



Sacred Heart
Southend-on-Sea
St John Fisher
Prittlewell

Parish Priest. Fr Graham Smith
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PARISH NEWSLETTER

23rd December 2018 – Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

And

25th December 2018 – Christmas Day

And

30th December 2018 – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

This newsletter covers two weekends.



From Fr Graham and Harry!

Dear Friends

What does Christmas mean to you? For excited youngsters it means a visit from Father Christmas, while Great Aunt Alice is looking forward to a sherry in front of the Queen's Speech on TV, if she can stay awake long enough after lunch. First there's all that shopping for presents and a mountain of food so big it would see us through a Brexit 'no deal' even in Project Fear's worst nightmares. For many the real spirit of the festivities can only be found at Midnight Mass as we cut through all the commerciality and celebrate the birth of a very special baby, Jesus Christ, God made man. This is the real meaning of Christmas. God walked among us, born in the tiny town of Bethlehem, in a stable. How wonderful and amazing that God wanted to visit us, to be one of us. Because he became one of us we know he experienced the highs and the lows of life. He would have cried at night, known what it is to be hungry and to be fed by his mother, he knew the trauma of fleeing danger when Herod wanted to harm him but also the love and protection of his parents. Learning how to walk he would have grazed his knees but also know the healing touch of his mother and father. He knows all about the teenage years and becoming a skilled carpenter. In his ministry he healed the sick, gave sight to the blind and raised the dead. He knew rejection, suffering and death but also resurrection and new life.

Jesus is the reason for the season, he walked among us, he continues to walk among us, let us celebrate his birth with special Christmas joy.



Fr Graham

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

Monday 24th December

Children's Mass - 6.00pm at St John Fisher *followed by refreshments in the hall*
Christmas 'Midnight' Mass - 11.00pm at Sacred Heart *followed by refreshments in the hall*
(*Polish Midnight Mass - 12.00 Midnight St John Fisher*)

Christmas Day

Tuesday 25th December

Mass - 9.00am at St John Fisher
(*Polish Mass - 9.00am at Sacred Heart*)
Mass - 11.00am at Sacred Heart

Peace and Joy at Christmas Posters

Please take a free copy of this poster to display in your home.

Sacred Heart Christmas Flower Appeal - Reminder

This year we are asking parishioners to donate the flowers that will decorate Sacred Heart Church for Christmas. If you wish to donate, please bring red/white flowers and/or garden greenery to the Church straight after the 11.00am Mass today (Sunday 23rd December).

Refreshments after Mass on Christmas Eve

Please join us for refreshments in the respective hall after the 6.00pm Children's Mass at St John Fisher and the 11.00pm "Midnight" Mass at Sacred Heart.

Collections at Christmas

The offertory collection during the Children's Nativity Mass, "Midnight" Mass and the two Masses on Christmas morning is your personal gift to support Fr Graham. The crib collection is to support the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers

Congratulations to our Altar Servers who will be renewing their promises or being enrolled in the Guild during the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses over the weekend of 29th and 30th December.

Masses and Services this Week

There are several changes to Masses and Services over the next couple of weeks. Please see the table later in the newsletter for details.

First Holy Communion Programme

The first Children's Session will be on Sunday 13th January at 9.30am in Sacred Heart Hall. The First Holy Communion children will be Presented to the Parish during the 11.00am Mass on that day. It is important that all children on the Programme attend the session and Mass.

Confirmation Programme

The initial meeting with parents and the Confirmation Candidates will take place on Wednesday 9th January at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Church.

ABC Course – Thursday 20th December

This will reconvene as the ABC (About Becoming Catholic) Course on Thursday 10th January at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall.

Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will not be meeting again until after Christmas and will reconvene on Wednesday 9th January at 10.00am in Sacred Heart Hall. If, during the holidays, you have an urgent prayer need please call Marianna on 07813 207497.

Southend Churches Winter Night Shelters

Thank you for all of the donations received so far. We have enough items for the foreseeable future, but please watch this space in case we run out of any items.

St John Fisher Church Heating

Apologies to everyone affected by the breakdown of the St John Fisher Church heating last weekend. Unfortunately the boiler has still not been mended. A temporary portable heating system is currently in place. Apologies for the inconvenience, but please bear with us as we work towards a more permanent solution.

Collections of items for HARP, Southend Foodbank and the Night Shelter

	Dates	Priority Items
HARP	5 th – 6 th January	Coffee and sugar
Foodbank	22 nd – 23 rd December 29 th -30 th December 12 th -13 th January	Long life fruit juice and squash
Winter Night Shelter		Nothing currently needed. Thank you for your donations so far.

