

Weekly Message from Fr William for Second Sunday of Advent 2022

Dear People of St Mary's, here's the mass times for the Christmas Octave this year.

<b>OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS 2022-2023</b>			
Sun 25 Dec	<b>FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS</b> <b>Nativity of the Lord</b> <i>(could be crowded)</i>	00.00 Midnight Mass *L-IC*	Parish
		08.00 Dawn Mass *L-IC*	Alice & Manfred Eckert
		10.00 Day Mass *L-IC*	Joseph McCann
Mon 26 Dec	<b>SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS</b> <b>St Stephen, First Martyr</b>	11.00am Mass *L-IC*	
Tue 27 Dec	<b>THIRD DAY OF CHRISTMAS</b> <b>St John the Apostle</b>	11.00am Christmas Children's Mass *IC*	
Wed 28 Dec	<b>FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS</b> <b>Holy Innocents</b>	<i>No service</i>	L = Livestreamed
Thu 29 Dec	<b>FIFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS</b> <b>St Thomas Becket</b>	<i>No service</i>	IC = In church
Fri 30 Dec	<b>SIXTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS</b> <b>Holy Family</b>	12.00 noon Mass *L-IC*	
Sat 31 Dec	<b>SEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS</b>	10.00am Mass *L-IC*	
Sun 1 Jan	<b>OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS</b> <b>Mary Mother of God</b>	Mass: Sat 6.00 pm *L-IC*	
		Mass: Sun 10.00 am *L-IC*	
		Mass: Sun 5.00 pm *L-IC*	

It's similar to the last two years, but with one or two changes. After consultation and feedback in the PPC I've given more variation to the timing of these Christmas Masses during the octave. We looked at an afternoon mass option but after taking further soundings there didn't seem a demand for this. If you would like a Christmas mass during the afternoon sometime in the octave next year let me know.

It's three years since we had a mass specially for the children of the parish. I'm re-introducing it this year, but lifting it from the old date of 24<sup>th</sup> into the Christmas Octave. Parish and school are working together to put this on. This new place for the Children's Mass means that it is now within the octave. It might also help the children to experience a continuation of Christmas beyond the 25<sup>th</sup>, and into the Christmas Season. The gospel reading they will hear will be Luke's account of the Nativity, so emblematic of Christmas, with the journey to Bethlehem, the manger and the swaddling clothes, the shepherds and the angels. It supports our tradition of having midnight as the first opportunity to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. It also solves a long running safety concern. Having the Children's Mass on the 24<sup>th</sup> was very popular, so much so that we were like sardines, including many unaccompanied adults, to the point where it became unsafe eg for emergency evacuation, and I don't want to go back to that. The Christmas Children's Mass will be on the Third Day of Christmas at 11.00am. Note that it will not be livestreamed. This mass is intended for the children of the parish and their families. Unaccompanied adults are very welcome to celebrate with me any of the other Christmas Masses within the octave.

God bless you



Second Sunday of Advent, 4 december 2022