



## THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

WOOD STREET, SOUTHAM CV47 1PP

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The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216



### 27.12.2020 – Feast of the Holy Family

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

#### The Holy Family

We celebrate the Holy Family of Nazareth which is the model for all who fear the Lord and walk in his ways. We are called to think of our own families, of the human family and of the family of the Church. Sadly, all of our families are wounded by sin and division. Let us pray to God for the healing of the nations and for the healing of the wounds of sin and divisions in our families.

#### Masses & Intentions

**Saturday 26**

5.30pm People of the Parish

**Sunday 27 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

10.00am Canon Peter Taylor RIP

**Monday 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

Beryl Taylor

**Tuesday 29 Feast of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr**

Walter & Philip Hughes RIP

**Wednesday 30 Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas**

6.30pm Eucharistic Adoration

7.00pm Valerie Scully

**Thursday 31 Seventh Day of the Octave of Christmas**

Fr. Siluvai Nathan (Birthday)

~~~ DEO GRATIAS ~~~ DEO GRATIAS ~~~ DEO GRATIAS ~~~

#### Let us welcome the 'Year of the Lord' 2021

**Friday 01 Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God**

New Year's Day

11.00am Stacy Reed RIP

**Saturday 02 Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr**

St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory Nazianzen

5.30pm Sr. Kathleen Gooch

**Sunday 03 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY**

10.00am People of the Parish

**The Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2: 22-40):** The

story of the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple is dominated by Simeon's welcome, 'a light to enlighten the gentiles and the glory of your people Israel', and by his warning to Mary, 'a sword will pierce your heart'. Simeon reiterates the angel's promise that the child would fulfil the destiny of Israel and Israel's task to the nations. Much like any family life, the promised future included the delights of the growing, developing child, and the background fear that the great destiny of each child may include sorrow and even heart-break. How much did Mary and Joseph know about the precious child they were nurturing? As he grew to independence, did he become more loving and supportive? How did his contemporaries find him? Was he a leader? Did he stand out from the pack? Each of us has a private picture of Jesus - the child, the boy, the adolescent, the young man. All we know for sure is that 'the child grew to maturity', and that Mary 'pondered all these things in her heart', while keeping in mind Simeon's welcome and warning.

**What would Mary have felt and thought as she went home from the Temple?**

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

#### Thank You

- To our sacristans
- To our Readers, Eucharistic Ministers. Stewards & their co-ordinators.
- Organists & all who help with singing / music.
- Altar Servers.
- To all fund-raising event / effort organisers.
- To our Children's Liturgy Organisers
- To all who help with organising refreshments on Sundays.
- To all who help in the parish life and ministry.

Wish you all a Happy New Year. May this Holy Season bring you and to all your near and dear ones blessings of peace, joy, health and happiness.

God bless you all. Enjoy the rest of Christmas season!

**Thank You** very much indeed for your generous Christmas offerings. Thank you too for all your Christmas cards, gifts, good wishes, prayers and blessings. Appreciate them very much. God bless you.

**St Thomas Becket:** On Tuesday 29 December 2020 we celebrate the Feast of **St Thomas Becket – Patron of the English pastoral clergy** – and this year we mark the 850th anniversary of his martyrdom. I encourage you to pray for all our pastors – past and present, and to earnestly pray for vocations, so that all who are being / have been called might constantly endeavour to imitate the supreme pastor, Our Lord Jesus the Good Shepherd. Pray also for vocations, and positively and creatively talk / discuss about vocations, from within our parish, from among our families, so that our young people might consider and generously respond to God's call.

**Pope's Prayer Intention for January (Human Fraternity):** May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

**Funeral Arrangements for Kay Griffin RIP** are as follows:

Reception into the church on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 5.30pm.

Requiem Mass will be on Monday at 12noon

Interment at Oakleywood Crematorium at 1.30pm.

May she rest in peace.

**Sick:** Please pray for all those who are unwell at this time, especially all those who are affected by Covid-19, those who are in isolation and all who help / take care of them as well as all those who serve our communities in frontline jobs.

We hear that the number of people infected with Covid in our local hospitals and in our area is on the increase and as it is across various parts of the country. This makes us feel very unease and fearful. Let us hope and pray that it will be kept under control and that everyone will take all necessary precautions and preventive measures!

***Wish you all a Blessed & Happy New Year 2021!***

**RIP:** Please pray for **Kay Griffin, Kathleen Healy** and all those who died recently and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

**New Year's Day:** There will be Mass at 11.00am on New Year's Day, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. All are welcome.

**New Parish Email Address:** Our parish new email is: [stwuistan.southam@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stwuistan.southam@rcaob.org.uk) Please adjust your contact list accordingly

**Telephone support:** Some of our parishioners are supporting each other by telephone. Please phone 811703 (Shirley) or email ([shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com](mailto:shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com)) if you want a chat or to receive calls or if you would like to join those who are calling others.

### Christmas is a Season, not a day

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only *Transcendent*, but also wholly *Immanent*, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

