



**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Zephaniah 3:14-18

**Response to the Psalm:** Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Second reading:** Philippians 4:4-7

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 3:10-18



**Dear Parishioners**

One major effect of the commercialisation of Christmas is that every year the celebration of Christmas seems to get earlier and earlier. It is common now to hear Christmas carols in early December, by this time many people have not only bought but have also decorated their trees. Virtually the only place where one does not see Christmas cribs and hear Christmas carols is in church (a fact that must cause some confusion in the minds of young children). While secular society is frantically anticipating the feast and adapting it for its own purposes, the church obstinately says, "not yet."

In spite of the difficulty of being out of step with the surrounding society, the church considers it important to celebrate not only the birth of Christ, but also the *waiting* for the birth of Christ. Advent is meant to put us spiritually in touch with the longing for salvation, particularly of the Jewish people, that finds its fulfilment in Jesus.

The fulfilment of the Jewish anticipations of salvation took place in Jesus in an unforeseen way, a way that challenged the expectations themselves, and was therefore unrecognisable or unacceptable to many. This reminds us that even we who live after Jesus' life and message are celebrating and awaiting something that we cannot totally define or comprehend. We also have different visions of the Christ and the salvation he represents. What does Jesus mean to us? Is He a legislator and teacher of morality? A miracle worker and giver of gifts? A mystical priest? What do we hope for from God? Protection and defence for our lives? Good fortune and prosperity? A heavenly reward in the hereafter?

**WHAT DOES CHRIST'S COMING REALLY ME TO YOU!**

**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**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent(C)**

**Week commencing Sunday 12<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 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	5pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C	Pauline Mc Donagh RIP
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec.		3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C	People of the Parish
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec.			
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec..		St John of the Cross (m)	Arthur Labinjo- Hughes RIP
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec.			
Thur 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec.			
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec.			
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	5pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C	Kathleen & John O'Brien RIP
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec.		4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C	Geoffrey Abraham RIP

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*



### Christmas

**Christmas Day this year falls on a Saturday and Mass here at St. Mary's will be at 10.30am. 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**

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.