

**MASSES AND SERVICES**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**

**Saturday**      **5.30pm**    Natey Cheffers RIP (JM)  
**Sunday**        **8.45am**    People of the Parish  
                     **10.30am**    Mary Coton (MH)

**Weekday Masses all Christmas Feria**

**Monday**      **10 am**      Keith Wilson RIP (VW)  
**Tuesday**     **10 am**      Isabel Cusack (D&E B)  
**Wednesday** **10 am**      Angela Robinson Int  
**Thursday**    **10 am**      Nigel McGill RIP (S&A McG)  
**Friday**       **10 am**.....Matthew Gallagher (JG)  
**Saturday**    **10 am**      Yolland Rahimo (SZ)

**Feast of the Baptism of the Lord 12<sup>th</sup> January –**

**Saturday**      **5.30pm**    Bridget Desmond RIP (MM)  
**Sunday**        **8.45am**    Church Cleaners Intentions  
                     **10.30am**    People of the Parish

**Confession Saturday morning 9.15am – 9.45am**  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Saturday 9am -9.50 am**  
**Rosary – Monday to Friday 9.35am Saturday 10.30am**  
**Divine Mercy Chaplet – Friday after Mass**

**READERS**

This week	5.30 pm	M.O'Dwyer	8.45 am	C.Saum	10.30am	D.Walmsley	
Next week	5.30 pm	E.Linker	8.45 am	G.Moroney-B	10.30 am	D.Bixby	
Coffee Rota	11/12 Jan	5.30 pm	B&P Service	8.45 M&S	Worrell	10.30 am	OZ & PH

Parish Priest: Fr John Cross

Deacon: Rev Mr Stephen Saum, Rev Dr Subhi Zora. Priest in Residence: Fr Paul Dean,  
The Presbytery, 337 Station Road, Dorridge, Solihull, B93 8EZ. Tel: 01564 772098

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St George and St Teresa School, Mill Lane, Bentley Heath, Solihull, B93 8PA. Tel: 01564 774906  
Head of School Stephen Hainie. Executive Head Louise Flanagan

**Saint George and Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus,  
Catholic Church  
Serving Dorridge, Bentley Heath ,Knowle & Hockley Heath  
Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Dear Parishioners,

This is the first newsletter of this New Year so may I wish everyone in the parish a very Happy New Year. Many thanks too for your cards and gifts at Christmas time. We are now well stocked with certain luxury items in our cupboards. As the Methodist minister, keen to thank a parishioner when he saw her at a Sunday service shortly after Christmas, but not wanting to reveal the contents of the package, nor that he was not supposed to drink it, (Methodists are not supposed to drink alcohol) "Many thanks for the cherries and the spirit in which they were given! Ditto !

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. For many of us this marks the end of our Christmas celebration as we recycle our Christmas tree and put away the lights etc for the end of the year. There is another tradition which says the crib and lights etc should remain in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (this year is on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February). A couple of parishes ago there was a shop in Bewdley called "Forever Christmas" which kept a good stock of everything one might need all year round.. It was always busy with tourists and the place to go to for red candles and red robin napkins. The names of the Magi ( Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar ) are not given in the Bible but are always useful to know when taking part in a quiz!. Our crib will come down after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which is next weekend so there is still time for you to go and pay homage to the baby Jesus and share your spiritual resolutions for the New Year! Thank you for the donations to the Mary's Meals Crib Charity Appeal.

In his Pastoral Letter to all churches and chapels in the Diocese last weekend, Archbishop Bernard encouraged us to be pilgrims of hope as we journey through the Jubilee Year 2025. If you would like to be a pilgrim take one of the Jubilee booklets in the Narthex for more information they cost £1. How should we mark the Jubilee and the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Church ?

Every Blessing,  
Fr John

**200 Club** Annual Subscription £15: Subscriptions for 2024 were due on 31<sup>st</sup> December. If you do not pay by standing order please send or deliver a cheque to the presbytery. Please write "200" Club on the back of your cheque. Alternatively, you can pay by bank transfer using TTC as the reference; please contact the parish if you need our bank details. If you would like to join the 200 Club, application forms are available in the narthex.

