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LITURGY

First reading: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

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

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

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Dear Parishioners

Contrary to the manner in which it is often celebrated in churches, Advent begins not on a note of joy, but of despair. Humankind has reached the end of the rope. All our schemes for self-improvement, for extricating ourselves from the traps we have set for ourselves, have come to nothing. We have now realised at the deepest level of our being that we cannot save ourselves and that, apart from the intervention of God, we are totally and irretrievably lost.

Thus Advent serves a dual purpose. On the one hand, it is the culmination of virtually half the church year in which, liturgically, we have celebrated the life of the Spirit. During this time we have been reminded of our responsibility to do the work of the kingdom. But in spite of the very best intentions of the people of God we realise that the world has yet to be redeemed. So the prayer of Advent is that Christ will soon come again to rule over God's creation in power and in justice. On the other hand, Advent also takes us back to the beginning of things. Back to that time so long ago when men and women of faith yearned for the first coming of the Saviour. The season thus attempts to capture that spirit of hope in the midst of hopelessness.

Saint Mark tells us to "Be on your guard, stay awake..." Watchfulness is necessary, according to Saint Mark, because only God knows what time it is. As the people of God wait even now, they can anticipate only that the times are in God's hands and not their own. They know that God will not leave them alone, that God will not leave them without hope.

So let us prepare for the coming of Christ let us watch and wait. Let us pray that as we prepare for Christ's birth our hearts may be filled with his love, a love that we can share with one another, for it is only through this love that we can be saved.

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



1st Sunday of Advent (Year B)
Week commencing Sunday 3rd December 2023

Masses

Sat 2 nd Dec	5.00pm	1 st Week of Advent Year B	Rita Gardiner RIP
Sun 3 rd Dec	10.30am	1 st Week of Advent Year B	Shirley Larkin (who is ill)
Mon 4 th Dec			
Tues 5 th Dec			Private Intention
Wed 6 th Dec			
Thur 7 th Dec		St. Ambrose (mem)	
Fri 8 th Dec		Immaculate Conception of Our Lady (Sol.)	All Parents
Sat 9 th Dec	5.00pm	2 nd Week of Advent Year B	Private Intention
Sun 10 th Dec	10.30am	2 nd Week of Advent Year B	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, Stan Phipps, Judith Baylis, Rachel Severn, Jackie Gannon.

Those who have recently died: .

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, Barbara Woodhouse, Kathleen McLoughlin, Peter McGoldrick, Anthony Roache, Lionel Quigley. Keith John Francis Cotterell, Anna Rose McGoldrick, Mary Baker.

INFORMATION

Sunday Coffee

Do please come and join us after Mass near the end of each month. **The next coffee morning will be on Sunday 17th December.** At the next coffee morning there will be items available for late Christmas shopping. Please come and enjoy a coffee, cake & some shopping.

Second Collection

The second collection this week is for the Johnson Fund which is for the support of retired priests in the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Ministers of Communion

Currently the parish only has two functioning ministers of communion and it would be very beneficial to have at least two more. If you feel you would like to be a minister, please see Father Benedict after mass or call him during office hours to discuss this. Many thanks.

Parish Safeguarding: Mrs. Helen Woodhouse

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Helen Woodhouse. She can be contacted at: sg.simarys.studley@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern