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**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Micah 5:1-4

**Response to the Psalm:** God of Hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

**Second reading:** Hebrews 10:5-10

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-44



**Dear Parishioners**

Mary knows from the angel Gabriel that the son she bears in her womb, conceived without any man's assistance, is Jesus the Messiah. When Mary, in her first few weeks of pregnancy enters Elizabeth's house, Elizabeth's son in her womb leaps for joy. John the Baptist, from his mother's womb, prepares the way of Jesus "the Lord". Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and mother and unborn son together recognise that their visitor Mary is pregnant with the Son of the Most High.

Salvation is close at hand. Emmanuel, God with us, is present in this house in the womb of his virgin mother. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled. Mary is blessed because she believes the promises made by God. Her life of simplicity and holiness, from her immaculate conception onwards, is but a start. It enables her to freely say "yes" to God when Gabriel appeared to her. It is her destiny to be the Mother of God, but it is a destiny she freely chooses when God's messenger appears. So what about us? Many people have told us of love, of peace, of the forgiveness of sin, of God's promises of peace and reconciliation. We have listened to the gospel message in church; we acknowledge our deeply held desires for peace and love; integrity and truth challenge our intellects. So let seek to be reconciled with God. Let us prepare ourselves to listen once again to the angels' message of peace. Once again let us renew and deepen our love Jesus our Saviour, born amongst us for our salvation. Mary said yes to God. So did John the Baptist, Elizabeth and Zechariah. Zechariah after his brief moment at the centre of things in the Jerusalem temple resumed his quiet priestly life. Elizabeth, an older mother, had a squalling baby to look after.

We have our commitments of family life and charitable care of our neighbours. Christmas, as a day, will pass once again. But God is with us. Truth is triumphant. Evil, death, chaos and oppression have met their match. Jesus who is the Christ reigns from his mother's arms

**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**



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent(C)**

**Week commencing Sunday 19<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 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec.   | 5pm     | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent<br/>Year C</b> | Kathleen & John O'Brien RIP   |
| Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec.   |         | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent<br/>Year C</b> | Geoffrey Abraham RIP          |
| Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec.   |         |                                                   |                               |
| Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec.. |         |                                                   | Paul Bunn RIP                 |
| Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec.   |         |                                                   | Private Intention             |
| Thur 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec.  |         |                                                   | Alan & Alison Clatworthy      |
| Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec.   |         |                                                   | Millie & Douglas Thompson RIP |
| Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec.   | 10.30am | <b>Nativity of the Lord</b>                       | People of the Parish          |
| Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec.   |         | <b>Holy Family</b>                                | Private Intention             |

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.