**The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.** During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us.

**Christmas is a Season, not a day.** This is difficult to realise in our liturgy, since the world wants to get "back to normal" long before we have arrived at the last day of Christmas: the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Each Parish must think of ways to sustain the joy of the Season through the great feasts – Nativity, Holy Family, Epiphany, all the way to that day when we celebrate the fullest revelation that Christ is the Messiah and the Son of God – that moment when the voice from the cloud says of Jesus, "*This is my Son, the Beloved.*" Our Scripture for this Season answers a question: "Who is this who has come to us?" Revelation gradually unfolds, as first shepherds, then Magi, then crowds in the River Jordan are told who this is. This is the Time of Manifestation, when we first begin to see not just a child in a manger, but the face of Christ. What can we add to our liturgy, day by day, in order to awaken this sense of gradual unfolding of the picture of Christ? And how wonderful to be able, day by day, to deepen that deepest joy, not just knowing that Christ is born, but realising once more just who Christ is!

**Mary's Meals** wishes to thank our parishioners for your faithful and generous support. Please access its founder Manus MacFarlane-Barrow's message on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/jyTQtQUUB1M> Their new match funding campaign 'Double the Love' goes even further. Donations made until 31 January 2021 will be doubled by the UK government – meaning they can reach even more hungry children in Liberia with life-changing school meals. Thank you for your generosity.

### Celebrating Christmas Octave

From a musical point of view an octave means eight notes. From the liturgical point of view, it means eight days. Beginning on Christmas day, the Church celebrates the Octave of Christmas, ending on January 1<sup>st</sup> the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Many see this as "just another feast day". In fact, some grumble about it as an inconvenient feast day because

it falls on New Year's day – a Feast Day following a night of revelry and staying up way past bedtime. But this feast day marks an important clarification of the doctrine of Christ's divinity and humanity.

The celebration of Mary, Mother of God, brought division to the Church. The Patriarch Nestorius strongly objected to her holding this title. He insisted that she was only the mother of Jesus' human nature and not His divine. The root of this disagreement wasn't so much a disagreement about Mary as it was about the nature of Christ, as is true of most Marian controversies. This disagreement gave rise to the heresy of Nestorianism: that Jesus has two divided natures, one human and one divine. A schism in the church resulted. The First Council of Ephesus in 431 and the Council of Chalcedon in 451 upheld the teaching of Mary as Theotokos, the God bearer, the Mother of God. We take for granted the hypostatic union – that Jesus is fully human and fully divine in one person – but a painful process brought the Church to this understanding which we hold today. Being that His one person embodies His two natures, and Mary as his mother gave birth to the whole, undivided person, it follows that she is indeed the mother of God.

Therefore, the Octave of Christmas propels us forward to an important feast. It points to a Christological doctrine which affirms Christ's nature and personhood and Mary's role as Mother of God. The octave's primary observation is by celebrating daily Mass in thanksgiving for Christ, with the gospel readings centred around the incarnation and the early years of Jesus' life. The wisdom of the Church begins the octave with the birth of Jesus and ends it on the eighth day with the veneration of Mary's role in the incarnation.

Having celebrated the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, we are called to consider extending the feast throughout the octave by rejoicing in the Incarnation, the coming of God as man – fully human and fully divine in the person of Jesus Christ – and the role of a lowly handmaid in His plan.

May the love of Jesus take deep birth in our hearts on the feast of His nativity and may God hold us and those we love in the palm of His hand.

### The Twelve Days of Christmas

The song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" started life as a way of teaching young English Catholics the central elements of faith during the years of persecution in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

|                          |                                                 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Partridge in a Pear Tree | One God                                         |
| Two Turtle Doves         | Old and New Testament                           |
| Three French Hens        | Father, Son, Holy Spirit / Faith, Hope, Charity |
| Four Colley Birds        | Matthew, Mark, Luke & John                      |
| Five Gold Rings          | The Pentateuch / Books of Moses                 |
| Six Geese a Laying       | The days of Creation                            |
| Seven Swans a Swimming   | Gifts of the Holy Spirit                        |
| Eight Maids a milking    | Beatitudes                                      |
| Nine Drummers drumming   | Fruits of the Holy Spirit                       |
| Ten Pipers piping        | Ten Commandments                                |
| Eleven Ladies Dancing    | Faithful Apostles                               |
| Twelve Lords a Leaping   | Articles of the Creed.                          |

**SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD:** The 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time has will be observed as 'the Sunday of the Word of God'.

Pope Francis writes (this is): a Sunday given over entirely to the word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people.

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE RENEWAL IN OUR PARISH

Father, pour out your Spirit upon your people, and grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service, that your love may grow among us, and your kingdom come:

Through Christ our Lord. Amen