

Fourth Sunday of Advent

21st December 2025



Collect

Eternal God,

as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,

so we wait for his coming in glory;

bring us through the birth pangs of this present age

to see, with her, our great salvation

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father,

who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary

to be the mother of the promised saviour:

fill us your servants with your grace,

that in all things we may embrace your holy will

and with her rejoice in your salvation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

Isaiah 7: 10-16 **Paul**

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Romans 1: 1-7 **Pauline**

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David,⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1: 18-end **Philip**

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Hymns

Complete Anglican; Hymns Old and New

		<u>Number</u>
Processional	Hark, the herald angles sing	266
Kyrie		
Gloria		
Gradual	May the grace of Christ our saviour	446
Offertory	Born in the night Marys child	80
Communion	Immaculate Mary	Below
Recessional	Love divine, all loves excelling	428

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.

Christmas services

Please take note of the pattern of Christmas services which are on a separate page in this week's Contact Sheet and also are available at the back of church.

Place of Welcome Christmas celebration

Thank you to everyone who support the Place of Welcome Christmas bash last Friday.

Advent course

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Advent course.

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 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.

Immaculate Mary

Immaculate Mary!

Our hearts are on fire;

That title so wondrous

Fills all our desire!

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!

Ave, Ave Maria!

We pray for God's glory,

May His kingdom come;

We pray for His Vicar,

Our Father in Rome.

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!

Ave, Ave Maria!

We pray for our Mother,

The Church upon earth,

And bless, sweetest Lady,

The land of our birth.

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!

Ave, Ave Maria!

We pray for all sinners,

And souls that now stray

From Jesus and Mary

In heresy's way.

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!

Ave, Ave Maria!