



St Catherine of Siena

St Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Reflection: Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas. We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic Law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God. <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>.

Please Pray for the Sick: Mary Lamberth, Yoland Rahim, Clement Akujiobi, P J Tunney, Veronica Ugo, Lily Rahim, Patrick O'Reilly, Trisha Weldon, John Curry, Pat Hillman, Clément, Trish, Teresa and Masie.

Please also pray those who have died recently and all the Souls of the faithful departed.

Sat	21/12	5.30 pm	Vigil of Mass of Sunday	Liam Duffy (RIP)
Sun	22/12	11 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Fr. Peter Kelly (RIP)
Tues	24/12	5:30 pm 11:30 pm	Children's Mass Christmas Eve Vigil	Noel Akujiobi Parish Intention
Wed	25/12	11 am	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord	Liam Duffy
Sat	28/12	5.30 pm	Feast of Holy Innocent	Emmanuel Izamoge
Sun	29/12	11 am	Feast of Holy Family	Parish Intention
Wed	01/01	11 am	New Year Mass	Deceased Regan, Greene & Beggan Families

Parish Lottery Draw Held on the 15th December 2019: Winning Numbers are: 1st Prize :13, 2nd Prize 31, 3rd Prize 45. All Winners will be contacted

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RICA): The Next RICA programme will be Thursday 09/01/20 @ 7:30 pm in the church. Please email the office @ stcathsiena@gmail.com details about the RICA programme.

Baptism Preparation Course The next courses will be held on Friday; 10th January 2020 @ 7 pm in the Lady Chapel. Before attending the course please email the office @stcathsiena@gmail.com for a form which you should complete and return.

Many thanks to everyone for your cards, gifts, and good wishes at Christmas. A big thank you to all Parish council members, our ministers, choir and volunteers who do a great job contributing to the life of our parish. Please continue to do this in the New Year. Thanks to all our children who help on the altar.

Glory to God in the Highest! Jesus is King. May the blessings of God's special gifts be yours this Christmas and in the New Year. Amen

Fr. Mario and Fr. Subbo

