

The real sense of Christmas

In Christmas we commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. It depicts the season of love, joy and peace all around. Normally Christmas eve is celebrated with great delight and pleasure. We decorate Christmas trees and make crib. Parents, grandparents and children together decorate the tree with lights, gifts, stars, miniatures and much more. Children enjoy this moment and play around this beautifully decorated tree. Many gifts are placed under the Christmas tree and are supposed to be opened on the eve of Christmas. Christmas reminds us about humanity, charity and wisdom. It essentially gives us an opportunity to make our lives better by serving mankind and helping the less privileged. It also reminds us of the value of sharing, giving, and spending time with our loved ones. This festival is all about positivity and shunning bad habits in life.



As we know, this time Christmas is different for all of us. We all are undergoing a different and strange situation. This time there may not have much traditional celebrations as we did earlier. Earlier the Christmas was the time of coming together and enjoyment. But this time we can't join together for the external enjoyment. **The real joy of Christmas is internal.** So in this Christmas let's try to prepare ourselves internally by our charity and helping mentality. The people all around the world are in a need of essentials because of lack of job and other financial problems. So in this Christmas, let's join our hands with the poor and needy instead of coming together with friends and relatives. This is the real sense and spirit of Christmas.

In the first Christmas -the real birth of Jesus- there were no celebration like this. It was a dark night with confusions and anxiety for Mary and Joseph. But during this anxiety also they could receive well Jesus Christ into their lives. Like that in this time of anxiety, this Christmas be a **real reception** of Jesus Christ into our lives.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Fr Shanju



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. Stephen Fawcett and Fr Shanju John
The Presbytery, Summerhill,
Kingswinford, DY6 9JG.

01384 274520, ourladyoldhill@gmail.com

www.stmaryladyoflourdes.co.uk

Deacon John Brindley (Retired)

Convent - Daughters of Divine Love 01384 380155

Part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham: Reg. Charity No. 234216

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

20TH DECEMBER 2020

PSALM RESPONSE

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

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

27TH DECEMBER 2020

PSALM RESPONSE

He, the Lord is our God.

He remembers his covenant for ever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past and in different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;

But in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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



Advent (A2)	Psalter week 4	Intention/Info
Sunday 19th /20th 4th Sunday of Advent	Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH	Nadim Pat and David Horner People of the Parish
Monday 21st		
Tuesday 22nd	10am Mass OH 10.30am-11am OH	Adoration
Wednesday 23rd	10am Mass BH 10.30am-11am BH	Hill and Harrigan Families Adoration
Thursday 24th	<u>CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES</u> 6pm Mass (BH) Fr Stephen 6pm Mass (OH) People of the Parish 7pm Mass (KF) Whats App Parishioners	
Friday 25th Nativity of the Lord	9.30am Mass (BH) James and Theresa Gough 10.30am Mass (KF) Beryl and Brian Curran 11am Mass (OH) Fr Stephen	
Saturday 26th	---	---

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 Francis Chin, Jess Shaw, Eva McCall, Harold Shackley, Michael Rose, Jill Rowe, James Kearney, Catherine Greenaway, 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, Lily Petford, Connie Birch, Stella Jones, Margaret Marlowe, Don Neale, Michael Rose, Anne Peters, Francis Theseira, Jackie Spittle, Barry Simner, David Barnsley and Dawn Russon. May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Fr Greatbatch and Fr Van for coming to celebrate Christmas with us in this very strange time, we are very grateful to both of them. Thank you to Fr Shanju for continuing to look after us all and his own community despite it not being "part of the job description"!

Special thanks to our wardens and cleaners who have ensured our Churches could be open and safe for us to pray and come together to celebrate the Mass. Without their continued commitment we would not be able to open.

Thank you to all our parishioners who have shown such understanding and a willingness to adapt to the new way of doing things. None of us like change but it has been lovely to see our Parishes coming together and still smiling in spite of everything going on. Pray to God this Christmas for a return to normality and a chance to celebrate Easter 2021 in our Churches!!

Merry Christmas and blessed New year to you all.

Christmas (A2)	Christmas Octave	Intention/Info
Sunday 26th/27th Feast of the Holy Family	Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH	Mavis Geach (B/day) James and Theresa Gough People of the Parish
Monday 28th		
Tuesday 29th	10am Mass OH 10.30am-11.30am OH	Adoration
Wednesday 30th	10am Mass BH 10.30am -11am BH	Anne Mc Call and family Adoration
Thursday 31st	10am Mass OH	
Friday 1st Mary, Mother of God	10.30am -11am KF 11am Mass KF	Adoration Thanksgiving
Saturday 2nd		
Sunday 4th/5th Epiphany	Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH	Richard Adams People of the Parish Leslie Hancox

