

Weekly Message from Fr William
For Fourth Sunday of Advent 2021 and Octave of Christmas

Dear People of St Mary's

Synod 2021-2023. We've now got a record of our responses and interactions up on the website. You'll see it on the EVENTS page. A tick on the flip chart indicates personal agreement with responses somebody else in the parish has given. A cross indicates disagreement. Click on the photo to zoom in if the writing is too small to see. If it's still too small don't worry. The facilitators have said they would be typing up all the manuscripts and we'll get to see these before they go to the next stage.

Here's confirming the provision for Christmas Masses during the Christmas Octave indicated in my weekly message last Sunday. You'll find this now duplicated onto the current Bulletin, page 1. As mentioned last Sunday, the Octave of Christmas has been promoted by Bishop Marcus as a continuation of our Christmas Day celebrations. So instead of celebrating Mass on Christmas Day, which could be crowded, especially the 10am mass, you could instead choose to celebrate Christmas Mass on any day in the Christmas Octave.

Mass times throughout the Octave are at a variety of times to suit as many individual or family plans as possible. All will include much-loved Christmas carols, except on the Seventh Day of the Octave for those that might prefer a quieter Christmas mass without carols.

There will be no Christmas Eve Children's Mass. Children are welcome at any of the eight Christmas Masses within the Octave.

At each Christmas Mass throughout the Octave the Second Collection will go to the charity 'Friends of the Holy Land', as we have done in recent years. This charity undertakes a programme of both sustainable and immediate relief work in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

Before you come to church this Christmas, please read my last weekly message as well, 12th December, especially about the new requirement to wear face coverings.

Keep safe! Keep each other safe! And together let's help keep the wider community safe, the NHS, and the economy, by minimising the risk of viral transmission.

Wishing you and your family a holy Christmas filled with joy and peace and blessings when it breaks upon us in just a few days time.



Fourth Sunday of Advent 19th December 2021