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LITURGY

First reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Response to the Psalm: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Second reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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Dear Parishioners

Each of us carries about an interior world which is alive with memories, impressions, feelings, attitudes, arguments, dispositions towards other people, and all the rest. What at any given moment each of us is doing in the outer world is likely to be duller than that inner world with all its inheritance from our personal past as well as the power of thought to range across time and space. So why is it that we shudder at the idea of a summer in the Sahara, or a crash-out in the Kalahari? Is it because we have a shrewd suspicion that, in a place like that, a desert place, a John the Baptist sort of place, we would have to come to terms with ourselves in a way we wouldn't much care for? It's not just a question of identifying our bad deeds, our obviously blameworthy deeds. It's also a matter of our good, apparently praiseworthy deeds, since these too can have an uninspiring background. In his monastic Rule, St Augustine notes how frequently pride steals in to ruin even good deeds. There must be some labour of the negative before we can be ready for the ultra-positive, the Gospel of the Kingdom. We have to go in for a bit of deconstruction, to clear away the rubble of complacency and self-deception. Otherwise, we shall not have a path clear in our lives for the Incarnate One to come and enter where he is needed, and wanted, by those who should be waiting for him, yearning for him, rather than reassuring themselves that they are alright as they are.

**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



**2nd Sunday of Advent (Year B)
Week commencing Sunday 10th December 2023**

Masses			
Sat 9 th Dec	5.00pm	2 nd Week of Advent Year B	Rita Gardiner RIP
Sun 10 th Dec	10.30am	2 nd Week of Advent Year B	People of the Parish
Mon 11 th Dec			
Tues 12 th Dec			
Wed 13 th Dec		St. Lucy (mem)	
Thur 14 th Dec		St. John of the Cross (mem)	Private Intention
Fri 15 th Dec			
Sat 16 th Dec	5.00pm	3 rd Week of Advent Year B	Geoffrey Abraham RIP
Sun 17 th Dec	10.30am	3 rd Week of Advent Year B	Mick Wall RIP

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 Richards,, 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.

Coffee Rota

A big thank you to all our Coffee Rota volunteers. The coffee and table top sales have been a great success and we will be publishing details at the end of the year. We hope to continue coffee mornings and sales once a month but need volunteers so that this can happen. The rota sheet for 2024 is at the back of the church for you to sign if you can help. We will also need new gift sets and other saleable items so please put aside any unwanted gifts you receive at Christmas. We are always happy to receive contemporary paperback fiction that is in good condition. We are unable to accept general bric-a-brac.

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.stmarys.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