj Partinage

for a happy marriage

*(Coffee after this Mass)*

10am People of the parish

*(Coffee after this Mass)*

11.30am The Knights of St Columba,

Council 266, 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*(Plainchant) (Coffee after this Mass)*

2.30pm Polyphony Choir Carol Concert

**NB: No Benediction**

5pm Mary Davin RIP

## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

*Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (Feria)*

7.30am Kevin Higgins RIP

10am Hervé Yoo Foo RIP

*Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (Feria)*

**DAY OF PENITENCE**

7.30am Welfare of Iris Bryan

10am Intentions of Victoria Furtado

*Then Confessions all day, with*

*Adoration, until Benediction at 7.30pm*

*Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (Mem)*

7.30am Intentions of the Higgins family

10am Thanksgiving – Grenville Fernandes

*Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (Feria)*

7.30am Mario Rodrigues RIP

10am Pietro Mobile RIP

*Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 (Feria)*

7.30am Canon Frank O'Sullivan RIP

10am Francis Gracias RIP

*7pm – 9pm Youth Club in the hall*

*Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 (Feria)*

10am Raffaele Antonio Forte RIP

*Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B**

**Day of prayer for Expectant Mothers**

6.15pm (Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023)

Mary & Joseph Vassallo RIP

8.30am Delphine Desa (86<sup>th</sup> Birthday)

10am People of the parish

11.30am Intentions of Anita Blaquiere

**NB: No Benediction; No 5pm Mass**

**Also on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

## CHRISTMAS EVE

*6pm Children's Carols and nativity play*

*6.15pm Christmas Mass for children*

*11.30pm Carols with Polyphony Choir*

*12 Midnight Mass of Christmas*

## NORMAL WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**\*Mass: Monday to Friday 7.30am;**

**Monday – Saturday: 10am;**

**\*Confession: Saturday, after 10am Mass, until 11.30am then from 5pm – 6pm.**

**\*Sunday Masses: (Sat 6.15pm);**

**8.30am; 10am; 11.30am; 5pm.**

## Adoration & Benediction:

**Mon – Sat 9.30am**

**(First Friday after 10am Mass until 2pm)**

**\*Rosary: Monday – Saturday**

**after 10am Mass**

**Rosary & Benediction: Sunday 4pm**

***(Stations of the Cross during Lent)***

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK, THOSE UNDERGOING TREATMENT & HOUSEBOUND:

Jessica Anane,

Margaret Asubonteng-Mensah,

Juliette Blake, Alan Blaquiere,

Anita Blaquiere, Barry Breese,

Erna Breese, Agnes Buckley,

Philip Chapman, Gerard Cowie,

Jean Cowie, John DeWaal, Audrey Draude,

Terry Folorunso, Raffaella Forte,

Giovanni Franco, Rachel Gadd,

Anna Harris, Agnes Healy,

Fr Michael Jones, Terry Jupp,

Fr Louie Kitt, Scarlett Kurowski,

Dorothy Lentini, Philomena Lopez,

James McDonald, Elenaor McLaughlin,

Otiss McLaughlin, Andrew McMillan

Margaret McSharry, Ajitha Mahatantila,

Mary Meyern, Elsy Mickle,

Thomas Pereira, Terezinha Po,

Sheila Price, Angel Rojas, Parwar Saib,

Frederic Saint-Rose, Alice Scott,

Elizabeth Scott, Peter Sequeira,

Christine Shaughnessy, Fr David Standley,

Jo Taylor, Edythe Thirlwall,

Monica Vergara, Michael Wemambu,

Mary White, Ethelda Williams,

Carole Winch, John Windsor,

Charmaine Wise, Fr Alfred Xuereb SJ,

Georgette Yoo Foo.

## OUR ADVENT WREATH

This weekend, Gaudete Sunday, we light the rose candle on our Advent Wreath.

This candle represents the joy brought by the coming of Jesus.

## PARISH OFFICE

The office is now closed, reopening on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024. It may take longer than usual for us to respond to any communications received.

## FREE COFFEE MORNING TODAY

The Knights of St Columba, (KSC) Council 266, invite you to join them in the hall **today**, after all morning Masses, to celebrate their **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**.

## CHURCH CLEANING NEWS

Thanks to last weekend's recruitment drive, we now have 15 cleaners! What a great result! Our thanks to those who came forward to join our team.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

**Basket: £877.09:**

**(Gift Aid: £326.10; Non-G/A: £550.99)**

**Plus Standing Orders: £708.00**

## BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

The next one will take place at **8pm on Wednesdays 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

Please complete a Baptism Details Form **in full** and return it to the Parish Office.

**NB: You need to attend both sessions.**

## INDOOR CHRISTMAS TREE

We are grateful to the anonymous person who has, once again, supplied us with a Christmas tree for inside the church.

Our thanks also go to those who have decorated the church and the tree, and set up the crib in the Sacred Heart niche.

## OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS TREE

Our external tree is in place, and has been lit as a beacon for the local community.

Our particular thanks to those who braved the elements to put up the lights!

