



## Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

**Sunday 22 December 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Readings: Year C**

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### Dear Parishioners

Have you watched the latest Hilary Mantel televised novel "The mirror and the light", the third novel in the grand saga of Henry VIII and his entourage? The first two novels ("Wolf Hall" and "Bring up the bodies") both won the Booker Prize, the first time a British and a female author had done so twice and this third novel was short-listed. They are absorbing, entertaining...and in the words of David Starkey the Tudor historian "total fiction"! Mantel presents Cromwell as a noble liberal when in reality he was, in the words of Professor Simon Schama, "a monster".

Hilary Mantel was a cradle Catholic but had developed an almost obsessive and unbalanced hatred of the Church, and the novels, excellent as they are, demonstrate how it is possible to distort facts and convince people who do not know the reality of the situation. Mantel had a particular dislike for St Thomas More and he appears as an almost satanic, cold persecutor, contrasted to the soft light in which Cromwell is bathed.

How can we know the facts of a time when we were not present? That is a question asked about the Gospels. Are the accounts of Jesus life true or embellished? Commentators have formed the opinion that St Luke, this year's Gospel, is an accurate recording of events, and that the author can be "widely regarded as an historian among the ranks of Josephus, Herodotus and others." What is the Evangelist telling us? That the prophecies of the Old Testament are now coming to fruition, not in words but through the flesh and blood of a young girl called Mary. This is why Mary is so central and fundamental to orthodox Catholic Faith. Without her, there would be no birth, no Saviour, no eternal life. The Mass, Mary, the Cross: the three staples of our Faith. To downplay Mary's role is to dilute and distort the Incarnation, and traditions that have done so disappear into the rear-view mirror of ecclesiastical history.

Very soon we will be celebrating the great Feast of the Incarnation. We will adore with the shepherds, we will worship with the wise men, we will sing with the angels: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men." Let us join with Mary, Mother of God, as we welcome the Christ-child, Prince of Peace, into a world that needs Him so much.

It has been a very full year and I am looking forward greatly to celebrating this happy Feast with both parishes. **Thank you again to everyone for such great support. God bless Fr Clive**

## Parish Notices

**Masses next week Holy Trinity: Monday** 23 December 9.15 am: **Tuesday** 24 December No morning Mass: 5 pm Christmas Vigil: 11pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass: **Wednesday** 25 December 11am Christmas Morning Mass: **Thursday** 26 December 9:15am: **Saturday** 28 December 6pm Vigil Mass: **Sunday** 29 December 11am.

**(Please note there will be no Rosary for Peace on Friday 27 December – the group will resume on Friday 3 January 2025 at Holy Trinity)**

**Masses at St Teresa's next week: Tuesday** 24 December 8pm Midnight Mass: **Wednesday** 25 December 9:15 am Christmas Morning Mass: **Sunday** 29 December 9:15am

**Looking ahead to 2025...Wine Tasting 31 January 2025 – Venue to be decided and charity to be confirmed. Tickets on sale soon.**

In December we pray with Pope Francis that the forthcoming Jubilee may strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

**Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes. In addition to your own daily prayers please remember:** All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

**The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times.** Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

