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**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Baruch 5:1-9

**Response to the Psalm:** What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

**Second reading:** Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6

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**Dear Parishioners**

I remember once visiting Stirling in Scotland and its majestic castle and being told that the location of Stirling is such that whoever controlled Stirling Castle controlled Scotland. The castle is built on a huge rock standing in the middle of a plain. To the north, the Scottish highlands dramatically appear, great hills standing like sentinels, with passes disappearing between them. To the south, the plain stretches out to smaller hills. Beyond them lies England. Every invasion from the south was won or lost at Stirling. Looking down from the castle, it is possible to see where William Wallace defeated the English army at Stirling Bridge.

Mountains are no longer the protection they once were. In an age of aerial warfare, and weapons of mass destruction, even the highest mountain range can be breached. As long as there is division, however, there will be mountains of a different sort to divide us, to act as symbols of safety. The modern world has different ways of being afraid of others, of treating the other as a threat. These ways are less violent but sometimes no less deadly. The modern mountains are made out of paper, or exist as ideas. They are immigration laws, passports, refugee allocation laws, employment regulations. Financial walls built up between countries, rules about the interchange of currency and debt policies, these are just a few of our new mountains.

As long as we live, as long as there is human history, there will be mountains between us. Whether as societies, as families or as individuals, we will find ways of living in a state of separation and mistrust. Safety will be preferred to community. A great rock to live on, and to look down on all the others, is what we want. Below us over the horizon are the people we fear, the people we were never meant to fear. That's the way of the world. That doesn't mean to say we can begin to pull down the mountains for ourselves.

'He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

**God Bless, Fr. Benedict OSB**

# St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

103 Alcester Road Studley Warwickshire B80 7NW

Telephone 01527 852524

Email: [stmary.studley@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary.studley@rcaob.org.uk)

WEBSITE: [stmaryscatholicchurchstudley.org.uk](http://stmaryscatholicchurchstudley.org.uk)

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 of Advent(C)**

**Week commencing Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Parish Safeguarding: Mrs. Helen Woodhouse**

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

### Masses

Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	5pm	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C</b>	Tony Lyons RIP
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec.		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C</b>	People of the Parish
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec.			
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec..		St. Ambrose (m)	
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec.		<b>Immaculate Conception (S)</b>	Douglas & Millie Thompson RIP
Thur 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec.			
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec.			
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	5pm	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C</b>	Pauline Mc Donagh RIP
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec.		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C</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*

### INFORMATION

#### Prayers for the Sick

If you wish to have someone added or removed to/from the prayer list please let Father know and keep him informed as the list will be updated every three months. Thank you

#### Parish Email Address

Please note that the parish email address has changed with immediate effect and is now: [stmary.studley@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary.studley@rcaob.org.uk)

### Christmas

**Christmas Day this year falls on a Saturday and Mass here at St. Mary's will be at 10.00am. Unfortunately, there will be no Christmas Eve Mass. Mass on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January will be at the normal time of 5.00pm**