



LITURGY

First reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Response to the Psalm: Come, Lord and save us.

Second reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11



Dear Parishioners

One major effect of the commercialisation of Christmas is that every year the celebration of Christmas seems to get earlier and earlier. It is common now to hear Christmas carols in late November, by this time many people have not only bought but have also decorated their trees. Virtually the only place where one does not see Christmas cribs and hear Christmas carols is in church (a fact that must cause some confusion in the minds of young children). While secular society is frantically anticipating the feast and adapting it for its own purposes, the church obstinately says, "not yet."

Despite the difficulty of being out of step with the surrounding society, the church considers it important to celebrate not only the birth of Christ, but also the *waiting* for the birth of Christ. Advent is meant to put us spiritually in touch with the longing for salvation, particularly of the Jewish people, that finds its fulfilment in Jesus.

The fulfilment of the Jewish anticipations of salvation took place in Jesus in an unforeseen way, a way that challenged the expectations themselves, and was therefore unrecognisable or unacceptable to many. This reminds us that even we who live after Jesus' life and message are celebrating and awaiting something that we cannot totally define or comprehend. We also have different visions of the Christ and the salvation he represents. What does Jesus mean to us? Is He a legislator and teacher of morality? A miracle worker and giver of gifts? A mystical priest? What do we hope for from God? Protection and defense for our lives? Good fortune and prosperity? A heavenly reward in the hereafter?

WHAT DOES CHRIST'S COMING REALLY MEAN TO YOU?

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



3rd Week of Advent Year A

Week commencing Sunday 14th 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 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 13 th Dec.	5.00pm	3 rd Week of Advent Year A	Sollis & Gibbs Family & Michael Wall RIP
Sun 14 th Dec.	10.30am	3 rd Week of Advent Year A	Katleen & John O'Brien RIP
Mon 15 th Dec.			
Tues 16 th Dec.			
Wed 17 th Dec.	9.30am	SCHOOL MASS	All Welcome
Thur 18 th Dec.			Private Intention
Fri 19 th Dec.			
Sat 20 th Dec.	5.00pm	4 th Week of Advent Year A	Keith Cotterell RIP
Sun 21 st Dec.	10.30am	4 th Week of Advent Year A	Geoffrey Abraham 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 next Sunday the 21st 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.

Christmas Mass Times

CHRISTMAS EVE 8.00PM

CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30AM