

The Holy Innocents

28th December 2025



Collect

Heavenly Father,

whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,

though they had done no wrong:

by the suffering of your Son

and by the innocence of our lives

frustrate all evil designs

and establish your reign of justice and peace;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,

in your humility you have stooped to share our human life

with the most defenceless of your children:

may we who have received these gifts of your passion

rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents

to the purity of your sacrifice

made once for all upon the cross;

for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Contact details

Priest in Charge Rev Alex French revajwfrench@gmail.com 07508564392

Safeguarding Officer Mrs S Odedina-Barton sholaodedina58@gmail.com

If you would like to receive these notices electronically, please email Rev Alex.

Jeremiah 31: 15-17 **Yvonne**

15 This is what the Lord says:

“A voice is heard in Ramah,
mourning and great weeping,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.”

16 This is what the Lord says:

“Restrain your voice from weeping
and your eyes from tears,
for your work will be rewarded,”
declares the Lord.

“They will return from the land of the enemy.

17 So there is hope for your descendants,”
declares the Lord.

“Your children will return to their own land

1 Corinthians 1: 26-29 **Paul**

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

Matthew 2: 13-18 **Fr Alex**

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,

¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.”

Hymns

Complete Anglican; Hymns Old and New

		<u>Number</u>
Processional	Long ago, prophets knew	406
Kyrie		962
Gloria		Murray
Gradual	Come down O love divine	114
Offertory	It came upon a midnight clear	330
Communion	In the bleak mid winter	326
Recessional	Praise, my soul, the King of heaven	565

Notices

Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with the House of Bishops guidance and policies and have our own Parish Safeguarding Officer who is **Mrs Shola Odedina-Barton**. See the front of the Contact Sheet for her contact email address. Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on **0121 426 0407** or email StephH@cofebirmingham.com if you have any concerns.

Fire escape

In case there is a need to evacuate church, please make yourself familiar with the fire exit routes before the service starts.

Compline

Compline will return again on the 14th January 2026.

Thank you

Thank you for your warm Christmas wishes, cards and presents, it is much appreciated.
Fr Alex.

Week of prayer for Christian Unity – 18th to 25th January

You can join in with the following services on Zoom during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Zoom link will remain the same for each service and i

Meeting ID: 865 9848 2706

Passcode: 481805

18-25th January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity			
18th January	Sunday		
19th January	Monday	Ev Prayer	5pm
20th January	Tuesday	Ev Prayer	5pm
21st January	Wednesday	Compline	9.30pm
22nd January	Thursday	Ev Prayer	5pm
23rd January	Friday	Mn Prayer	9am
24th January	Saturday	Ev Prayer	5pm
25th January	Sunday		

Prayers

Saint Cyprian's, Saint Michael & All Angels and St Benedict's church

In a world awaiting the repatterning that only peaceful temperaments can bring, may the hearts of all your people loving Lord be peace filled and peace inspired both now and for always.

Saint Mary's church

As we await the next coming of Christ, in His glory, may our celebration of His first arrival be uplifting to us all. Guiding us through the dark days towards the light, which is our faith in Him.

Prayers at St Cyprian's church

We pray for all those who are in need at this time, for

Ollie, Beryl, Clarice, Harold, Maureen, Andy Newman, Dean, Darren, Lucy, Kevin, Lauren, Paul, Ken Long, Alan Carter and Pat.

We remember those who have died in faith... Peter Aldridge, Phyllis Macken and for those whose years mind is in December ... Barbara Ellison, John Ryder, James Kennedy, Helena Goldstone, Charles Loxton, Phillip Evens, Alfred Cooper, Paul Cooper, Jean Longbottom.