

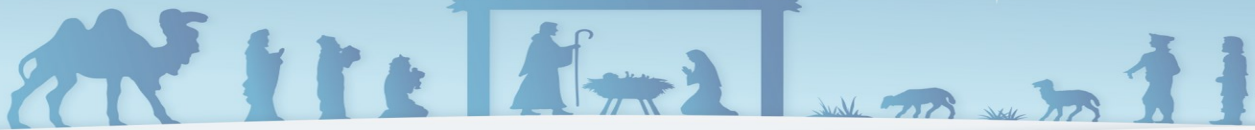


The Nativity of Our Lord

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us

John 1:1-18

Christmas Day 25th December 2023



Christmas Message 2023

Dear friends,

The Beauty of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence.

As you gather with your families, friends, and neighbours, do so, knowing that during your gatherings; Jesus is truly present. Jesus is not someone who sits in a church all alone, no, he is where his people are! If you're with family, friends, neighbours or alone feel the presence of Jesus with you.

We have the greatest Gift we will ever need. The gift of Jesus truly present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This priceless treasure is something we all share in. The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of our Catholic Faith.

My friends you have an amazing foundation in which to celebrate, party and enjoy the Birth of our Saviour!

"Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace." - Pope Francis

May this Joy, Peace and Love be experienced by all those you encounter this Christmas Season.

Please keep your eyes and ears open for those who are struggling, feeling lonely, or isolated, if you can reach out to them in their time of need.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to say a huge 'Thank You' to all of you for your dedication and fidelity to your faith, as you continue to walk alongside Jesus, on your pilgrim journey.

Children, you never fail to amaze me, in your love for Jesus! Your innocence, openness, your creativity brings the love of Jesus alive in our Parish, how blessed are we to have you all in our Parish of the Annunciation. Keep up the good work. Sick and housebound, parishioners. You too have a special place in my heart. I always firmly believe that our Parish is enriched through your prayers. No prayer goes unheard. I believe the prayers of the sick bring triple graces with them so please keep them coming and be assured you are all in my prayers always.

Yours

Fr John, Parish Priest

For enquiries about Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation Programme and Faith Journey Group (RCIA), please contact Ceci Li, Faith Formation Coordinator.

For Marriage: six months' notice required. Please contact the Parish office.

For Communion to the Sick and Housebound: contact the Parish office.

Funerals: are organised with local funeral directors, but do contact the Parish office to arrange an appointment with the Priest.

Confessions: Every first and third Saturday.

Newsletter's insert, contact Ceci Li, Faith Formation

Family Prayer at Christmas Day



God of light, you came to live among us to bring us life and light. Hear our prayers as we celebrate your birth.

(share your family's intentions here)

Help us to be a light for others.

Amen.

Parish Contact Details:

Please find the printed copy at the back of the church or scan the QR code for the e-Copy.



Parish Safeguarding Team and Details:

<https://parishoftheannunciationrushcliffe.co.uk/about/safeguarding/>

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The Nativity Scene of St. Francis Reminds Us That the Word Became Flesh - and Food - at Christmas

This year marks the 800th Anniversary of the First Nativity Crib, created by St Francis of Assisi in Greccio in Italy in 1223.

Reflecting on the nativity scene can be a meaningful way for families to gather in prayer, mindful of the great joy in Christ that Advent points us toward.

Full Story: [National Catholic Register](#)
 Holy Father's [Apostolic Letter](#),



The Vatican unveiled its annual Nativity scene on Dec. 9, 2023, paying special tribute to the origins of the beloved tradition on its 800-year anniversary. | Credit: Credit: Daniel Ibañez/EWTN

Christmas Lunch at St Anne



We extend our heartfelt gratitude for joining us at the Parish Christmas Lunch at St Anne. Your presence added immeasurable joy to our celebration, and we are truly grateful for the opportunity to come together as a community during this special time of the year. The spirit of togetherness and fellowship that permeated the lunchtime was truly heartwarming. We also want to express our sincere appreciation to Angela Beves, Mary Buxton and all those who contributed

their time and effort to make the lunch a success. May the joy and love experienced during the Parish Christmas Lunch continue to resonate in our hearts and strengthen the bonds that make our community so special. We look forward to more opportunities to come together, celebrate, and build lasting memories as a parish family.

Fr Liam and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children and the staffs of the Becket and St Edmund Campion School for their contribution throughout the year to the life of our parish. We the parish are so proud of you. I would like to wish you all a well deserved Christmas holiday and praying God' blessing on you in the coming year.
Peace, Fr John



Dear Friends, what does it take keep a Parish running?

An army of volunteers!

◆ Welcomers ◆ Collectors ◆ Counters ◆ CAFOD ◆ SVP ◆ Readers ◆ Musicians ◆ Altar Servers
◆ Extraordinary Ministers ◆ Charitable Fundraising ◆ Friendship Group ◆ Fairtrade ◆ Warm Places
◆ Enquiry Class-RCIA (Faith Journey Group) ◆ Flower Arrangers ◆ Church Cleaners ◆ Social Committee
◆ Caterers ◆ After Mass Refreshment ◆ Catechists for the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation and Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage preparation ◆ Citizen UK ◆ Justice and Peace
◆ Churches Together ◆ Prayer of Intercession Writers ◆ Gardeners ◆ Maintenance/Health and Safety
◆ Parish Mission Group ◆ the Hall Management Team ◆ Finance Committee ◆ Local Church Group
◆ the Youth Team ◆ Scouts, Cubs, Rainbows, Brownies and Beavers ◆ Baby & Toddler Group
◆ the various Prayer Services ◆ Holy Hour ◆ Praying for Vocations ◆ our Sick and Housebound
◆ Sacristans ◆ Bereavement Group ◆ Repository stores ◆ Safe Guarding Reps ◆ Aid to the Church in Need
◆ Schools Primary and Secondary, your generous offering that you give to all of the different appeals we make.

This is what it takes to run a Parish, an enormous number of dedicated volunteers and good will!

I would like to pay tribute to each and every one of you who work so hard throughout the year to make our four churches the warm, welcoming and vibrant churches they are under patronage of

‘The Parish of the Annunciation’.

To each one of you who give to the service of God and his Church I say, **‘Thank You’**. To all our Parishioners, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the warm welcome you gave to me on my arrival as your Parish Priest. I wish each of you a very blessed and happy Christmas and the choicest blessings of the Christ Child for 2024.

Peace, Fr. John

