

Dear Parishioners

Now is the start of the New Year and I have had time to think about what is best for our Churches going forward. It is important that people who work have time to come to an evening Mass and Confession during the week if they wish. This gives people the opportunity to prepare for Mass on a Sunday in a special and spiritual way. Ideally that would be on a Friday evening and as the Church with the most parking is at Kingswinford it makes sense for it to be there. At the moment the vigil Mass for Sunday is also at Kingswinford on Saturday evening which would mean they only ever have an evening Mass and no opportunity to attend Mass in the morning. On a Sunday I spend a lot of time travelling, first to Brierley Hill for Mass, then Old Hill, then returning to Kingswinford to eat and prepare for my Masses with my own community. It would be a great help to me if my last Mass on a Sunday morning was at Kingswinford giving me more time to be available to people and to prepare.

With all this in mind I would like to consider changing our Mass times for a trial period to the following:

Saturday 5pm Old Hill

Sunday 9.45am Brierley Hill

Sunday 11.30am Kingswinford

Tuesday 10am Mass 10.30am Adoration and Confessions Old Hill

Wednesday 10am Mass 10.30am Adoration and Confessions Brierley Hill

Friday 7pm Adoration and Confessions 7.30pm Mass Kingswinford

Change is always difficult and often unwelcome and some of you will be unhappy with the proposals. I hope you understand my reasons and that by working together we can re-energise our faith and commitment to the Lord. I welcome any constructive comments and suggestions. Please pray for our Parishes as you consider these changes.

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.

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SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

2ND JANUARY 2022

PSALM RESPONSE

The Word was made flesh,
and lived among us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed by the pagans;
Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world.

Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To all who did accept him,
he gave the power to become children of God.

When a profound silence covered all things
And night was in the middle of its course,
Your all-powerful Word, O Lord,
Bounded from heaven's royal throne. (Roman Missal)



Christmas (C2)	Psalter week 2	Intention/Info
Sunday 1st/2nd Second 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
Monday 3rd		
Tuesday 4th	10am Mass OH 10.30am-11am OH 7.30pm KF	Maria Hue Adoration and Confessions Novena
Wednesday 5th	7pm Vigil Mass KF	Pauline Bant
Thursday 6th Epiphany	10am Mass - BH 11.30am Mass OH	Elizabeth- Grandmother Fr George
Friday 7th	10.30am -11am KF 11am Mass KF	Adoration and Confessions Hilary Moissinac
Saturday 8th		
Sunday 8th/9th Baptism of the Lord	Sat 5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH 11.30am Mass OH	Sheila & Geoff Smart, Felicity Librie People of the Parish Carol Daly

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

Collections KF 26/12 GA £35.00 Loose £47.00 Candles £49.10 BH GA £353.00, Loose £761.66, Parish Debt £59.02, Sisters £161.00, Candles £163.93, Refreshments £99.68, Holy Souls £9.09, Newspapers £38.84, Raffle £512.00, Hall hire £115.00, Expenses refund £1523.13 26/12 GA £139.00, Loose £80.71

BRIERLEY HILL: Craft Group Mon 3rd January 2pm to 4pm in Parish Centre

OLD HILL FOODSHARE Tuesday mornings 11am -1pm

KINGSWINFORD: Friday 9.30 - 11.30am **Foodbank** .

Please pray for all those who are sick including Pauline Bant, Jeanette Amphlett, Dorothy West, Margaret Gilroy, 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 and Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Peggy Tromans, Rob and 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.

FOODBANKS - If you are able to donate to them they will be happy to accept your donations. The need is growing so donations are much needed and gratefully received.

SECOND COLLECTIONS - This week for Parish debt at BH and OH

Epiphany of the Lord, Thursday 6th January - This is a Holy day of Obligation.

Masses will be on Wednesday at 7pm in Kingswinford, Thursday 10am at Brierley Hill and 11.30am at Old Hill.

Mother Mary pictures - Fr Stephen has kindly presented each Church with a picture of Our Mother Mary. This have been put up in all three Churches. We are very grateful to him for his time among us. Please remember him in your prayers.

Covid Vaccinations and boosters - The Bishops' Conference has asked all priests to emphasise to their congregations the importance of receiving the booster vaccine where this is possible. There is overwhelming evidence showing the effectiveness of vaccination in preventing serious illness, the further spread of the virus and ultimately death. The vaccination programme, therefore, serves the common good by protecting the population, especially the most vulnerable. **Pope Francis has spoken of the 'moral obligation to be vaccinated' and referred to vaccination as an 'act of love'**. Given that, at the present time, the numbers of people being infected is rising quickly, a collective effort is needed to combat this virus.

Epiphany meal - this has now been cancelled due to the current situation. Hopefully we will be able to have a shared evening later in the year.

Epiphany For many years the feast of Epiphany has been overshadowed by that of Christmas. But unless we realize the significance of this great day, we see only one side of the mystery of the Incarnation. Now after contemplating the staggering fact that God has become a human child, we turn to look at this mystery from the opposite angle and realize that this seemingly helpless Child is, in fact, the omnipotent God, the King and Ruler of the universe. The feast of Christ's divinity completes the feast of His humanity. It fulfills all our Advent longing for the King "who is come with great power and majesty." We see that whereas Christmas is the family feast of Christianity, Epiphany is the great "world feast of the Catholic Church." (*Catholic online*)



Pope's prayer intention for January: For true human fraternity *We pray for all those suffering from religious persecution; may their own rights and dignities be recognised, we originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family. Amen*