



22ND - 29TH DECEMBER 2019

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Father Paul Burch

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

Sun 22 nd	9.30am FAMILY MASS	(Seamus Croarken)
	11.15am SOLEMN MASS	(Carmel Jones) (Mrs Atcheson & Family)
	12.45pm Holy Baptism	(Patsy-Bella Nixon)

9.30am Mass

Entrance	116	Long ago, prophets knew
Offertory	113	The Angel Gabriel
Communion	335	Magnificat (Taizé)
Recessional	112	O come, O come Emmanuel

11.15am Solemn Mass Please see special music sheets

FROM FATHER PAUL

A SIMPLE STORY

The Christmas story is very simple. It relates the birth of a baby, a first-born son, to a quite unremarkable, poor couple from Nazareth. It lacks the complexity and special effects of a film like *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*, but we find it captivating every time we hear it. Why does this simple story appeal to us so much? I think because it speaks of something which we all deeply crave: love. When we hear the Christmas story we hear again the story of God's love for sinful human beings; we hear the story of God's love for you and me. The message of Christmas is that God cares desperately for us and has not abandoned us, even though that is what we deserve. God is with us – Emmanuel – in the joys and sorrows, the triumphs and the disappointments, of our everyday lives, to lift us out of the mess we make for ourselves by getting down in the mess with us. *The Rise of Skywalker* is a very good film, but it didn't bring me to my knees in adoration. The story we will hear once again this week has that power. I wish you and your family all the joy the birth of Christ brings.

Christmas hath darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music
For all Angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low. *Christina Georgina Rossetti (1820-94)*

Advent Wreath prayer IV

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

All: Blessed be God for ever.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Mon 23 rd	Advent Feria <i>O Emmanuel</i>	11.00am Confessions 12.00noon Mass (Tony & Joan Lee)
Tues 24 th	Christmas Eve	9.00am Confessions 9.45am Morning Prayer 10.00am Mass (Imelda Grant)

✠ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD ✠

4.30pm CHILDREN'S MASS (P.J.Barrett)
9pm 'MIDNIGHT MASS' (James & Josephine Foley)

Wed 25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY (Holyday of Obligation)	9.30am FAMILY MASS (John Gallen & Anne McGee) 11.15am SOLEMN MASS (People of the Parish) (The Deeley Family)
Thurs 26 th	ST. STEPHEN, First Martyr	10.00am MASS (Jacqueline Dunkley, 10 th Anniversary)
Fri 27 th	ST. JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist	10.00am MASS (Sean Sexton)
Sat 28 th	THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs	10.00am MASS (Brenda Etherson) 10.30am Adoration & Confessions
Sun 29 th	THE HOLY FAMILY (Year A)	9.30am FAMILY MASS (Mary Lynch) 11.15am SOLEMN MASS (People of the Parish) (James Sweeney)
Mon 30 th	6 th Day in the Christmas Octave	10.00am MASS (Martha Jean Young)
Tues 31 st	7 th Day in the Christmas Octave	10.00 Funeral Mass (Bridie Murray)
Wed 1 st Jan	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	12.00noon SOLEMN MASS (Philip Walsh)

PRAYERS & CONDOLENCES We extend our prayers and condolences to the families of those who have died recently: **Maureen Verney, Helen O'Kelly, Bridie Murray** and **Brian McCarney**. Funeral arrangements displayed in the porch.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES are available this morning on the table in the porch and in church.

CHRISTMAS CRIB Please be sure to visit the Christmas crib during Christmastide. It is not just decoration, but is intended as a focus for our devotions of the Incarnate Son of God. Some prayers and devotions are provided for your use. Our thanks go to those who erected the crib again this year.

CRIB OFFERINGS Any offerings made at the crib will go to Coventry Winter Night Shelter, which offers a place of hospitality and warmth for the homeless of our city.

CHRISTMAS REFRESHMENTS IN THE PRESBYTERY On Wednesday 1st January, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, you are warmly welcomed to the presbytery for coffee and mince pies after Mass at 12noon.

CHURCH CLEANING We are blessed with a very beautiful church, but also a very large church! A very dedicated band of cleaners has worked tirelessly to keep the church clean over the years, for which we are immensely grateful. They do, however, need some help. If you are able to give some of your time to clean church please have a word with Fr Paul. The more people we have, perhaps on a rota, the lighter the load.

EVENING PRAYER On Sunday 12th January, the last day of Christmastide, there will be a service of Evening Prayer (Vespers) at 6pm, at which the vicar of St. Mary Magdalen's, Rev Dwayne Enghe, will preach. This service will be part of our ecumenical keeping of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Please put the date in your diaries and try to be here to welcome our preacher and other members of the congregation of St. Mary Magdalen's.

GIFT AID FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE TABLE IN THE PORCH

The PARISH IS PART OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 234216

W/e 15TH December Gift Aid £284.75 Non Gift Aid & Loose £447.90 Total £732.65 CAFOD £17.74 Hardship Fund £
Christmas Flowers Gift Aid £92.15 Non Gift Aid 261.62 Total £353.77

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TOTAL £1,208.30