## CHRISTMAS AT ST BART'S

Please take a Parish Christmas Card, still available in all porch areas. These cards carry Christmas wishes from our clergy, and contain details of all Masses and services from now, right through to the New Year.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

By tradition, your offering at Christmas is your personal gift to our priests, Father Deo and Father Paul. Please take a special envelope, in which you may enclose your offering. Members of the Gift Aid Scheme may write their Gift Aid number in the box provided.

Alternatively, they may wish to use the Christmas Day envelope from their personal set of Gift Aid envelopes, many of which remain uncollected.

### THE SYNOD PRAYER

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gifts of  
our priests; help them to be strong in their vocation and  
become instruments of your love and grace.

Send your Holy Spirit to give courage and guidance  
to all those you are calling to the priesthood,  
diaconate and religious life in our Archdiocese. May  
those called hear your voice and respond wholeheartedly  
to become the person you created them to be.

Heavenly Father, form us all in the likeness of your Son,  
Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd,  
so that we may love you more deeply and  
serve you more faithfully.

We ask this through Christ, Your son,  
the Eternal High Priest. Amen.

### THE RETURN OF THE FAMILY CHOIR

Organist, Louis Pearson, is planning to restart the Family  
Choir. This choir has not been active for several years, and  
has been greatly missed. Handouts are available in the porch  
areas. Please contact Louis to register your interest:

[Louispearson1992@live.com](mailto:Louispearson1992@live.com) or call 07931 792254.



### CHILDREN'S LITURGY NATIVITY TABLEAU

Today, Sunday, is the closing date for those wishing their  
children to take part next Saturday evening. Please contact  
Linda Harries: [l.harries@gmail.com](mailto:l.harries@gmail.com) or on 07770 623230.

### A THOUGHT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

When seeing life through the eyes of the news media, one may  
well feel tempted to despair. In contrast to that view, today is,  
for us, *Gaudete* (rejoicing) Sunday. The **Entrance Antiphon**  
(*Philippians 4: 4-5*), "**Rejoice in the Lord always...the Lord is  
near**", the rose-coloured Advent Candle and Father's vestments  
remind us that, amidst the trials and tribulations of life and the  
penitential purple of Advent with its imperative to be cleansed of  
our sins, we must also look with joyful hope towards not only  
our celebration of the arrival of the promised Saviour two  
thousand years ago but also, the day when "**Christ will come  
again**" as our Loving and Merciful Judge. On that day,  
the ravages of sin will be swept away, and perseverance in  
faithfulness to God will carry us into Heaven!

**Isaiah (61:1-2, 10-11)** rejoices in the Good News he is called to  
bring of Christ's coming to heal the wounds of Original Sin,  
news which moves him to "**...exult for joy in the Lord.**"

Through the **response to the Psalm (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54,**  
**response Isaiah 61:10)** "**My soul rejoices in my God**", we  
join in with Our Lady's joyous Magnificat, a hymn in praise of  
God, uttered in response to her cousin, Elizabeth's, praise of  
"**... she who believed...**" in the Father's promise of a Saviour.

**Saint Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)** exhorts his readers to  
constant prayer of petition and thanks, to "**Be happy at all  
times...hold on to what is good and avoid...evil...**"

with the salutary reminder that, in order to be fit for Heaven,  
we must, "**...all be kept safe and blameless...**" Our efforts to  
prepare for Eternal Life will not go unrewarded by God.

Following the **Alleluia verse (Isaiah 61:1)** we then hear in the  
**Gospel (John 1:6-8, 19-28)** from the last of the Prophets,  
Saint John the Baptist, who is to announce Christ to the waiting  
people, calling them to, "**Behold the Lamb of God!**"

As we shall recall, John the Baptist, being unencumbered by  
so-called 'Political Correctness', was to shed his blood as a  
witness to the Truth. Throughout the history of the Church, we  
hear of many who laid down their lives rather than deny God.

Among them is Saint Thomas More, to whom we should pray  
earnestly for our politicians. As regular news reports testify, this  
list of Martyrs for the Faith is still growing! Tragically, some of  
their killers seem to believe that they are doing God's Will!

We each need to examine our conscience and see where *we* stand  
when, in the media, out and about, at work or even among  
friends and Family, we may hear the Church's Teachings  
'watered down' or opposed outright. Today, one may not, in this  
country, lose one's life, but one's livelihood or freedom might  
well be at stake if one stands up, for instance, for God's  
Created Order! Living according to our Faith and, in charity,  
correcting error might even, alarmingly, see us accused of being  
in breach of the laws of the land! Our Holy Father,  
though, has made our duty abundantly clear to us!

Just in case we feel unsure as to how to tackle such issues, here  
is another book well worth adding to your Catholic library. It is  
called "**A Shepherd Speaks**", written by Fabian Bruskewitz,  
Bishop Emeritus of Lincoln, Nebraska. This book is published  
by Ignatius Press, a faithful Catholic publisher. It is, as the cover  
note by another feisty Catholic writer, Scott Hahn, says, about  
"**...the meaning of the Catholic faith in today's world and how  
to live it.**" Well recommended, and very readable.

**"Holy Michael, Archangel, defend us in the day of battle..."**