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**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12

**Response to the Psalm:** The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

**Second reading:** Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed by the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** John 1:1-18



**Dear Parishioners**

The Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us.' 2,000 years ago God spoke his Personal Word into the midst of human history. This is a Word of teaching: Jesus is our New Law, the Pattern we are to follow. But it is more: it is a Word of friendship. God has shared himself with us, sent us his understanding of his own self. 'The only Son, who is in the Father's bosom, he has made him known.' God has expressed himself to us as completely as we can take in while still on pilgrimage. He has spoken grace, personal love; he has spoken truth in the sense of loyalty.

John tells us that Jesus came with life and light, love and truth – also that 'the Light shines in the darkness.' His Gospel records how Jesus 'came to his own home,' came back to Judaea where he had been born, and the local authorities killed him. They exemplify the mystery of evil, the world's strange fear in the presence of Love. They stand for the willingness to destroy Life, the warped priorities that cannot cope with Truth, the repeated attempts of darkness to extinguish the Light, all of which must fail, for 'the darkness has not mastered it' – neither understood it, nor defeated it. Instead, the Light has defeated the darkness!

John saw him do it: 'We have beheld his glory' means 'I saw him on the Cross.' That was when God's love was spoken persuasively enough to conquer fear, God's loyalty was uttered powerfully enough to draw us to his heart.

St Paul says God the Father chose us in Christ: in Christ, the Eternal Wisdom, he conceived of us as his work of art, his new creation – but also as his friends. So in Jesus, God spoke to us: spoke himself, spoke his friendship, the kind of friendship that can lay down its life, and by doing so invite and attract us into becoming God's personal friends.

**God Bless,  
Fr. Benedict OSB**

# St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

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Registered Charity Number 1063237

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and served by the Benedictine Monks of Douai Abbey

**Parish Priest: Fr. Benedict Thompson O.S.B**

**Rev. Deacon Peter Griffiths**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas (C)**

**Week commencing Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022**

**Parish Safeguarding: Mrs. Helen Woodhouse**

Contact in confidence [sg.stmary.studley@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmary.studley@rcaob.org.uk)

### Masses

|                            |     |                                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan.   | 5pm | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas (C)</b> | Mick Wall RIP                        |
| Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan.   |     | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas (C)</b> | People of the Parish                 |
| Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan.   |     |                                                  |                                      |
| Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan.. |     |                                                  |                                      |
| Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan.   |     |                                                  |                                      |
| Thur 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan.. | 7pm | <b>Epiphany</b>                                  | Private Intention                    |
| Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan..  |     |                                                  |                                      |
| Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan.   | 5pm | <b>Baptism of the Lord</b>                       | Zita, Harold & the family Sollis RIP |
| Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan.   |     | <b>Baptism of the Lord</b>                       | People of the Parish                 |

**Mass is celebrated privately daily.**

**If you would like a mass offered for a particular intention, please email the parish or put a note through the door of the presbytery.**

#### Those Who Have Asked for Prayers:

Derek Sollis, , Georgette Cowell, Dolores Flynn, Fred Chadfield. Mary Cross, Alan Clatworthy, Anthony Woodhouse, Chanel Mullings, Clive Rickhards

#### Those who have recently died: ,

Richard Flynn, Denis Charlton, Mary Gardner, Charles Maries, Sheila Hall, Donald Newell, Helen Meaney Bridget Clarke, Sylvia Flanagan, Robert McCarthy, Pamela Young, Norah O'Neill-Thomas, Susanna Westmeath, Nell Bridge. Doleen Evans, Jean Monica Tucker, Fr. John Fallon, Judy Husband Graham Janes, Elizabeth Watton, Maurice Andrews, Max Stoddart. Tony Lyons.

#### General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is responsible for our Parish and is committed to ensuring high standards of information security, privacy and transparency. Check our website, address above, for full details

### PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I passionately desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul

so that I may unite myself wholly to You now and forever. Amen

*Based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori*



**Mass on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January is the Solemnity of the Epiphany, a Holy Day of Obligation, and Mass will be at 7pm**

#### Churches have received guidance from the Bishop's Conference regarding the Omicron variant of Covid 19

**With this in mind we would remind all those attending Mass of the following:**

**That people** displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.

**That hand sanitiser** is available in the narthex & we strongly encourage using it as you enter & leave the Church

**A face covering (both nose and mouth)** is now mandatory when in church. Please help us to continue to protect our community as we have done so successfully throughout the pandemic.

**Ventilation of the Church** is required & all windows will be open during services

**Please wrap up warm!**

**People are encouraged to get vaccinated** and have the booster jab when it is available to their age group

**That people who are engaged** in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.