

Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Church
Priory Road, Alcester. B49 5DY

Parish priest: The Rt Reverend Geoffrey Scott, Abbot of Lindisfarne

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Masses are held in the Church, for exceptions see below.



1st December 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Parish Mass Book page 82

Unless otherwise stated the second collection is for the Parish Development Fund (PDF)

Next Sunday there will be a second collection for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese

Saturday Mass at 10:00am followed by Exposition and Confession.

Sunday Masses are at 08:30am and 10:30am

Monday Mass 2nd Dec 10:00am

Friday Mass 6th Dec 10:30am at Our Lady's Primary School, Alcester

Christmas Masses

Tues.24th Dec: 5:00pm

Tues.24th Dec: 8:00pm

Weds 25th Dec: 10:30am

Feast Days and Saints' Days this week:

- Tue: Migrant's day, St. Francis Xavier
- Wed: St. John Damascene
- Thu: St. Birinus
- Fri: St. Nicholas
- Sat: St. Ambrose

**The Pope's Prayer Intention for December:
For Pilgrims Of Hope**

Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith; helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

The Food Bank collection today. Particularly needed are tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, tinned custard, tinned rice pudding, Breakfast cereals, they would also welcome minced pies and sweets. Last month's weight was 82.2 kg, thank you for your continued generosity.

A basket is at the back of church for **Donations Towards Christmas Flowers** (and to top up the general flower fund). Please be generous. Thank you.

Volunteer Brass Cleaners are needed please, after 10:00 Mass on Friday 13th December, please bring soft clean polishing rags with you!

Final notice: The new Lectionary translation starts this Sunday! Today we start using the purple Year C Volume 1 Mass Books as Advent begins. The new translation means our legacy Parish Mass books may now have different English wording from the updated Lectionary in use on the Altar, although the original content & spirit of the scripture doesn't change. Ways to access the latest translation:

- **CTS Sunday Missal:** (available to order from Rosalind Marie at the piety stall or 07789 282 689) Red hardback £20. Presentation copy in a slip cover £30. Annual paperback £9.95/year
- **Universalis Website** free access on the day of Mass to the readings, responses, Gospel Acclamation: why not try it today? <https://universalis.com/europe.english.mass.htm>
- The **Universalis app.:** one off purchase from the app store for £9.99. This works off-line and the readings etc. for any Mass date can be accessed at any time.



Advent talks—a spiritual preparation for Christmas

These take place in the Meeting Room of the Hall each Tuesday 7pm-8pm, the next talks are on the 3rd, 10th and 17th December. Please park around the grass in front of the presbytery and church as there can be meetings in the Hall.

Piety Stall: Advent calendars and Christmas cards are now available. Have you and your families got your crib yet? They are also available along with other gifts. All profits go to Aid to the Church in need and the parish Development Fund. Thank you for your continued support.



Coffee Morning in memory of Lianne Abbott Sat. 7th December 10:00am – 2:00pm

Celebrate 25 years of the Shakespeare Hospice at Our Lady & St. Joseph Church Hall, Alcester, B49 5DY Hot drink and slice of cake for suggested donation of £5.

Contact Joan Abbott 07919 621208

Church Offertory

 Ways to contribute are as follows:

- Standing Order is our preferred method using the following details: Account name: Our Lady & St Joseph's RC Parish Alcester, Sort code: 40-43-54 Account: 11068687 Reference: your name.
- You can give cash at the collections in Mass, or use the Dona card reader machine in church.
- Our new Dona machine is being installed at church from Sunday 24th November. Unfortunately Donors will need to re-enter their gift aid declarations, but the advantages of the change is that we incur lower credit card fees and if there are any further internet problems the machine will store donation details for the next time it is online.

New Altar Servers

We still need new Altar Servers to join our team at both Masses. Training is available to anyone that has received their First Holy Communion. We are also happy to welcome servers that have previously been trained in other parishes. Please speak to Mike the parish MC after the Sunday 10:30 Mass or e-mail mike@catholicchurchalcester.org.uk

St Nicholas Night – Friday 6th December 5.00 – 8.00pm



Alcester Churches Together (of which Fr Geoffrey is the current Chair) traditionally have a presence at the St Nicholas Night Celebrations on 6th December. Thanks to Sara we now have a Christmas Tree for the ACT stall, we would also benefit if someone could lend us a gazebo for the evening. We also need volunteers to help us with a variety of tasks on the night. If you could help with any of these please contact Mike Bennett via mhsbennett@aol.com.

4.00 – 5.00 pm Help with setting up the gazebo, furniture and Christmas tree.

8.00 – 8.30 pm Help with taking down the gazebo and tree and returning furniture.

At least two volunteers to staff the stall during these shifts:

5.00 – 5.45 pm	5.45 – 6.30 pm	6.30 – 7.15 pm	7.15 – 8.00 pm
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The 'duties' of the volunteers will be to offer a smiling, welcoming face to passers-by and to encourage children (of all ages!) to write a short prayer on a star and hang it on the Christmas tree. Stars and pens provided. At the end of the evening the stars will be collected and sent to the 4 churches over the Christmas period. We'll also have a few spare chairs if any of the passers-by look in need of a rest! Volunteers are advised to wrap up warm and bring a hot flask! Obviously the other three member Churches of ACT (Anglicans, Baptists and Methodists) are also asking their congregations for help but it would be good to have a strong parish presence on St Nicholas Night as Fr Geoffrey is the current Chair. Many thanks for your kind help, Mike Bennett ACT parish rep.