✠ *Please pray for*

**The housebound & the sick:** Isabel Cusack, Janet Zora, Arthur Uzell, Fr. Michael White, Tony Parsons, Rod Goodman, Dr John Martin, Joe Stephens, Michael Grosvenor, Dorothy Perkins, Jill Baynham, Matthew Gallagher, Jane Cotter, Margaret Cosgrove and Jesse Cusack Morris, as well as parishioners in nursing homes and hospital.

**Recently deceased:** Christine Bullivant , Fr Fred Sheldon.

**Anniversaries (this week) from the last 20 years:** Richard Fildes, Clifford Tilley, Margaret Griffin, Camilla Spaling, Celia Bullock, Margaret Western, Joseph Edwards, Dennis O'Keefe, Margaret Igoe, Margaret Kelly, Patrick Donlon  
*May the souls of the faithful departed, Rest in Peace.*

**Offertory:**

Av standing order and online per week £620. Many thanks for your support.  
Mass Attendances Christmas Eve & Day 752 , Last Sunday Feast of the Holy Family 174

**Parish Centre News.** Timetable for next week on the noticeboard. If you are having a family occasion, please consider booking our hall for your venue. **It is important that users of the Parish Centre arrange bookings (and payments for non-Parish Events) through Oksana Zurak 07967-846-963 or [oksanazurak@gmail.com](mailto:oksanazurak@gmail.com)**

**Diocesan Directories £5**

**Pope Francis : From the homily given by Pope Francis at Vespers of Holy Mary Mother of God on New Year's Eve**

"Is human fraternity just another slogan , or can it be built on a solid foundation?" Mary the Mother of God gives us the answer by showing us Jesus .

The hope of a fraternal world is the Word made flesh, the incarnate Son, sent by a loving Father, so that we may become his children and be brothers and sisters among ourselves. While we admire the many works which have been completed to help us to celebrate the Jubilee, we must also recognise the building site in each one of us where we allow God to change and make better that which is unworthy of a son or daughter of his . Let us every day commit ourselves to living as a brother or sister to my neighbour. May Mary, our Holy Mother help us to walk together as pilgrims of hope, on a path to fraternity. "

Fr John adds : Next weekend we have our tea and coffee after Mass. It is not always well supported as many parishioners seem to be in a hurry to get away after Mass is ended. Of course, I understand there are many valid reasons why we sometimes need to get away but surely not every time. I do appeal to you to make an effort to use these opportunities to socialise, not just among old friends but also to welcome the new faces. I think the same could be said about after mass when parishioners are in a great haste to leave without any greeting to their neighbours in church. Many new parishioners have commented on how unwelcome they feel when they come to church, even parishioners who have attended mass for many years have said how people ignored them for the first few years. The church is a family and is where we meet as a family, as Pope Francis mentions in his homily above. We need to remember that Christ is present in the lonely and the lost, as well as in the familiar and the loved. We are generous to people in need who live thousands of miles away but sometimes unable to offer the gift of friendship to our parish community closer to home. .

**2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrimage** – there will be a Pilgrimage to Puglia from 9 September 2025 to 16 September 2025 with Monsignor McHugh as Spiritual Leader. The itinerary includes visits to Bari (St Nicholas), Alberobello (St Anthony), San Giovanni Rotondo (Padre Pio Shrine), Trani (also St Nicholas), Lecce (St Oronzo), Matera (Madonna della Bruna) and Pietrelcina (birthplace Padre Pio). Flights are from and to Birmingham via Naples. Cost is £995 per person sharing or £1,195 single. If you are interested in joining the Pilgrimage please let me, Fred Slater, know and I will send you a full itinerary. My email address is: [frederick1310@icloud.com](mailto:frederick1310@icloud.com)

And finally....**Makes me smile**

I found New Year's Eve very stressful. I suffer from auld lanxiety.

Something tells me 2025 is going to be an odd year..

I have no problem with people being spontaneous but there is a time and a place for it.

I asked the croupier at the casino how he would describe his job ? He said, "Ideal"

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My golden retriever had a hair cut, so I made the fur into a nice cardigan. I must admit it is rather fetching.

Just been hospitalized due to a hide and seek accident. They put me in ICU

*The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese's policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Sandy Walmsley and Daphne Morgan. They can be contacted at: [sg.stgeorge-stteresa.dorridge@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stgeorge-stteresa.dorridge@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 / [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.*