

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Keith Moore, Doreen Dwyer and David Slaney

Seafarers Christmas Shoe-boxes:

Please return these by 14th December.

Thanks from Hilari: I would like to express my grateful thanks to all those who helped me to get around, by various means to commitments and appointments whilst I was unable to drive. You know who you are !!!! It has been very much appreciated. I am now back behind the wheel at last.

St. Mary's Folk Group – 35 Years of Faithful Service

This week we offer heartfelt thanks to our Folk Group. For more than three decades, their voices, instruments, and gentle leadership have helped our parish pray, worship, and sing with joy. They have accompanied countless sacramental and parish celebrations, and ordinary Sundays with a spirit of generosity and prayerfulness that has blessed us all.

A special word of gratitude must go to Pauline, who has led the group with patience, dedication, and a quiet steadiness that has shaped not only the music but also the faith of many in our community. Pauline, your commitment has been an anchor for this ministry, and we are deeply grateful.

To every member, past and present: thank you for the evenings spent practising, for turning up early, for adapting, persevering, and giving your gifts freely. You have helped lift our hearts to God.

Although this chapter of music ministry now comes to its close, the fruits of your service remain — in the lives touched, the moments of prayer strengthened, and the memories held with gratitude.

May the Lord bless each of you with the same joy and faithfulness you have shared with us. Thank you, and God bless.

Christmas Church Flowers in St. Mary's & St. John Bosco: There are baskets in each porch for you to place your kind donations for

flowers to decorate the churches for the most joyous occasion of Christmas when we celebrate the birth of our Blessed Lord.

Christmas offerings are banked for the parish. If you wish to give a gift to Fr. John at Christmas, please ensure it is in an envelope with his name on it and NOT in a Christmas Offering envelope as these will be banked for the parish.

“Rejoice, the Saviour Is Near”

Gaudete Sunday stands out in Advent like a candle in the dark.

The Church wears rose, the music softens, and a single word rises above the rest: **Rejoice**.

But Christian joy is never naïve.

It doesn't pretend that December is peaceful or that life is perfect.

It is not the cheerfulness of avoiding reality.

It is the confidence that **God has entered reality** — and that He comes as **Saviour**.

John the Baptist sits in prison this week.

He sends a question to Jesus that many of us have whispered in our own way: “Are You the One who is to come?”

In other words:

“Can I trust You with my life? With my fears? With my soul?”

And Jesus answers not with mere words but with signs of salvation:

the blind see, the lame walk, the poor hear Good News.

Every healing is a reminder that God has come not simply to improve life, but to save souls — to restore what sin has damaged, to lift what has fallen,

to open what has been closed.

We rejoice this week, not because everything is solved, but because the Saviour is already at work.

John is still in prison, yet Christ is freeing hearts.

We may feel burdened, yet Christ is healing wounds we cannot see.

Grace is growing beneath the surface.

Light is gathering at the horizon.

Gaudete Week invites each of us to pause and ask a simple question:
“Where is Christ already working in my life?”
Look for the small mercies, the quiet conversions, the daily strength
you did not generate on your own.
These are His footprints.

As Christmas draws near, let this be our Advent prayer:
“Lord Jesus, You are the One who has come to save me.
Give me the joy that comes from trusting You.”
Rejoice — the Saviour is very near.

Christmas Mass Times

Wednesday 24 December 6pm Mass St. Edwards
Wednesday 24 December 12 Midnight Mass St. Mary's
Carols from 11:30pm
Thursday 25 December 10am Mass St. John Bosco

The Syro-Malabar Community have requested St John Bosco church and hall on Christmas Eve, as their usual venue is not available, so we are kindly accommodating them by changing our venues.

Just Teach Sheets: <https://cathparishmje.co.uk/just-teach-sheets/>

Homilies on our website at: <https://cathparishmje.co.uk/homilies/>

Bible Studies <https://cathparishmje.co.uk/bible-studies/>

Parish Website: cathparishmje.co.uk **Parish Phone:** 07354 832195

Parish Email mjeoffice@proton.me

Parish Priest: Fr. John Owens frowens@pm.me

Safeguarding Representative: Hilari Chetwood: 07734 690611

Newsletter: newslettermje@gmail.com

Easy Fundraising: Shop **online** and help the parish, with no cost to you.
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-marys-and-st-john-bosco-rcp/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-nl

Donations to your Parish via Bank Transfer

Acc: St Mary and St J B S Wigston RCP, SC: 30-15-97, AN: 00346385

Acc: St Edward Conf Leicester RCP, SC: 30-15-97, AN: 00554352

St. Mary's, St. John Bosco, and St. Edward's

cathparishmje.co.uk

Third Week of Advent Theme: Preparation, Year A

Saturday 13th December St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

4pm Nine Lessons and Carols followed by mince pies *St. Mary's*

5:30pm Confession *St. John Bosco*

6pm Mass *St. John Bosco* Holy Souls

Sunday 14th December Gaudete Sunday

9am Mass *St. Edward's* Holy Souls

11am Mass *St. Mary's* Francis Hartley RIP 1st Ann

5:30pm Confession *St. Mary's*

6pm Mass (incense) *St. Mary's* Anne Kelly Birthday

Monday 15th December

7pm Advent Reflections - Joy *St. Edward's*

Wednesday 17th December Advent Feria

10am Mass and Benediction *St. Edward's* John McCay RIP (Ann.)

Thursday 18th December Advent Feria

10am Mass and Benediction *St. Mary's* Johanna Hume RIP

1pm Funeral Service *Saffron Hill Cemetery* David Slaney RIP

6:30pm Confession *St. Mary's*

7:15pm Journey of Faith (RCIA) *St. Mary's Hall* Join Anytime

Friday 19th December Advent Feria

10am Mass and Benediction *St. John Bosco* Holy Souls

1-3pm Chat and Craft Group for all *St. Edward's Hall*

Saturday 20th December Advent Feria

5:30pm Confession *St. John Bosco*

6pm Mass *St. John Bosco* All Parishioners

Sunday 21st December Fourth Sunday of Advent

9am Mass *St. Edward's* Sylvia Borszowski RIP (2nd Ann.)

11am Mass *St. Mary's* Laurence Toner RIP

5:30pm Confession *St. Mary's*

6pm Mass (incense) *St. Mary's* James Healey - Welfare