

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

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Fourth Week of Advent into Christmastide Year A

Saturday 20th December Advent Feria

2:30pm Nativity and Choir, Everdale Grange All Welcome

5:30pm **Confession** *St. John Bosco*

6pm **Holy Mass** *St. John Bosco* All Parishioners

Sunday 21st December Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

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

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

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

Monday 22nd December

7pm Advent Reflection - Love, *St. Edward's* All Welcome

Wednesday 24th December - Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord

10am **Holy Mass** and Benediction, *St. Edward's* Edward RIP

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

6pm **Holy Mass** *St. Edward's* Holy Souls

11:30pm Carols *St. Mary's*

12pm **Midnight Mass** *St. Mary's* Ken and Barbara Smith RIP

Thursday 25th December The Nativity of the Lord

9:30am **Confession** *St. John Bosco*

10am **Holy Mass** *St. John Bosco* Chris O'Donovan - 100th Birthday

Friday 26th December St. Stephen

10am **Holy Mass** and Benediction, *St. John Bosco* Altar Servers

Saturday 27th December St. John the Apostle and Evangelist

5:30pm **Confession** *St. John Bosco*

6pm **Holy Mass** *St. John Bosco* All Parishioners

Sunday 28th December - The Feast of the Holy Family

9am **Holy Mass** *St. Edward's* David Casserley RIP

11am **Holy Mass** *St. Mary's* Johanna Hume RIP

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

6pm **Holy Mass** (incense) *St. Mary's* Udodinim - Birthday

Wednesday 31st Dec. 7th Day within the Octave of Christmas

10am **Holy Mass** and Benediction, *St. Edward's* Holy Souls

Thursday 1st January 2026 Mary, The Holy Mother of God

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

7pm **Holy Mass** *St. Mary's* All Parishioners

Friday 2nd January Sts. Basil the Great, and Gregory Nazianzen

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

Saturday 3rd January - Christmas (Before Epiphany) Feria

5:30pm **Confession** *St. John Bosco*

6pm **Holy Mass** *St. John Bosco* Holy Souls

Sunday 4th January Second Sunday after Christmas

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

11am **Holy Mass** *St. Mary's* Doreen Dwyer RIP

1:30pm Rosary Rally, *Opposite Sports Direct, Leicester City Centre*

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

6pm **Holy Mass** (incense) *St. Mary's* Holy Souls

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Keith Moore RIP, Funeral Mass Wed. 14th Jan. 11am at St. Edwards.

A Catholic Community has requested the use of 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. See Calendar, 6pm vigil on Christmas Eve now at St. Edward's, 10am Christmas Day Mass now at St. John Bosco.

Epiphany Mass Times

Monday 5 January 7pm St. Edwards

Tuesday 6 January 9am St. John Fisher School

Tuesday 6 January 7pm St. Mary's

Christmas, the Incarnation, and the New Year

Christmas is not a seasonal feeling. It is a doctrine.

At Christmas the Church proclaims something astonishing and concrete: God has taken flesh. The eternal Son of the Father has entered human history, not as an idea or symbol, but as a real man, born of the Virgin Mary, to save us from sin and death.

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

That sentence is the heart of the Christian faith. If it is true, then nothing about human life is insignificant. Our bodies matter. Our choices matter. Our salvation matters.

This is why the Church does not give us one day of Christmas, but an Octave. For eight days she insists that we stay with the mystery, because the Incarnation cannot be rushed. God has united Himself permanently to our humanity, so that we might be united to Him by grace.

The feasts that follow Christmas unfold what this really means.

St Stephen shows us that Christ is worth dying for.

St John reminds us that the faith is grounded in truth, not opinion.

The Holy Family teaches us that holiness is learned through obedience, sacrifice, and daily fidelity.

And on 1 January, Mary, the Holy Mother of God, stands at the beginning of the year, reminding us that salvation came into the world through her humble “yes.”

As one year ends and another begins, the Church does not ask us to make resolutions first. She asks us to remain in Christ. To return to the sacraments. To live in the state of grace. To allow the Incarnate Word to shape our minds, our morals, and our homes.

Christmas tells us that God has not come to affirm us as we are, but to redeem us. The Child in the manger is the Lamb who will take away the sins of the world. The wood of the crib already points toward the wood of the Cross. And yet this is a message of hope, not fear. Because God has entered time, time itself is redeemed. Because Christ

has taken our flesh, our lives can be healed from within. Because the Son has been born of Mary, we can become sons and daughters of the Father.

As we enter the new year, we do so not alone, and not uncertain of God’s intentions. We begin it under the blessing of the Church, with the Holy Name of Jesus on our lips and the Mother of God praying for us.

Christmas has changed the world.

It can change us too — if we allow it.

So let us keep the feast faithfully. Let us live as Catholics who believe what the Church teaches. And let us step into the year ahead with confidence, knowing that God is with us, God has saved us, and God will not abandon us. Merry Christmas to you all, Fr. John

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.

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