



**LITURGY Christmas Day**

**First reading:** Isaiah 52:7-10

**Response to the Psalm:** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**Second reading:** Hebrews 1:1-6

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. 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 in 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 your 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

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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



**Nativity of the Lord Year(A)**

**Week commencing Sunday 25<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 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	8.00pm	Nativity of the Lord	Kathleen & John O'Brien RIP
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30am	Nativity of the Lord	People of the Parish
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec		St. Stephen (Feast)	
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec		St. John (Feast)	
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec		Holy Innocents (Feast)	
Thur 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec		St. Thomas Becket (Feast)	Wellbeing of the EBC
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec		Holy Family (Feast)	
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	5.00pm	Mary, Most Holy Mother of God	Mick Wall RIP
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> January	10.30am	Mary, Most Holy Mother of God	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.

### Unwanted Christmas Gifts

We will be collecting any new, unopened Christmas gifts and gift sets after Christmas for future fundraising sales. Please keep anything that you think might be saleable and check the bulletin for details of when we will be collecting these items. Thank you!

**Fr. Benedict will be taking a break after the Christmas Day Mass until Saturday 31st December.**

### 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