



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

COLLECT

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

'God himself will come and save you.'

35:1-6a, 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps.146(145)

Come, Lord, and save us. or Alleluia.

It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever, who does justice to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the LORD who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the LORD who opens the eyes of the blind, the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the LORD who loves the just, the LORD who protects the stranger. **R.**

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The LORD will reign for ever, your God, O Sion, from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint James.

'Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.'

5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

11:2-11

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Archdiocese of Birmingham
Holy Family RC Parish
763 Coventry Road, Small Heath
Birmingham, B10 0HT



MASSES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sat 13 th	4.00 pm	Joe O'Brien (Anniversary)	14th December 2025: 3rd Sunday of Advent FEASTS : Sunday 4 th Sunday of Advent Adoration & Confession: Tuesday & Thursday (9.30 am – 10.20 am) Altar Lamp – John, Margaret & Tommie Barrett Our Lady's Lamp – People of the Parish OFFERTORY COLLECTION: £560.45 SECOND COLLECTION: £176.58 (Poor Parishes)
Sun 14 th	10.30 am	Anne Garvey (Anniversary)	
	6.30 pm	Parish Carol Service	
Mon 15 th	9.30 am	Yvonne Bradley (Anniversary)	
Tues 16 th	10.30 am	Peter Costello RIP	
Wed 17 th	9.30 am	People of the Parish (with St Bernadette's)	
	12.00 pm	Thomas Noel Tully (Requiem)	
	6.00 pm	St Bernadette's School Carol Service	
Thurs 18 th	10.30 am	Maureen O'Brien RIP (with Holy Family School)	
Fri 19 th	10.30 am	Lorna Smyth RIP	
Sat 20 th	4.00 pm	Kevin Williams RIP	
Sun 21 st	10.30 am	Catherine Foley (Anniversary)	

RECENTLY DEAD: Thomas Noel Tully RIP. Reception into Church Tuesday 16th December, 6.30 pm.
Theresa Patricia Hughes RIP. Funeral Service at Yardley Crematorium, Tuesday 23rd December, 12.15 pm.
Tommy Flynn RIP. Requiem Mass Thursday, 15th January 2026 at 11.00 am
Michael Sheehan RIP. Funeral Service at Yardley Crematorium, Thursday, 15th January 2026 at 1.00 pm

ANNIVERSARIES: Marie Kerr, Nancy Wilson, Margaret Barry, Sandra Edwards, Paul Cleary, Thomas Gill, Kitty Kelly, Anne Garvey, Bridget Shanley, Fergus Doyle, Sally Shuttleworth, Bridie Casserley, Denis Latimer, Kathryn Munce, Ellen Effernan, Timothy Byng, John Maguire, Catherine Augustine, John McGrath, Patricia Devlin, Bertha Winkley, Hannah & Cyril Gallagher, Margaret Gunning, Anne McCormack, Peter Silke, Tom McNicholas, Patrick Byrne.

SICK LIST: Anselm John Baptiste, Jim Deards, Fr Morty O'Shea, John Garvey, Cath McGrath, Amie Faulkner, Clare Bergin, Mary Bergin, John Leo Daly, Fr Michael White, Everly Arnold, Pete McManamon, Mary McManamon.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER: For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christian living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, may be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: Church Maintenance. **NEXT WEEKEND:** Church Maintenance.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE: This Sunday, 14th December at 6.30 pm.

REQUEST FOR POINSETTIAS: We're now happy to accept poinsettias to brighten up our Church for Christmas. Thank you.

ANNUAL BAZAAR: A big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who supported our Bazaar: those who donated bottles and gifts, helpers setting up on Friday evening, tidying away afterwards, manning the door, looking after the stalls, Refreshments and Irish Coffee makers, raffle ticket sellers, St Bernadette's staff and pupils, Holy Family staff and pupils. A total of £1,382.63 was raised. Thank you all for coming out and supporting us.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Divine Jesus, Son of the eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant us and all the faithful true generosity in following your call and bestow on us the grace of your Holy Spirit to persevere in overcoming all obstacles to our vocations. Give the Church in this Diocese and throughout the world many holy priests, fervent religious and committed lay people. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels, Saint Justin, and all Saints, we humbly ask you to hear our prayers and multiply the ministries by which we may serve You and one another in faith and love. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

"O my God and my all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, may your will be done, your love reign, your glory shine always more in me and everyone as in yourself, O my God and my all." (Saint Justin Russolillo, SDV)

Fr Fretch Ballesteros SDV

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The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Barbara Conneely. She can be contacted at sg.holyfamily.bham@rcaob.org.uk, or alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

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