

Our Lady of the Assumption Swynnerton

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The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216



Sunday 23rd December, 2018 Fourth Sunday of Advent

FEAST DAYS

Tuesday 25th December
The Nativity of the Lord.
Holyday of Obligation

Wednesday 26th December
St. Stephen

Stephen was the first Christian martyr. He was stoned outside Jerusalem and died praying for his executioners. He was one of the seven deacons who helped the apostles; he was "filled with faith and the Holy Spirit", and was "full of fortitude". The Church draws a comparison between the disciple and the Master, emphasising the imitation of Christ up to the complete gift of self. His name is in the Roman Canon and he is the patron saint of Altar Servers.

Thursday 27th December
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

John died late in the first century. Son of Zebedee and brother of James, who together with him and Peter witnessed the Transfiguration and the Agony in the Garden. He is identified as the author of the Fourth Gospel. According to legend he settled in Ephesus. He cared for the Blessed Virgin Mary after the crucifixion.

Friday 28th December
The Holy Innocents

The Church celebrates the memory of the small children of the neighbourhood of Bethlehem. They were put to death by Herod, who was seeking to kill Jesus. These innocent victims bear witness to Christ to a world which would not receive him.

Saturday 29th December
St. Thomas Becket

(1118 - 1170) Thomas was born in London. After studying in Paris he first became Chancellor to the king and then, in 1162, was chosen to be the Archbishop of Canterbury. He changed from being 'a patron of play-actors and a follower of hounds' to being 'a shepherd of souls'. He threw himself into the duties of his new office, defending the rights of the Church against Henry II. This prompted the king to exile him to France for six years. After returning to his homeland he endured many trials and was martyred by agents of the king.

Sunday 30th December
The Holy Family

Day	Time	Service	Confession*
Saturday 22nd	5:30pm	Mass - Winnie Boume RIP	11:00-11:30 am*
Sunday 23rd	10:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Mass - For the People of the Parish Carol Service - St Mary's Mass (EF) - Fr Petroc Howell RIP	
Monday 24th	9:30am 8:30pm	Mass - Beryl Terry RIP Mass - For the People of the Parish	
Tuesday 25th	8:00am 10:00am	Mass - (HMP Drake Hall) For All Prisoners & their Families Mass - Holy Souls	
Wednesday 26th			
Thursday 27th			
Friday 28th	9:30am 2:30pm	Mass - Winnie Boume RIP Mass - (HMP Drake Hall) For the Sick	
Saturday 29th	10:00am 5:30pm	Mass (EF) - Private Intention Mass - Doreen Highfield RIP	11:00-11:30 am*
Sunday 30th	10:00am 6:00pm	Mass - For the People of the Parish Mass (EF) - Peter Emery RIP	

Note: Services in Black in church
Services in Blue elsewhere

* After all Masses on request

- ❖ **A VERY HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS** to you and to all your families and loved ones. May the Christ Child richly bless you on the feast of His Birth and keep you safe throughout the New Year.
- ❖ **CHRISTMAS CLERGY OFFERING:** As usual, the Collection at the Christmas Masses is your gift to your priest. Special envelopes are available in church for this collection. Please do not use the Sunday gift aid envelopes.
- ❖ **CRIB COLLECTION:** This year's Crib Collection is for Missio's work for deprived children around the world. A little box can be found by the crib for any donations.
- ❖ **PLEASE NOTE** that there will not be a Mass on Wednesday (Boxing Day) or Thursday this week. Mass as normal on Friday. On New Year's Day Mass will be at 11am.
- ❖ **GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR 2019** are available at the back of church this weekend. Please be sure to take yours.
- ❖ **DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES FOR 2019** are on sale. The ring-bound version costs £3.50; the ordinary one £2.50. Please put any monies in the box in the wall by the door.

Quotation

"No one, whether shepherd or wise man, can approach God here below, except by kneeling before the Manger at Bethlehem, and adoring Him who is hidden in the weakness of a new-born child."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, para. 563.

Collection:	Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 275.00
	Loose	£ 182.20
		£ 457.20
Special	Funeral	£ 60.00
Congregation:	91 Adults & 15 Young People	

Thank you, God bless
J. Paul.