

**Welcome to our worship today.** At 8.30am  
Sunday School starts in the Pastoral Centre.

**Opening Hymn 57** (*hymns at 10am only*)

**The Collect** (prayer for the day)

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

**First Reading** *Jeremiah 33.14-16*

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

**Second Reading** *1 Thessalonians 3.9-13*

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

<sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. <sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

<sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**Hymn 944** (3 times) then we repeat when the Sunday School goes out after the Gospel. We offer two groups for younger and older children.

**Gospel** *Luke 21.25-36*

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>25</sup>'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' <sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the

kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, <sup>35</sup>and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

**Sermon** Canon Janet and Anne Pycock

**The Intercessions are led by**

8.30am Janice Wones

10am Mark Reynolds

**Offertory Hymn 405**

**Hymns** during communion 655, 265

**Post-Communion Prayer**

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Recessional Hymn 557**

**NOTICES**

4pm **TODAY** Advent Service (here) with Churches Together in Northfield.

The periodic **calendar** is out today and covers through to the New Year. It is Green

**Community Christmas** – St. David's will be hosting this year's Community Christmas. Could you offer any help with this event? If so please put your name on the appropriate sign-up sheet in the church. Numbers are needed **BY TODAY**. Also if you know of any people who might like to be invited please let us know their names and contact details so we can pass them on.

**Mothers Union Lunch and AGM.** Monday 3 December at 12.30pm in the Pastoral Centre. Please let Rowena know if you are attending.

**Church Choir** Rehearsals for the Carol Service are **TONIGHT** (Sunday) 7-8pm  
Monday 10 December 8-9pm  
Sunday 16 December at 2.30pm prior to the Carol Service at 4pm.

**Faith Discussion Group** led by Fr John, continues on Tuesday 7.30-9pm in the Pastoral Centre. Not too late to join! It is based on the Advent Themes – this week 'John the Baptist'

**PCC Meeting THURSDAY 6 December 7pm** in the Pastoral Centre (note change of date). Agenda has been e-mailed out.

**Quiz Night** on Saturday 8 December 7.30pm at The Pastoral Centre hosted by Mark Reynolds. Teams of up to 6 are invited at £2.50 per person, payable on the night. No need to pre-book; just turn up on the night and don't forget to bring your own drinks and food.

**Christingle** – We will be having Christingle services at both 8.30am and 10am on Sunday 9 December. We will be having a speaker from the Children's Society to talk about their work and how our donations would be spent. Please take a candle collection box or an envelope for your donations and bring to the Christingle service.

**CTiN Carol Singing in Costa Coffee** Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December: 11.30 – 12 noon and 1.45 – 2.15pm. We need about 6 people for each session – please sign up in the porch if you can help. Well known carols in aid of St Mary's Hospice.

**Afternoon Prayer and Reflection:** Spirituality is an important aspect of identity reinforced by familiar patterns of prayer and music. This short (15-20 mins), simple act of worship for everyone; especially those suffering from dementia and their carers. This will take place on the third Saturday of alternate months, **in church at 3.30 pm starting on 15 December** with an early celebration of Christmas joy. Please invite people to come and along, and join us yourself, to pray with and for those who find remembering and concentration difficult. There are invitations available. Fr David.

**Sunday 16 December 4pm** Carols by Candlelight

**YMCA Christmas Carol** service Monday 17 December 1.30pm-2.30pm at the YMCA 200 Bunbury Road. Light refreshment served after. Please sign up in porch so we can let YMCA know.

**Christmas Tree Appeal** – this year our charities are the Birmingham Diocesan Malawi Appeal and the Bible Society. From 9<sup>th</sup> December please give generously and place a bauble on our Christmas Tree.

**Would you like to know more** about the history of St Laurence Church and share it with others? Stuart Andrew is offering to share his enthusiasm and knowledge with others so that they offer **guided tours of the church**. Please contact the office or Stuart if you are interested.

**St. Laurence 100 Club.** Linda Orchard is stepping down from running the 100 Club, at the end of the year. We would like it to continue, so if anyone is

interested in running it, please contact Linda Orchard, Lorraine in the office or Roy Dutton.

**100 Club November winners** 1<sup>st</sup> Julie Meadows, 2<sup>nd</sup> Roger Bannister 3<sup>rd</sup> Randal Brew. Congratulations

#### **Thank You to:**

Rowena and her merry bunch of helpers who organised and helped run the amazing Christmas Fayre - nearly £2,000.00 raised which is fantastic

**Children's Society Collecting Boxes** Thanks to all who have returned their boxes to date... It would be appreciated if outstanding boxes could be returned as soon as possible please -ideally by 9 Dec

#### **Wrap up Brum**

If you have any spare coats and/or WOODEN hangers please drop them in at the collection hut in the Cathedral Grounds – the German Market has over-spilled into the grounds this year.

**Until Tuesday 4 December** donations to 589 UK Charities will be doubled through the BigGive Christmas Challenge – currently 8 Birmingham-based charities are listed...  
<https://secure.thebiggive.org.uk/christmas-challenge-2018#!/>

#### **Weekly events**

**'Stay and Play'** (Parent/carer & baby/toddler group)  
*Mondays in term time 9.30-11am. Pastoral Centre*  
**St. Laurence Community Choir in Church**  
*Monday's 6-7pm. for anyone who enjoys singing.*

**Gridiron Coffee Morning Pastoral Centre**  
*Tuesdays 10 – 11.30am. Coffee, Board Games & chat*

**Church Open** on Saturdays 10-11.30am. We have now joined the 'Places of Welcome' national scheme.

#### **For your prayers**

**Those who are ill** including: Richard Barber (Steph and all the family) and Prema Louis

**Those who have died:** Jean Margaret Hadley, Raymond Evans.

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#### **Baptism & Wedding Enquiries**

Please come to Parish Surgery Wednesdays  
5.45 – 6.30pm in the Pastoral Centre  
173 Church Road, Northfield, B31 2LX

#### **Contact Details**

Parish Office – [stlaurence@btconnect.com](mailto:stlaurence@btconnect.com)  
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Associate Priest - [david.pycock@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:david.pycock@blueyonder.co.uk)  
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