

Weekly Message from Fr William for the Second Sunday of Christmas

Dear People of St Mary's

Thank you to Sacristans, Ministers of the Word, Eucharistic Ministers, Musicians, EW schedulers, AV operators, for your extra services during the Christmas Octave, to the Cleaning Team, and to all those who have been helping to made the church and atrium look special during this Christmas Season.

As we go into the final week of Christmas we have three more highlights of the Season: The Second Sunday of Christmas, which until recently and for many years was eclipsed by the practice in England and Wales of transferring the Epiphany onto this Sunday, and you'll hear Mass readings which hadn't been heard in our churches for many years. We then celebrate the Epiphany on Thursday 6th January, the 12th day of Christmas, and note that Epiphany Mass times will be Wednesday 7pm and Thursday 9am, both with Christmas/Epiphany carols. I'll also be celebrating a Christmas/Epiphany mass with the school on Friday. Finally we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord next Sunday 9th January, bringing the Christmas Season to an end.

At the time of writing (Friday evening) there is no change to guidance or requirements to control covid viral transmission since the reintroduction of mandatory face coverings in the weeks leading up to Christmas. For a list of current guidance and requirements for St Mary's see the website homepage link 'celebration of mass by in-church participation', updated for this Sunday.

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 plenty more Christmas joy and peace and blessings for this final week of Christmas Time.



Second Sunday of Christmas 2nd January 2022