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**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Micah 5:2-5a

**Response to the Psalm:** Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

**Second reading:** Hebrews 10:5-10

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-45

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**Dear Parishioners**

Amidst the hullabaloo of the Christmas festivities we must not lose sight of the first Christmas Day and the birth of Christ as a vulnerable infant in the simple trappings of a stable at Bethlehem. Otherwise we are emptying the feast of its original meaning and closing our eyes and ears to the message of the Good News.

Just as the angels praised the glory of God made visible in the child Jesus with songs of joy, so too must we. The coming of Jesus among us can change our view of life, restore our sense of self-esteem and enable us to be channels for bringing his love and peace to others. God entering our physical world makes everything in it holy and good and helps us realise that we are people of hope, waiting for something great to break into our lives. The delicate image of a new-born child who came in poverty teaches us that there is greatness in humility, glory in service and power in self surrender.

Yet even in this joyful season suffering and sadness do not go away. Christmas is an incredibly emotive time especially for those who have lost a friend or family member during the past year. There is the pain of absence in memories of times past and a life shared with a beloved. Then there are those who are poor or alone and those who are under pressure because of some misfortune or personal tragedy. We must think of them in their suffering and make them part of our prayer. Christmas brings the assurance that, no matter how dark the days, God wants to free us from worry and grant us a peace that the world cannot give. Whatever your circumstances, wherever you are and whoever you are with, I do hope that you are able to find happiness and joy in this Christmas season.

**God Bless  
Fr. Benedict OSB**

# St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

103 Alcester Road Studley Warwickshire B80 7NW

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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 C Sunday  
Week commencing Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024**

**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](mailto:sg.stmarys.studley@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern

### Masses

|                            |         |  |                                     |
|----------------------------|---------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec   | 5.00pm  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Advent<br>Year C | Mick Wall RIP                       |
| Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec   | 10.30am | 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Advent<br>Year C | Zita, Harold & Sollis<br>Family RIP |
| Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec   |         |  |                                     |
| Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec  | 8.00pm  | Christmas Eve                            | Douglas & Millie<br>Thompson RIP    |
| Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec   | 10.30am | Christmas Day                            | People of the Parish                |
| Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec |         |  |                                     |
| Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec   |         |  |                                     |
| Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec   | 5.00pm  | Holy Family                              | K. McAloon                          |
| Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec   | 10.30am | Holy Family                              | Stanley & Hannah<br>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, Chanel Mullings, Clive Rickhards,, Jill Spurrell, Stan Phipps, Judith Baylis, Jackie Gannon, Mick Sollis, Agnes Wilkins, Alma Finnerty, Bud Sollis, Agnes Finn.

#### Those who have recently died:

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, Anthony Mathew, John Knox, Bill McCarthy, Bernadette Mary Parker, Mary Phipps, Alan Clatworthy, Abbot Finbar Kealy OSB, Katherine McCallion, Fr. Boniface Moran OSB, Richard Thornton-Pett, Mary Scally and all those we have been asked to pray for.

## INFORMATION

### Sunday Coffee

**Please come and join us for Coffee, biscuits and mince pies**

The next Sunday coffee morning will be this **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**,  
Christmas gifts are all £5.00

Thank you to Wendy and Lin for volunteering.

**Please could we ask for Volunteers for the coming year, the form is at the back of the church. Currently we have no one to prepare coffee for January. Thank you.**

### 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.

### Insurance Claim

I heard this week that our insurance claim for the church roof has been denied by the insurance company! They have said that the damage was caused by the age of the ceiling and general wear and tear. Their decision has left us with a shortfall of around £7,000.00. The rest of the cost was covered by the wonderful amount of money raised by you for which I am extremely grateful. When I can, I will try to approach the Insurance Ombudsman, but this has come at a very busy time as I'm sure you understand.

### Church Cleaning

A big thank you to everyone who came to help clean the church last Saturday. It looks great. I very much appreciate your help.

**I would like to wish you all a very  
Happy and Holy Christmas**