
Franciscan of the Week: Blessed Mary Frances Schervier

Born into a wealthy family in Aachen, Germany, in 1819, Mary was the goddaughter of Emperor Francis I of Austria. When her mother died, Mary was just 16 but took on the role of mother in the household and quickly established a reputation for generosity towards the poor. In 1844 she became a secular Franciscan, and the following year she and four companions established a religious community devoted to caring for the poor. This group, known as the Sisters of the Poor of St Francis, is still active on the continent. It also gave birth to a second order, the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, who are active in several countries. Like St Francis and St Clare, Mary left behind a privileged background to live a simple life of prayer and service, work which continues today in her followers.



Focus on... John the Baptist

Each year on the second Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist comes into view. He announced the Lord with the words: "Behold the Lamb of God! Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world!" John prepared the hearts and minds of his listeners for the coming of the Messiah, and in this season he reminds us of the importance of spiritual preparation for the Lord's coming. What can we do to prepare our hearts for meeting the Lord? How can we get ourselves ready for Him? This is the challenge of Advent.



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MASSSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 87

Office: Psalter Week 2; Sundays: Year C; Weekdays: Week 2 of Advent, Year 1

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday 8 th Dec.	6pm (vigil)	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Special Intention (SC)
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 9 th Dec.	9:30am		Ints of Christine Troger
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	9:15am		Thanksgiving for the life of Thomas Merton
	5:15pm		<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm		Jeff Poole RIP
Wednesday	9:15am		George Oldcorn RIP
Thursday	9:15am	St Lucy	Iqbal Cecilia Gill RIP
Friday	12noon	St John of the Cross	Frank Machin RIP
Saturday 15 th Dec.	10am		Shirley Gilleade RIP
	6pm (vigil)	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Damian Kehoe RIP
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 16 th Dec.	9:30am		John Grace RIP
	6pm		Balasamy and Jacob RIP

LATELY DEAD: Please remember in your prayers **Frank Machin**, whose Requiem will take place at 12noon on Wednesday 19th December, all who have died recently.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7am-8am; Saturday 10:30am-12noon (for vocations).

Sundays 4-5pm during Advent, including sung Vespers and Benediction at 4:30pm.

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Monday-Friday at 7:45am during Advent.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 11am-12noon and on request.

ROSARY: Prayed after 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass. Mondays: Joyful; Wednesdays: Glorious; Thursdays: Luminous; Fridays: Sorrowful mysteries.

ST ANTHONY: December wall box donations go to the crib appeal.

ANNIVERSARIES: Ken Tuson, Evelyn Spiro, Muriel Hubbersty, Marie Hughes, Thomas Turberfield, Catherine Bradley, Margaret McGee, Mary Holland, Iqbal Cecilia Gill, Gerald Murphy, Richard Harvey, Vin Miller, Elizabeth Willacy.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: That people, who are involved in service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

ADVENT: A beautiful season of preparation for the Lord. Holy Hour each Sunday afternoon 4-5pm, and Morning Prayer Monday-Friday at 7:45am. Make some extra time of prayer this Advent to prepare spiritually for the Lord's coming.

RECONCILIATION: Don't forget to include confession as part of your spiritual preparation this Advent. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturdays, 11am-12noon, or by arrangement with Fr Andrew.

CTS BOOK CLUB: Meeting this Sunday at 7pm in the side chapel. We are discussing a booklet, 'Understanding the Story of the Bible', which takes us through the narrative of the Old Testament. All are welcome to come along.

HOME CRIB BLESSINGS: Tuesday 18th December at 7:30pm, bring your home crib to be blessed. Make sure Jesus is at the heart of Christmas in your home. If you don't have a crib for your home, it's not too late – try Covenant Books at Holy Family in Ingol (Thursday and Friday 10am-4pm and Saturday 10am-12noon) or have a look in the shops or online. There are cribs for all tastes and budgets!

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Many thanks to everyone who helped out with or came to the Christmas fair. We raised just over £1050 each for parish and school. Thank you!

'PORTIUNCULA' PARISH MAGAZINE: Free copies available in the narthex and hall. Maybe give a copy to a friend or neighbour as a way of inviting them to come to Mass at St Clare's this Christmas.

SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY: The infants at our primary school invite you to join them for their Christmas play, in the school hall this Tuesday at 2pm. All welcome.

CORPUS CHRISTI CHRISTMAS PARTY: 19th December, 12noon-2:30pm, Christmas dinner and entertainment for senior citizens. Sign up in the narthex (this weekend).

CENACOLO COLLECTION: This weekend. Please leave items at house porchway.

ASSISI PILGRIMAGE: We still have a small number of places available for this pilgrimage (27th May-1st June 2019). Twin/double rooms only. Speak to Fr Andrew.

LOVE NEEDS TO BE ORGANISED: A talk by former MP John Battle at Tabor, this Monday at 7:30pm. See poster in narthex. Free, but please book in advance by calling the Xaverian Mission Spirituality Centre on 717122.

IMAGINING THE NATIVITY: Beautiful audio reflections on the nativity, produced by Jesuit Ministries. Free download: www.pathwaystogod.org/imagining-nativity

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS: 'The true spirit of Christmas giving' brochures in the narthex.

CTFB CAROL SINGING: in RPH entrance, next Saturday, 2-4pm. All welcome.

LAST SUNDAY: At Mass: 471; Collection: £907.82; Poor Missions: £433.31. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Events this week (occasional/one-off events in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Cenacolo Collection	House porch
Sunday	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	4pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	4:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	Church
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
	7pm	CTS Book Club	Chapel
Mon-Fri	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	6:15pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	2pm	Infant Nativity Play	School
	6pm	Journey in Faith Group	Chapel
	7:30pm	Prayer Group	Chapel
Wednesday	9:45am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Narthex
	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
	8pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Chapel/Narthex
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Saturday	8:30am	Pilates	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class	Parish Hall
Sunday	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	4pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	4:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	Church

Advance Diary Dates

Wednesday 26th December: Altar servers' Mass for St Stephen's Day, 10am

Sunday 30th December: Stations of the Crib, 3pm

Tuesday 1st January: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Mass at 12noon

Christmas Mass Times

Vigil Mass: Christmas Eve at 6pm

Midnight Mass, preceded by readings and carols from 11:30pm

10am on Christmas Morning

Please be aware that the vigil Mass is likely to be very busy. Why not consider coming to celebrate at Midnight or on Christmas morning? As Bishop Paul reminded us last week, let's make Mass the centre of our Christmas celebrations.