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**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

**Response to the Psalm:** Come, Lord, and save us.

**Second reading:** James 5: 7-10

**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:** Matthew 11:2-11



**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."

Despite 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 defense for our lives? Good fortune and prosperity? A heavenly reward in the hereafter?

**WHAT DOES CHRIST'S COMING REALLY MEAN 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 Year(A)**

**Week commencing Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Parish Safeguarding: Mrs. Helen Woodhouse**  
Contact in confidence [sg.stmary.studley@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmary.studley@rcaob.org.uk)

## Masses

|                           |         |                                          |                                  |
|---------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec  | 5.00pm  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent<br>Year A | People of the Parish             |
| Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec  | 10.30am | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent<br>Year A | Hannah & Stanley<br>Williams RIP |
| Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec  |         |                                          |                                  |
| Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec |         |                                          |                                  |
| Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>      |         |                                          |                                  |
| Thur 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec |         |                                          | Wellbeing of the EBC             |
| Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec  |         |                                          |                                  |
| Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec  | 5.00pm  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Advent<br>Year A | Geoffrey Abraham<br>RIP          |
| Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec  | 10.30am | 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Advent<br>Year A | People of the Parish             |

Mass is celebrated privately daily except on Monday.

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, *please do not place it in the collection bag*. Thank you.

### Those Who Have Asked for Prayers:

Derek Sollis, , Georgette Cowell, Dolores Flynn, Fred Chadfield. Alan Clatworthy, Chanel Mullings, Clive Rickhards,, Jill Spurrell,

### 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, Michael Russell, Mary Cross, Agnes McIlravey, Helen McCarthy, Patricia O'Brien, Pauline Burton, Mary Judith Smith (nee Hewitt), Wyn Varley, Raimondo Gemeli, Anthony Woodhouse.

## Information

### Second Collection

The weekly second collection will normally be for help towards the payment of the diocesan levy and the upkeep of the house and church buildings. Both the church and the house are Grade II listed so any work done has to be to a high standard as set by the requisite authority. Here are a few of the expenses for the coming year:

- Diocesan Levy      £5,500 p.a.
- Building's upkeep    £36,000.00
- Insurance            £3,744.77 p.a.

At times the second collection will be for other charities and the details of these will be placed in the bulletin.

### Coffee, Cake & Gift Sale Success!

Thank you to everyone who supported this event after Mass last Sunday. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces & catch up; some new ones too!

We raised a fantastic £160! Thank you for your generosity.

This will go some way to paying for the repair of the three church windows as each one will cost us £475.00!

### 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