



The Catholic Parishes of St. Joseph, St. George and Our Lady Queen of Peace

These Parishes are part of the archdiocese of Birmingham, Registered Charity No: 234216
Parish Office – 2 Sansome Place, Worcester, WR1 1UG (Car Park WR1 1UT)
Website www.catholicworcester.co.uk and on Facebook & YouTube as Catholic Worcester

Donations to St. Georges's QR Code

THE MONTH OF DECEMBER IS DEDICATED TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Donations to OLQP QR Code



Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday Cycle A

21st December 2025 – Psalter Week 4

*Pope's Prayer Intention for December: For Christians in areas of conflict
Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East,
may be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.*



Parish Office
Open 9am-3pm Mo,Tu,Th,Fr
stgeorge.worcester@rcaob.org.uk
Telephone No: 01905 963 712
Parish Centre Bookings –
centre.stgeorge.worcester@rcaob.org.uk
07392 575696
Parish Priest
Very Rev Canon John Y Batthula
canonjohn.batthula@rcaob.org.uk
Assistant Priests
Father Balaswamy Dumpala
fr.balaswamy.dumpala@rcaob.org.uk
Mgr. Patrick Kilgarrieff (retired)
Parish Permanent Deacons
Rev Tony Hartshorn
Rev Paul O'Connor
Rev Kevin Gowdy
Rev Krzysztof Wasilewski
Rev Andrew Foster
Rev Antony Hartley
Rev Reginald Lewis (retired)
Rev Chris Blackman (retired)
Parish Admin. Simon Broadbent
Health & Safety
hs.stgeorge.worcester@rcaob.org.uk
Primary Schools
St George's Catholic Primary School –
01905 25841
geo_office@emmausmac.com
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic
Primary School–
01905 421409
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St Joseph's Catholic Primary School -
01905 452772
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Archdiocese of Birmingham:

“Our Vision is to be a Catholic Diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour”.

Safeguarding:

Our Parishes operate in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance & the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parishes Safeguarding Representatives are

Emma Raine:

sg.stgeorge.worcester@rcaob.org.uk

Sam Rudd:


sg.olqp.worcester@rcaob.org.uk

TBC:

sg.stjoseph.worcester@rcaob.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Team:

They can be contacted if you have any concerns on 0121 2306240
or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk

DATE	CHURCH	TIME	INTENTIONS (or Event Description)	FEAST DAYS
SAT 20 th Dec	St G	11.00 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	
Vigil Mass	St G	12.30 pm	Lisamma Jose RIP	Fourth Sunday of Advent 
Vigil Mass	OLQP	6 pm	Marg Mattox	
SUN 21 st Dec	St G	8.45 am	Michael Kelly RIP (Anniv. 22/12)	
	OLQP	9 am	Pro Populo	
	St J (Warndon)	10.30 am	Frances Hendrie 90 th Birthday (18/12)	
	St G	11.00 am	Mirek Szymczak RIP	
	OLQP	12.15 pm	Polish Mass	
	St J (Warndon)	5.30 pm	Gloria Hall RIP / Fiona Clarke RIP & All Souls	
MON 22 nd Dec	St G	10 am	Thanksgiving	Advent FERIA
	St G	7 pm	Advent Penitential Service & Individual Confessions <i>Celebrate this wonderful sacrament with visiting priests</i>	
TUE 23 rd Dec	St G	10 am	John Halpin RIP	Advent FERIA
	St G	7.30 pm	Holy Mass Growing in Holiness	
WED 24 th Dec	St J (Warndon)	4.30 pm	Gincy Jose - Thanksgiving	Vigil of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve)
	OLQP	6 pm	Peter Kersley	
	St G	6.30 pm	Thanksgiving	
	St J (Warndon)	7.30 pm 8 pm	Carols (at 7.30 pm) followed by Mass for Marie & David Fletcher and the Coulter & Fletcher Families	
	OLQP	8.30 pm 9 pm	Carols (at 8.30) followed by Mass for Michael Callanan	
THU 25 th Dec	St G	11.30 pm Midnight	Carols (at 11.30pm) followed by Mass for Pro Populo	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)
	St G	8.45 am	SVP Clients Intentions	
	OLQP	9 am	Deceased members of the Burns & Jerstice Families	
	St J (Warndon)	10.30 am	Frances Hendrie - Christmas Mass for Mother at 90	
	St G	11 am	Duffy Family	
	OLQP	12.15 pm	Polish Mass	
FRI 26 th Dec	St G	11.30 am	Christopher Moxon RIP - 1st Anniv Mass including renewal of Altar Servers commitment	Feast of St Stephen, the First Martyr
SAT 27 th Dec	St G	11.00 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions	
Vigil Mass	St G	12.30 pm	John Halpin RIP (9th Anniv)	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Vigil Mass	OLQP	6 pm	Mrs Ann W. - for successful surgery	
SUN 28 th Dec	St G	8.45 am	The Walters Family	
	OLQP	9 am	Eduardo Gomes RIP & Gabriel Romos RIP	
	St J (Warndon)	10.30 am	Vijay Kumar RIP	
	St G	11 am	Pro Populo	
	OLQP	12.15 pm	Polish Mass	
	St J (Warndon)	5.30 pm	Conor Gearty RIP	

The Rosary is prayed from 9.30am before the 10am Weekday Masses at St. George's.

