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LITURGY

First reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16.

Response to the Psalm: I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

Second reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

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Dear Parishioners

Luke's message contains important lessons for us. We are also waiting, hoping, for many particular things, and for the one central that we symbolise in Christ and His kingdom. We believe that God inspires our desires and hope. But we must expect that God will also transform them. On the one hand, what God prepares for us is greater than we can imagine; on the other, we nevertheless know it, anticipate it, taste it, in the life God gives us now; and in particularly in what we do in thanksgiving and communion, even in the midst of the ambiguities of life and of the world.

All of us are no doubt by this time in the last stages of preparation for Christmas. The Gospel message tells us that to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Messiah is to remember and open ourselves to what the coming of Christ in history really meant, namely the revelation of God's kingdom as love. That love does not overwhelm the world with power but changes it from within. It transforms our desires themselves to be like God's desire: the desire to give ourselves to each other – to the lost and suffering – in love. This is the greatest gift you can give this Christmas, the gift of yourself to help the other. The gift of your love to help and support that person who is not as lucky as you, not as cared for as you, not as loved as you.

Let us pray that at the coming of Christ we will open our hearts to him and to one another.

**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



**4th Sunday of Advent (Year B)
Week commencing Sunday 24th December 2023**

Masses

Sat 23 rd Dec	5.00pm	4 th Week of Advent Year B	Danny Scally RIP
Sun 24 th Dec	10.30am	4 th Week of Advent Year B	Kathleen & John O'Brien RIP
Mon 25 th Dec	10.30am	Christmas Day	People of the Parish
Tues 26 th Dec		St. Stephen (Feast)	
Wed 27 th Dec		St. John (Feast)	
Thur 28 th Dec		Holy Innocents (Feast)	
Fri 29 th Dec		St. Thomas Becket (Feast)	
Sat 30 th Dec	5.00pm	Holy Family	Kathleen McLoughlin RIP
Sun 31 st Dec	10.30am	Holy Family	Sollis Family 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, 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, Georgette Cowell.

INFORMATION

Sunday Coffee

Do please come and join us after Mass near the end of each month. The next coffee morning will hopefully be on Sunday 28th January. Please come and enjoy a coffee, cake & some shopping.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th at 8.00pm Vigil Mass

Mass Intention: Georgette Cowell RIP

Christmas Day 10.30am

Mass Intention: People of the Parish

Coffee Rota

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.

**I would like to wish you all a Very Happy and Holy
Christmas
and a Wonderful New Year
God Bless
Fr. Benedict OSB**

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