

Christmas Masses - 2020:

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. **In next week's newsletter we will provide details on how to book seats for a Christmas Mass during the Octave days.**

Details of Masses being celebrated during the Christmas Octave (24th December - 1st January 2021).

Christmastide

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

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

¶ 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 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 18th 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