Tea and Coffee at St. George's and Our Lady's after the Sunday Morning Masses



PLEASE PRAY FOR: The Sick and Housebound of the three parishes. We include those in hospitals, nursing homes and their own homes.

The Recently Baptised:

The Recently Deceased:

Clergy Anniversaries incl: Bishop Francis Thomas – Ninth Bishop of Northampton, Mgr Canons Thomas Gavin, William Flint, Mgr Patrick

O'Mahoney, Canon Gerald Breen, Revs Patrick Wall, Thomas N Meagher, Anthony Ireland, Denis Murphy, Colum McCabe, James McInerney, David O'Callaghan

Parish Anniversaries incl: Rev Brian Doolan (former Parish Priest), Frederick Woods, Silvio Annese, Catherine Wild, Mary Finch, Betty Stoker, Teresa Rickards, Ronald Burton,

Our Lady, Health of the sick, Pray for them ✠

Welcome to the family of Christ. ✠

May they rest in peace ✠

May they rest in peace ✠

May they rest in peace ✠

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First reading

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive.'

Isaiah 7:10-14

In those days: The Lord spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R cf. 6

Second reading

'Jesus Christ, descended from David, Son of God.'

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and they shall call his name Emmanuel — which means, God with us. **Alleluia**

Gospel

'Jesus was born of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David'

Matthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' — which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



THE ORDER OF MASS

Priest In the name of the Father....
People **Amen**

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And with your spirit.**

Penitential Act

People: **I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God**

Gloria

Priest: Glory to God in the highest,
People: **and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

After the first and second readings

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God**



The Gospel Acclamation is:
Alleluia

Before the Gospel reading

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with your spirit.**
Priest A reading from the holy Gospel according to.....
People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the Gospel reading

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Profession of Faith

THE NICENE CREED

People: **I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Bidding Prayers

People: **Lord, hear our prayer**



People: **Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Priest Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

People: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Holy Church.**

Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right and just.**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Everyone: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Memorial Acclamation

Priest: The mystery of faith.

People: ONE OF THESE:

- A **We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.**
B **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**
C **Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.**

Doxology and Great Amen

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

People **Amen**

Priest At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say: **Our Father, who art in heaven,....**

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,

People: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

Rite of Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People **And with your spirit.**

Deacon or Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of Peace

To each other: Peace be with you

Breaking of Bread / Lamb of God

People: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (2)**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him.....

People: **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Concluding Rites

Blessing - Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And with your spirit**

Dismissal - Deacon or Priest: Go forth the Mass is ended
People: **Thanks be to God**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Lectio Divina (Zoom meeting)	Mondays from 7.00pm to 7.40pm - Meeting ID: 91915833192 - Passcode: 6ukZCd
Knights of St. Columba	7.30pm for 8pm Start - Wed 13/1, 16/2, 4/3
Catholic Worcester Youth Group	Sunday 1 st February at 5.30pm in St George's Parish Centre
University Students Meeting	Sunday, 8th February 2026
Sung Vespers	First Sunday of each month at 5pm at St George's Church (1 st February 2026)

****EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ST GEORGE'S PARISH CENTRE BOOKINGS****

centre.stgeorge.worcester@rcaob.org.uk

PARISH GIVING –

Ideally please arrange a regular payment by **Monthly Standing Order** through your bank to:
 Acc 07099460, Sort 55-81-36, RCA of Birmingham St George's Worcester
 Acc 06477135, Sort 55-81-57, RC Parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace Worcester
 Acc 07010745, Sort 55-81-36, RCA of Birmingham St Joseph Warndon Worcester
 and if you are a UK income or capital gains tax payer then please sign a **Gift Aid**
Mandate via the office. Alternatively give via the DONA machines in church, the QR
 code on the front of the Newsletter or the links below:

<https://donate.mydona.com/st-georges-catholic-church>

<https://donate.mydona.com/our-lady-queen-of-peace-worc>

Sun 14/12/25	Standing Orders	Offertory Collection	Second Collection	Dona Digital Collection Plate 1st + 2nd	Total
St. G	£ 365	£ 523	£ -	£ 497 + £ -	£ 1385
OLQP	£ 97	£ 277	£ -	£ 40 + £ -	£ 414
St. J	£ 160	£ 82	£ -	-	£ 242
<i>Thank you for your generosity.</i>					

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: There will be only one collection at all the Christmas Masses. This is a traditional offering to the priests ministering in the parish. You may give your offering via DONA Machine, or cheque made payable to "St George's Church" or use the Christmas envelopes or simply give cash through the offertory bags on the day.

