



LITURGY

First reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Response to the Psalm: Blessed are all who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



Dear Parishioners

All of us go through life making promises to each other. Our promises vary from saying we'll meet someone at a certain time to committing ourselves to a certain person or to a certain way of life. Some promises are easy to keep and cost little; other promises take a whole life to keep. When we make promises we invest ourselves in our words; we ask others to believe that we're as good as our word.

We tell others that they can afford to hope in us.

We hope that our words will live, but we know that there's nothing magical about them. It doesn't follow as night and day that we will do what we say. We spend a lot of time trying to catch up with our words. In today's Gospel we hear the magnificent Prologue to John's Gospel: how in the beginning there was the Word through whom all things came to be. When John comes to speak about Jesus you notice how he goes back beyond the time of Jesus' birth and conception to the very beginning of time itself. He sees Jesus as the Word that was with God, the Word that was God. This word was not only at the beginning; it made the beginning for all creation. The Word of God worked. It wasn't just an empty word decorating the air; it was a word that had power to make the beginning of the world.

Remember that in one of the stories of creation it tells how the world began through the word of God. "God said, 'Let there be...' and so there was." All that God has to do is speak. When he speaks you know that something is happening.

He speaks the world into existence. His word is creative: it always goes beyond himself to make happen what is said. At Christmas we celebrate the humility of God who came among us himself. We celebrate the love that waits for an answer. We know that if our words fail, the Word of God never fails. It has power still. That is why we pray before communion: "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you but *only say the word and I shall be healed.*" We pray that God will speak his Word again in us. That just as he made the beginning through his Word, he will make a new beginning in us.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

103 Alcester Road Studley Warwickshire B80 7NW

Telephone 01527 852524

Email: stmarysstudley@gmail.com

WEBSITE: stmaryscatholicchurchstudley.org.uk

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 after Christmas Year A
Week commencing Sunday 4th January 2026**

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 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Masses

Sat 3 rd Jan.	5.00pm	2 nd Sunday after Christmas	Ray, Jenny & Rene Lavery RIP
Sun 4 th Jan.	10.30am	2 nd Sunday after Christmas	Millie & Douglas Thompson RIP
Mon 5 th Jan.			
Tues 6 th Jan.	10.30am	Epiphany	People of the Parish
Wed 7 th Jan.			
Thurs 8 th Jan.			
Fri 9 th Jan.			
Sat 10 th Jan.	5.00pm	Baptism of the Lord	Michael Howell RIP
Sun 11 th Jan.	10.30am	Baptism of the Lord	Eugene & Kathleen McLoughlin 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, Judith Baylis, Jackie Gannon, Mick Sollis, Agnes Wilkins, Alma Finnerty, Bud Sollis, Agnes Finn, Anne Hazlewood.

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, Fr. Anthony Rohan, James Joseph Flynn, Stan Phipps, Sheila Eastham, Michael Howell and all those for whom we have been asked to pray.

INFORMATION

Sunday Coffee

Please come and join us for coffee and biscuits.

The next coffee morning will be on Sunday the 18th January. Thank you to Anna and Rob.

A new list, for volunteers to sign up, is now available at the back of church. Please do help and try to sign up for a couple of times a year. Thank you.

Second Collection.

The second weekly collection will normally be for help towards 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.

Because of the age of the buildings the work is continuous and ongoing.

On occasion there will be other second collections and these will be noted above.

Unwanted Gifts

So that we can keep the bric-a-brac table stocked, we are appealing for any unwanted gifts and any contemporary paperback fiction please.

Thank you to everyone who has donated items for the Bring & Buy table, your support is really appreciated.

Please leave any donations for the table in the black box at the back of the church and not directly on the table in the conservatory.

Thank you for your help.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS.

Holy Day of Obligation

The Solemnity of the Epiphany on Tuesday 6th January is a Holy Day of Obligation and Mass will be at 10.30am