



**St Margaret Mary,  
Birmingham**

**CHRISTMAS II**

**Year B**

**3rd January, 2021**

Priest: ✠ In the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the  
Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: **And with your Spirit.**

Confiteor: I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I  
have failed to do, through my fault,  
through my fault, through my most  
grievous fault; therefore I ask  
blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May Almighty God have  
mercy upon us, forgive us our sins

and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

**Gloria in excelsis**

Glory to God in the highest, and on  
earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you, we  
adore you, we glorify you, we give  
you thanks for your great glory, Lord  
God, heavenly King, O God, almighty  
Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten  
Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of  
the Father, you take away the sins  
of the world, have mercy on us, you  
take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer, you are seated  
at the right hand of the Father, have  
mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you  
alone are the Lord, you alone are  
the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the  
Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the  
Father. Amen.

**First reading:** Ecclesiasticus 24.1-2,  
8-12. *From eternity, God created  
wisdom.*

**Psalm response:** *The Word was  
made flesh and lived among us.*

**Second reading:** Ephesians 1.3-6,  
15-18. *Before the world was made,  
God chose us in Christ.*

Gospel acclamation: *Glory be to  
you, O Christ, proclaimed to the  
pagans. Glory to you, O Christ,  
believed in by the world.*

**Gospel: John 1.1-18** *The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory.*

## Homily

**Apostles Creed** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only son, Our Lord, *who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary*, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

## Offertory

Pray Brethren that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

**Sanctus:** Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full

of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

**The Mystery of faith:** We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**Notices** \* Figures from 27/12/2020: Gift Aid: £116.60, Loose £117.10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection, Ordinariate Clergy Training Fund: £304.11 Attendance: 121. Christmas Eve/Day attendance: 218

\* Figures from 20/12/2020: Gift Aid: £115, Loose £169.80, 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea): £131.80, Attendance: 132

\* Archbishop Bernard Longley's Christmas Pastoral letter: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/archbishops-pastoral-letter-sunday-27>

There is also a Christmas message from the Archbishop on the same website.

\* The Governing Body of St Margaret Mary School, Perry Common, Birmingham are currently seeking to recruit a new **Headteacher** for 1 September, 2021. We are keen to attract as wide a field of suitably qualified and experienced applicants as possible.

**Closing date: 9am, Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2021**

**Interviews: Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2021**

**All details available from the school website <https://www.stmgmtmry.bham.sch.uk/>**

\* The **outdoor crib** - This Christmas our outdoor crib will support Fr Hudson's Society: @fatherhudsons, show you care too by sharing a picture of your Christmas preparations and by donating to support people in need in your Archdiocese to <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/fhccrib2020> #fatherhudsonscrib

\* **Our foodbank is full at this time.** Please pause any donations! Please remember, for those in need, our **foodbank** is open when you need it.

Please phone Carmel Dowdall on 07943 577638 if you have foodbank enquiries.

\* [www.portal.mag.uk](http://www.portal.mag.uk) is now out for January, which includes a review by Fr Simon on the new document from the Vatican on ecumenism.

\* Pope Francis' prayer for January: *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.*

\* Many thanks to you all for your kind messages and cards sent to Fr Simon and Fr Leonard throughout Christmas and would like to wish you every blessing for 2021.

\* *Sycamore* is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. It gives you space to meet other people, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. Each session involves a short film and time for discussion. Everyone is welcome. Fr Simon will be trialling this course soon. If you would like to try and introductory evening during Advent, please contact him on 07985 753391.

\* Many thanks to our fantastic **stewards** who are helping to keep church open and

to our **buddies** who are keeping in touch with elderly or vulnerable members.

\* If you give by Gift Aid and you would like your gift aid figures for your tax returns, please speak to Terry Brown (Treasurer) on 07969 978007 or [Tezza\\_b@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Tezza_b@hotmail.co.uk)

\* Giving by standing order is through our Bank, NatWest, Sort Code 60-08-02, Account Number 14403749. Account: *Archdiocese of Bham St Margaret Mary.*

**\*Prayers for the departed:**

Michael James Francis McGreene, Margaret Lemathy, Kathleen Donnelly, Claire Duffy, Jacob Billington, Frances Raczka, Doreen Nevitt, George O'Sullivan, Hilda O'Sullivan, Clare Duffy, Martin Hegney, George Compagno, Gladys Wakefield, Francis (Frank) Cleland, Sonia Pike, Sandra Ware, Joan Gilbert, Carmel Mahon, Colin Niblett, Gina Tovey, Baby Shai Williams, Arthur Wills, Rev Andrew Wilson, Jaisamma Abraham, James Dargan, Carol Hill, Paddy Joyce, Fr Alan Griffin, Beverley Cooper, Nigel Waters, Collette Hickey, Margaret Turton, Anne Ellis, Mary Quinn, Ann Burns, Mary Winstanley, Monika Lenarczyk RIP

**THIS WEEK** Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2021 6.30pm Mass (Carmel Finnigen).

**THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS** *Final 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for the Crib (Fr Hudson's) Appeal*

Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January, **THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS** 9.30am Mass (Ron Scott RIP). 11am Mass (James – Jimmy – Doyle). *Final 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for the Crib (Fr Hudson's) Appeal.*

Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> Term begins at our school. 7pm Mass (George Parkes RIP).

Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> 8.55am Rosary. 9.15am Mass (Michael Woulfe RIP).

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD.** *(Normally a holy day of Obligation).* 8.35am Adoration. 9.15am Mass with blessing of chalk and procession to the crib (Tony McCorry RIP & Doug, Matt and families).

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> Mass intention: Pdraig Woulfe RIP.

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> 9.15am Mass

Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Mass **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD** (Ann Burns RIP). *White Flower Appeal (SPUC) after mass.*

Sun 10<sup>th</sup> January **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD** 9.30am Mass (pro populo). 11am Mass (The unborn). *White Flower Appeal (SPUC) after mass. The end of Christmas/Epiphany.*

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The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Reg. Charity No. 234216 Working in collaboration with the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham & Our Lady of the Assumption, Maryvale and Christ the King, Kingstanding.



**PASTORAL LETTER  
OF THE  
MOST REVEREND BERNARD LONGLEY  
ARCHBISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM  
FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, 26/27 DECEMBER 2020**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

*This child is destined to be a sign...so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.*

May I first of all wish you and all those close to you a blessed and happy Christmas. Every day of the Christmas Octave - in the week leading up to New Year's Day - is a continuation of the celebration of Christmas. But I know that this year – because of the coronavirus restrictions - it will be much more difficult for us to maintain the Christmas spirit across the traditional twelve days.

Today's Feast of the Holy Family is particularly poignant in a year when it has been impossible for our families to gather together as they usually would. Perhaps this serves to emphasise some of the things that we can easily take for granted about family life and the value of our relationships.

The family is part of the natural world that God has created and entrusted to us. All living creatures exist in some sort of kinship, guaranteeing their continuity and sustaining the quality of their lives. Pope Francis has said that we need *education in the care of the common home* to help people understand that *environmental problems are linked to human needs*.

From the very outset of our lives the human needs on which we depend for life itself find their natural setting in the family. From the gift of life itself to the loving provision of food, shelter and all the benefits of human contact, the family is the gift that keeps on giving. A new-born baby becomes the focus of love and attention on the part of parents and family not because of anything it can do, but simply on account of its being.

With the birth of his Son, the Father has revealed his unconditional love for us, irrespective of our ability to achieve anything in life or to merit God's love. St Paul has put it this way: *It is proof of God's love for us, that Christ died for us while we were still sinners...While we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son.*

We see this unconditional love in the Holy Family – even when its demands caused some perplexity. St Luke's Gospel indicates something of this where it describes the journey of Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem, taking the infant Jesus to the Temple *to present him to the Lord*. The evangelist says *the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him*.

Looking back on the closing year, with all its extraordinary ups and downs, we may not always have seen the sense of what was happening to us or our families – we may often have felt anxious or perplexed about events unfolding around us, locally or nationally. At times of crisis we tend to fall back on those things that are fundamental to our lives and our beliefs.

Hence, the need for our family and for our faith have been central to surviving 2020. This year we have missed those very special expressions of family life that continue to make Christmas an important season for believer and non-believer alike. Our parish communities have done their utmost – through the continued opening of our churches, alongside the live-streaming of Mass - to sustain the life of faith within our families.

The familiar saying: *absence makes the heart grow fonder* can never have been truer than it is for 2020. Family life and Catholic faith teach us to hope that the things we have glimpsed, or experienced in part, will one day find their fulfilment in the Kingdom of God. The Holy Family of Nazareth shows us that we are called through Christ to the eternal communion of love and life in God.

As the New Year approaches we ask the holy child - *destined to be a sign...so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare* - to give us the courage to bring our secret thoughts to God.

A beautiful prayer from the Iona Community can help us prepare for 2021:

*You keep us waiting.  
You, the God of all time  
Want us to wait  
For the right time in which to discover  
Who we are, where we must go  
Who will be with us, and what we must do.*

May the Holy Family of Nazareth help us all, this New Year. With my prayers for you and my kindest wishes this Christmastide.

Yours devotedly in Christ

+ *Bernard Longley*

✠Bernard Longley  
Archbishop of Birmingham

Given at Birmingham on the 22 December 2020 and appointed to be read in all Churches and Chapels of the Archdiocese on the Feast of the Holy Family, 26/27 December 2020.