



LITURGY

First reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Response to the Psalm: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

Second reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24



Dear Parishioners

Matthew in today's gospel calls our attention to the names given to Jesus – names which focus our attention on this child's role in the history of God's acting to save his people: Jesus, which the Evangelist glosses as "the one who is to save his people from their sins"; and Emmanuel, which, echoing Isaiah's prophecy, we're told means "God-is-with-us". We are, then, assured that God comes to us to save us from our sins – to rebuild the communion between heaven and earth, to open for humankind once more the way into sharing God's life, a life that transcends our merely human limits and living.

And it is important that we realise, that God comes to us as we are, not as we'd like to be: in all our frailties, imperfections, hurts received and inflicted, our anger, shame and bitterness, in short in our estrangement from God and each other we call 'sin'. God comes to us as we are, to heal us and bring us into his peace. So, as Paul reminds the nascent churches in Rome, we too are called to holiness through the grace and mission we have received from the Son through the Spirit, called to live in holiness in honour of his name, called to be saints, manifesting God's grace and peace through the manner of our lives. Matthew begins his gospel with the assurance that God is with us, Emmanuel; and closes it with the promise of the Risen Lord to his disciples just before he in his humanity ascends fully to God's presence "know that I am with you always, yes, to the close of the age". In confidence then that God is with us, might we risk loving each other as Jesus, Emmanuel, showed us is possible?

**God Bless
Fr. Benedict OSB**

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

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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



4th Sunday of Advent Year(A)

Week commencing Sunday 18th December 2022

Parish Safeguarding: Mrs. Helen Woodhouse
Contact in confidence sg.stmary.studley@rcaob.org.uk

Masses

Sat 17 th Dec	5.00pm	4 th Week of Advent Year A	Geoffrey Abraham RIP
Sun 18 th Dec	10.30am	4 th Week of Advent Year A	People of the Parish
Mon 19 th Dec			
Tues 20 th Dec			
Wed 21 st Dec			
Thur 22 nd Dec			Wellbeing of the EBC
Fri 23 rd Dec			
Sat 24 th Dec	8.00pm quiet vigil Mass	Nativity of the Lord	Kathleen & John O'Brien RIP
Sun 25 th Dec	10.30am	Nativity of the Lord	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.
- Three Church Windows £1775.00

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

Bottle Tombola

Thank you to everyone who supported us at the School's Christmas Fayre. We raised £350.00 which was a great result. Thank you to all those who prepared the bottles for the stall and to those who manned the stall on the day. Without you none of this could have taken place.

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