GROWING IN HOLINESS

Next meeting: Tues 23rd December at 7.30pm at St. George's Church

"Advent of Grace: Preparing for Emanuel" - Holy Mass

*** All are welcome ***

A JOURNEY IN FAITH – RCIA – "Enquiry is a time of discovery"

If you are thinking of becoming a Catholic or simply want to know more about the Catholic Faith, you are welcome to join me on Thursday evening's at 7pm in our Parish Centre for 'A Journey in Faith' sessions.

The next session is on Thursday, 15th January in St George's Parish Centre

FIRST CONFESSIONS & FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS IN MAY 2026:

Enrolment forms for children in Year 3 and above are still available from the back of the Church, the parish office and the parish website. I look forward to welcoming you all.

WELCOMERS at St. George's: The Rota for the next few months is on the Red Notice Board at the back of the Church, please take a look and make a note of when you are on duty. I plan to have a meeting on Saturday 14th February at 10 am in Church, so that everyone knows what to do and how early you will need to arrive.

LITTLE SAINTS – OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE RC CHURCH

- Children's Liturgy at OLQP will take place as part of the 9am Sunday Mass Sunday 21st December. We are looking for some people who can help support the leader with Children's Liturgy. The leaders organise the resources and lead the sessions. If you are interested in supporting the leader and can help support once a month, please contact Gemma on 07584308173.

PARISH FAMILY MASS with Children's Liturgy at St. George's

- There will be Children's Liturgy at the 8.45 Mass every Sunday in Term Time starting in January.

BAPTISMAL COURSE IN 2026 At St George's Parish Centre - 10.15am

The course is for those who wish their children to be baptised in one of three Churches. Come along for the course and then fill out the necessary form and confirm the date.

Saturday 21st February - Saturday 21st March - Saturday 16th May

Saturday 12th September - Saturday 14th November

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING GROUP: I am looking for some of our parishioners to volunteer to form a Group to organise Social and Fundraising events to bring parishioners together and to raise funds for the parish as we will need raise a lot of money for the renovation of St George's church as well as to do some minor repairs at OLQP and St Joseph's. Please sign the list at the back of the Church with your details if you wish to volunteer. And thank you to those who have already put their name down.

ALTAR SERVERS: On Friday 26th December, we celebrate the feast of St Stephen, the Martyr. During 11.30 am Mass, all servers from our three Churches will renew their commitment and some of the servers will be presented with Guild of St Stephen's Medals. Mass is followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. New servers who have been serving regularly please contact one of the following people: **St Joseph's:** Deacon Kevin; **OLQP:** Deacon Tony and **St George's:** Jomin or Barry. All are welcome.

"DELEXI TE" (On Love for the Poor) is the first Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father Pope Leo VI. An inescapable challenge for the Church today. I am inviting people with interest to come along to the Centre to study the document and see how we can put it into practice. I will let you know the dates and times soon.

HEATHER DOWN & FAMILY would like to thank everyone who contributed to CAFOD at Kevin's Funeral. You raised over £800

ADVENT SOUPS for the ANGEL TREE PROJECT: Thank you to everyone who made soups, ate soups or simply made a donation. A total of £601 was raised to help buy Christmas presents for the children of prisoners in Long Lartin Prison

ADDITIONAL CLEANERS NEEDED AT OLQP CHURCH: A small friendly group in need of more volunteers. Materials provided. Contact Nicola on 07709 082 396

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

See the Christmas Mass schedule on the Front Page

NEW YEAR EVE

Wednesday 31st – Holy hour from 10.30 pm to 11.30 pm

Midnight Mas

NEW YEAR DAY

10 am – Mass at St George's Church

12 Noon – Mass at OLQP

6.00pm – Mass at St Joseph's

SATURDAY ALL DAY CAR PARKING -£3 One relatively easy source of fund raising over the years (and reliant on a small band of volunteers) has been All Day Saturday Car Parking at St. George's. The price for this will go up in the New Year to £3 (still excellent value compared to other City Centre Car Parks). Please consider using our handy car park when in town on Saturday and support our parish.

Advance Notice:

Lenten Reflections on three evenings at 7pm in St George's Church

Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th and Wednesday 26th March 2026

Lourdes Pilgrimage from 25th to 29th May 2026

£760 + single room supplement & luggage



Medjugorje Pilgrimage from 21st to 25th September 2026

£480 + single room supplement and luggage extra



Booking forms for both pilgrimages available from the back of the Church

Christmas Message

*On behalf of all clergy at Catholic Worcester, I am very happy to wish you all my **Prayerful Greetings** as we enter the Christmas Season. The story of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ is a reminder to us all that God came to live among us, to be close to us, and to save us from our sins. Jesus gave us himself as a gift to us. It is a story that still rings true today.*

As we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus, we remain eternally grateful to God for all the blessings, especially for the gifts of life, family, faith community, friends and neighbours. I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely as you have been such a blessing to our parish by being active and supporting us with your gifts of time, talents and timely financial help. My special gratitude goes to all the volunteers in our different ministries who do such a wonderful job in serving the various needs of our parish with much enthusiasm and commitment. I hope and pray that you will have a wonderful and blessed time during this Christmas Season. I wish you all a blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God bless you abundantly during this Christmas Season as well as during the New Year. Merry Christmas! God bless!

Canon John