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**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14

**Response to the Psalm:** O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

**Second reading:** Colossians 3:12-21

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40

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Dear Parishioners

On this Feast of the Holy Family we should be mightily thankful if our own families are living in security and with sufficiency. We will know what a blessing it is if we are living with a modicum of harmony in our lives; and our hearts must go out to those who do not have this, who have never known this, and to those who at this very moment find that their family life is crumbling to pieces.

Special graces of discernment and self-discipline are needed to deal with the threat to family life of both young and old alike being so taken up in many pursuits, not necessarily bad in themselves, that they find little quality time for each other. The tragedy is when this is accepted as a fact of life in the modern world. As this happens meaningful relationships become increasingly disposable. This constitutes a huge privation of loving experiences and lovely moments together in the home, with children and especially adolescents being the chief losers, the most liable to be damaged.

Are there precautionary measures to be taken before it is too late? Family life is something precious. Those near to us should be dear to us and we to them. Family life is worth fighting for. Family life needs fighting for and most certainly praying for.

**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



**Holy Family (Year B)
Week commencing Sunday 31st December 2023**

Masses

Sat 30 th Dec	5.00pm	Holy Family	Kathleen McLoughlin RIP
Sun 31 st Dec	10.30am	Holy Family	Sollis Family RIP
Mon 1 st Jan		Solemnity of Mary Mother of God	
Tues 2 nd Jan			
Wed 3 rd Jan			
Thurs 4 th Jan			
Fri 5 th Jan			
Sat 6 th Jan	5.00pm	Epiphany	Dorothy Gill RIP
Sun 7 th Jan	10.30am	Epiphany	Hannah & Stanley Williams 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.

Coffee and Table Sales

A big thankyou to everyone who supported our coffee and table sales this past year. We raised £760.00. I would like to give a special thank you to Marie for all the beautiful cards and handbags that she made and donated all the funds to the parish. Also, to Lin for all of her hard work and organisation.

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.

Euros

We were given a very generous donation of 45 euros which unfortunately we are unable to process through our bank. Please could I take this opportunity to ask people not to put euros into the collection. Many thanks.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May The Lord fill your lives with his love.

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