



**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Isaiah 11:1-10

**Response to the Psalm:** In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace forever.

**Second reading:** Romans 15:4-9

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

**Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12



**Dear Parishioners**

This week, in the Gospel, John the Baptist appears announcing God's impending arrival to purify the world. While the Baptiser stresses the need for conversion and warns of the fate of those who do not reform, the first reading, from Isaiah gives us a magnificent vision of the peace, justice and right that will come about through the coming Messiah. The poor will have justice; there will be universal knowledge and prosperity and an end to violence and fear. But while this vision is heart-moving, one wonders whether we can or do still believe it. Most modern people seem to have abandoned the hope for an imminent divine coming; and we are suspicious of utopian visions and prophetic warnings.

But what happens then to our sense of expectation, our Advent hope for God's coming? Is it reduced to a fiction, a cynical commemoration of a **past** expectation that was fulfilled at Christ's birth. Is there anything for **us** to hope for and await?

We should remember that we would not be seeking God 'in the Kingdom' unless God were already present in our hearts; it is precisely because of this divine presence of God 'within' that we can seek and long for God. For the Christian, the peace of God is both a present reality and a promise; and because a promise, also a task and a challenge. The cleansing fire is already here, are willing to allow ourselves to be burned, sifted, transformed, as a sign to the world of the secret presence that is also present within it, waiting to be discovered.

God Bless  
Fr. Benedict OSB

**St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church**

103 Alcester Road Studley Warwickshire B80 7NW

Telephone 01527 852524

Email: [stmarysstudley@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysstudley@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [stmaryscatholicchurchstudley.org.uk](http://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



**2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent Year A**  
**Week commencing Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**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 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

### Masses

Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	5.00pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent Year A	Jan & Genowefa Jurczyk RIP
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	10.30am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent Year A	Mary Scally RIP & Jessie Curtis RIP
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec.			
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec.			Ellen; John; Brendon; Allen Wilson, Pate & Grace Bailey, Thomas; Rose. RIP
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec.			Stella Dunham, Paul Jones, Jim Haile. RIP
Thur 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec.			
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec.			
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	5.00pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent Year A	Sollis & Gibbs Family & Michael Wall RIP
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	10.30am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent Year A	Katleen & John O'Brien 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, Michael Howell.

#### 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 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

21<sup>st</sup> December. Thank you to Lin and Agnes for volunteering.

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.

#### Recently Dead

Over the next few weeks, we will need to remove the names of those who died over twelve months ago from the list of the 'Recently Dead.' This is so that room can be made for more recent deaths. Please be assured that all the dead of the parish are constantly in our prayers.