

### Christmas Masses - 2020

Christmastide			
Thursday 24th December	The Nativity of The Lord	5:00 pm 6.00 pm 7:00 pm	St Bernadette's Holy Souls' St Bernadette's
Friday 25th December	The Nativity of The Lord	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	St Norbert's St Thomas' Holy Souls'
Saturday 26th December	Feast of St Stephen	10:00 am	St Bernadette's
Sunday 27th December	Feast of The Holy Family	9:00 am 11:00 am	St Norbert's Holy Souls'
Monday 28th December	Feast of The Holy Innocents	9:30 am	St Bernadette's
Tuesday 29th December	Feast of Saint Thomas of Canterbury	9:30 am	Holy Souls'
Wednesday 30th December	Sixth Day Within The Octave of Christmas	10:00 am	St Norbert's
Thursday 31st December	Seventh Day Within The Octave of Christmas	No Mass	-
Friday 1st January	Mary, The Holy Mother of God	10:00 am 6:30 pm	St Thomas' St Bernadette's

Although the 'obligation' to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation will remain suspended for the time being, we know that many individuals and family groups will want to go to Mass at Christmas.

Like Easter, the Nativity of the Lord is one of the two solemnities in the Ordinary Form of the Church's liturgical calendar which has its own Octave and the Church regards each day in an Octave as if it were the solemnity itself. So, for example, the prayers for Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours during the Christmas Octave refer to each day as if it were still Christmas Day. Despite having days within the Octave that are feasts, St Stephen, the Holy Innocents, the Holy Family, and the concluding Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, each of these days is, as the Roman Missal states, a "day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord." This means that, liturgically, each of the days from 25th December to 1st January is 'Christmas Day'.

In accordance with the Diocesan directive requiring a 2 metre social distancing policy there are only a limited number of worshippers who can attend Mass and the Sacraments. **To allow as many parishioners and their families the opportunity to come to Church to celebrate their Christmas Mass we are asking parishioners to plan to celebrate the mystery of Christmas at ONE MASS ONLY during the Octave days.**

We are most grateful to our stewards who are able to assist with the cleansing and supervising of the Churches over this period.

## **Diocesan Events during Advent**

The Diocese of Nottingham are inviting you to join others from across the diocese in preparing for and celebrating Christmas.

- \* **Reading the Bible** - Today, many of us will begin opening our Advent calendars as we continue the 'countdown to Christmas' which we began on the First Sunday of Advent. In addition to opening our calendars, why not open our Bibles? There are twenty-four chapters in the Gospel according to St Luke – why not read a chapter of that Gospel each day during Advent, so that we can better understand the one whose Birth we celebrate on Christmas Day? In Baptism we are called into the inner life of the Most Holy Trinity, and the Scriptures are God's 'love letters' to us, in which God shows forth in our own languages how much that love means to him, and how much it can mean to those who have ears to hear. A chapter a day keeps the Devil away – as nice as it is to open an Advent calendar and see a beautiful picture, or chocolate, gin, cheese or whatever, open your Bible as well and you will taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
- \* **Praying with Our Lady through Advent** – we invite you to pray one extra Hail Mary each day in Advent, asking for Our Lady's prayers to help all of us as a diocese, open our hearts and minds to welcome Jesus afresh this Christmas. She was the first person to welcome Him into her life and her intercession can help us to draw closer to Him and feel His presence with us anew this Christmas. Every other day you will be able to watch people from our Diocese pray the Hail Mary in different languages on the Diocesan social media sites, search for Diocese of Nottingham or Bishop Patrick McKinney on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.
- \* **Living Advent Podcast** – Living Advent is a weekly podcast series throughout Advent exploring the virtues of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace with people from across the Diocese and how we can live them out. We speak to a young husband and father, a musician, a retired social worker and a police officer. You can find it on your usual podcast service by searching 'Living Advent Podcast' or visit [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts) for links on how to stream or download it.
- \* **Diocesan Carol Service** – Carol services are a wonderful family tradition of our Advent and Christmas celebrations, and often are a great opportunity to invite those who are not regular Churchgoers to connect with our parish or chaplaincy community. This can be quite challenging to do this year so we are offering a virtual Diocesan Carol Service. We will celebrate a short online carol service on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 pm** on Bishop Patrick's YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/BishopPatrickMcKinney>) with readings, music, prayers and reflections. Please join us as a family and invite others to join us too. After the service grab a mince pie, something warm to drink and join us on zoom for our family Christmas Quiz (6:45 pm to 7:15 pm). The link and access code will be given out during the service.
- \* **'Being a disciple web series'** – January is a time when we try and work at being a better person, why not explore how we can be a grow as a disciple of Jesus? On the four Thursdays of January we will explore a different aspect of what it means to be a Catholic disciple with Brendan Thompson the CEO of Catholic Voices in a web series on Zoom. Catholic Voices are an international organisation that shares the Good News in the global media. This will be a great foundation for parishes, chaplaincies and individuals to explore how we can support each other in growing as Catholic disciples. Register for the series here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrCuygqjwpGdNBRC5NIQ46Eu1bleEg246A>  
For information on how to access things on zoom visit: [https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/information/diocesan-commissions/01\\_commission-adult-formation/using-zoom](https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/information/diocesan-commissions/01_commission-adult-formation/using-zoom)