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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**

On Christmas night the shepherds are addressed by an angel who shines upon them with the blinding glory of God, and they are very much afraid. The tremendous, unearthly radiance shows that the angel is a messenger of heaven and clothes him an incontrovertible authority. With this authority he commands them not to be afraid but to embrace the great joy he is announcing to them. And while the angel is speaking to these poor frightened people, he is joined by a vast number of others who unite in a 'Gloria' praising God in heaven's heights and announcing the peace of God's goodwill to men on earth. This was a great miracle and apparently insignificant miracles happen all the time and go unnoticed by most of us. The very finding of a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, is this not a miracle in itself? Then there is the miracle when a particular mission, hidden in a person's heart, really reaches its goal, bringing God's peace and joy where there was nothing but despair and resignation when someone succeeds in making a tiny light in the midst of an overpowering darkness. When joy irradiates a heart that no longer dared to believe in it. Now and again we ourselves are assured that the angel's word we are trying to obey will bring us to the place where God's Word and Son is already made man. We are assured that, in spite of all the noise and nonsense, today, December 25<sup>th</sup>, is Christmas just as truly as two millennia ago. Once and for all God has started out on His journey towards us, and nothing till the world's end, will stop Him from coming to us and abiding in us.

**May the birth of Jesus fulfill you hope, expand your hearts and complete your lives in his love. HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS.**

**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**



**Christmas (C)**  
**Week commencing Sunday 26<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 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    |
| Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec.   |         |                                                  |                      |
| Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec.. |         |                                                  |                      |
| Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec.   |         |                                                  |                      |
| Thur 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec.  |         |                                                  |                      |
| Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec.   |         |                                                  |                      |
| Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan.    | 5pm     | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas (C)</b> | People of the Parish |
| Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan.    |         | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas (C)</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*



**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.