

Rejoice...Christmas is near!!!

Hi all, wishing you all **Happy Christmas and Blessed New Year!!!**
We are near to Christmas... the coming of Jesus Christ...

‘Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel’

St. Paul, in his letter to the Philippians said: “Rejoice in the Lord always. Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near” (4:4-5). We see Christmas decorations all around. We hear Christmas songs and carols in the air. We go to Christmas parties and gatherings here and there. But are we really rejoicing?

In the modern society the style of Christmas is changed. God is not anymore present in our Christmas celebration. The greeting “Merry Christmas” is replaced with “Happy Holidays!” The image of the Holy Family in Bethlehem is dwarfed by the giant Christmas tree. Jesus Christ is totally overshadowed by Santa Claus and his red-nosed reindeer. Many people don’t even bother to go to Mass on these days. So, when Christ is taken away from Christmas, when God is absent from our gatherings and celebrations, what is there left to rejoice about?

Yes, but as Christians we have many things to rejoice ... we are to rejoice in the birth of Jesus, our saviour. Jesus is there for us in all our difficulties and worries. His birth gave life and light to the poor people. Like that it is very important time for us to change the world with Love of Jesus, who is to come. By loving each other, helping each other, caring each other more over by praying each other and for the world, we can spread the light of Christ in the world.

May the blessings of Child Jesus be with us always...

Fr Shanju John



Catholic Parishes of St Mary, Lady of Lourdes

St. Mary's Brierley Hill,
Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford and
Our Lady of Lourdes, Cradley Heath.

Fr Shanju John

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4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

19TH DECEMBER 2021

PSALM RESPONSE

God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

Let what you have said be done unto me.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold a virgin shall bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

26TH DECEMBER 2021

PSALM RESPONSE

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,

To accept the words of your Son.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Advent (C2)	Psalter week 4	Intention/Info
Sunday 18th /19th 4th Sunday of Advent	Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH	People of the Parish Nell and Bert Bridge Fr Stephen
Monday 20th		
Tuesday 21st	10am Mass OH 10.30am-11am OH	KC Joseph-grandfather Adoration and Confessions
Wednesday 22nd	10am Mass BH 10.30am-11am BH	Aleksandra Mackiewicz Adoration and Confessions
Thursday 23rd	6.30pm Mass KF 7pm KF	Patricia and Ernie Gray Confessions
Friday 24th	<u>CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES</u>	
	5.30pm Carols 6pm Mass (BH) Pat and David Horner 5.30pm Carols 6pm Mass (KF) People of the Parish	
Saturday 25th Nativity of the Lord	9.30am Mass (BH) James and Theresa Gough 10.30am Mass (KF) Brian and Beryl Curran 11am Mass (OH) Elizabeth-Grandmother	

Christmas (A2)	Christmas Octave	Intention/Info
Sunday 26th Feast of the Holy Family	9.45am Mass BH 10.30am Mass KF 11.30am Mass OH	Tom and Carol Loviza People of the Parish Elizabeth-Grandmother
Monday -Thursday	NO	SERVICES
Friday 31st	10.30am -11am KF 11am Mass KF	Adoration and Confessions Joan and Thomas Jeavons
Saturday 1st Mary, Mother of God		
Sunday 1st /2nd 2nd Sunday after Christmas	Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH	Angela and Ian Powis Anne Gough People of the Parish

Collections: BH: CTF £45.00 KF GA £97.00 Loose £159.50, Sisters £92.20, Hall hire £105.00, Funeral collection £125.00

Please pray for all those whose have died especially those on our December and January deceased list and for all those whose anniversaries occur this month. May they all rest in peace.

Please pray for all those who are sick including Pauline Bant, Jeanette Amphlett, Dorothy West, Harold Shackley, Michael Rose, Jill Rowe, James Kearney, Barbara Masterman, Margaret Shipley, Tess Barnsley, Steve Dunn, Lynsey Cooper, Alec Huffer, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Roy Davies, Chris Rylands, Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Peggy Tromans, Rob Bryan, Ilona Bryan, Betty Storey, Connie Birch, Stella Jones, Margaret Marlowe, Don Neale, Anne Peters, Jackie Spittle, David Barnsley and Dawn Russon. May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Fr Greatbatch, Fr Marshall and Fr Carrick for coming to celebrate Christmas Masses for us. Thank you to all those who have prepared our Churches for Christmas, the cleaners, the decorations, the music, the readers and the servers, and a big thank you to Fr Shanju for all he does for us as our Parish Priest! Hope you all have a happy and Holy Christmas.

Christmas Raffle - Winners were A Timmins, J Pickin, J Smith, J Tromans, N Fletcher and A Drew. Thanks to you all we raised £511.00

Christmas flowers if anyone would like to make a donation towards the cost of lowers at Christmas in any of the Churches, please put it in an envelope clearly marked and give it to Theresa at KF, Stephanie at BH or Nadine at OH. Otherwise please give it to Fr Shanju. Thank you

Confessions Fr Shanju will hear confessions this week on Monday at 10.30 at BH, Tuesday at 10.30am at Old Hill and Friday at 10.30am at Kingswinford. There will also be Confessions at 7pm on Thursday 23rd December at Kingswinford.

Epiphany meal OH are hosting an Epiphany share-a-meal with entertainment on Saturday 8th January 2022. You are invited to bring a plate of food to share. Entertainers are also needed please let Liz Haney or Fr Shanju know if you are able to help. Thanks.

Covid - Masks are once again mandatory in our Churches but may be removed to sing (Diocese recommends they are kept on) and read. There is currently no requirement for contact details to be collected nor to sanitize benches after each service.