Looking Ahead Towards and Planning for 2019

If you have not already done so, please send details (date, location, cause) of any parish events you are planning during 2019 to Sue in the Parish Office.

We will then be holding a Planning meeting on Monday 7th January at 9.30am in Sacred Heart Hall to which everyone involved in running events is welcome.

Baptism Preparation

The next Course for parents and expectant parents who wish to have a child baptised at Sacred Heart or St John Fisher will be on Monday 14th January at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart Hall. Please pick up a form from the church porch to register for the course and request the Baptism. **Please note that in order for a child to be baptised, at least one of the parents must be a baptised catholic and a copy of the parent's baptism certificate must be attached to the application for the child's baptism. Parents are expected to attend a Preparation Course prior to the baptism of each of their children.**

Easter Painting and Prayer Competition

The Knights of St. Columba are arranging an Easter Painting and Prayer Competition for school years 3-4 and 5-6. Fr. Graham and a senior member of the 'Knights' will be judging. For more details contact Brian Dillon 01702 213140 or brian.dillon@blueyonder.co.uk

Parish Craft Club

The Craft Club will run every Tuesday starting 8th January 2019 from 11.00am to 2.00pm. A £2.00 attendance fee includes light refreshments. So whether you are a craft expert, a beginner or just fancy a cup of tea and a chat, please come along. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Maddy on 07837 215757.

Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2019

Now available in the Church Porches - £2.75 or £4.00 for spiral bound.

***** Around the Deanery and Diocese*****

Mass for Vocations

A Mass for those enquiring or discerning a vocation to the priesthood will be at Our Lady of Lourdes at Leigh-on-Sea at 12.00noon Friday 28th December. All are welcome to come and pray for vocations and to meet our seminarians. (There will be no Mass at Sacred Heart on that day.)

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2019

This will take place from Sunday 21st to Friday 26th July 2019. Information leaflets are available in the porch.

Bank Supply Teacher Vacancies at St Bernard's High School

Details available from Mrs Sue Clancy on 01702-608005 or jc@stbernards.southend.sch.uk

Westcliff Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Bank Holiday 27th May to Friday 31st May, flying from Southend Airport. Staying at the 4* Hotel Grande Moderne on full board basis. £545 per adult based on two sharing a twin room. Children under 12 £420. Full spiritual direction from Fr Alex Poblador. For further details please ring Sue on 07979 746707.

Money

16th December 2018 Offertory

£1174.99

The offertory collection at the Evening Masses on Christmas Eve and daytime Masses on Christmas Day is your personal gift to support Fr Graham.

The crib collection is to support the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

Sick Parishioners

Please pray for our sick parishioners and friends, especially; Valerie Armitage, Charmaine Arnold, Christina Arnold, Marie Biner, Guilda Brett, Barbara Briggs, William Bryan, Eric Carpenter, Alfossina Carson, Richard Campbell-Carr, Patricia and Richard Dixon, Pamela Dobson, Patrick Doherty, Helen Escott, Harleigh-Jo Farrar, John Fiore, Roy Fitchew, Danielle Honeyands, Peter Hopkins, Bartley Igoe Jr, Teresa Igoe, Maria Kintu, Peter Last, Margaret Lee, Bernard Lovell, Jacqueline Lovett, Sheila Norris, Sister Marika Rebicsek, Anita Rogers, Maria Scinto, Geraldine Stephens and Jenny Warren.

Rest in Peace *(This list covers two weeks)*

Please remember and pray for those who have died, especially those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Elizabeth Villa, Kathleen O'Riordan, Caroline Dickson, Christopher Callaghan, Henry Villa, Bridget Ford, Louis Vacquier, Michael Dugdale, Dorothy Isaacs, Thomas Berke, Fr Wilfrid Thompson, Joseph Organ, Michael Healy, David Sherwood, William Leighton, Douglas Apperly, Fr Francis Greenan, Paul Thompson, William Kilby, Christopher William McHugo Snr, John Joseph Furley, Arthur O'Connor, Luth Farfort, Fr Francis Wilson, James Whiting, Albert Coombs, Ruby Chapman, Eileen Roberts, Iris Neale, Rose Ardin, Jean Hillier, Kevin Cossey, Kathleen Nicholls, Nellie Murphy, Nerina North, Thomas O'Brien, Patrick Greene, Fergus Griffin, Edward Butler, Maurice Bowers, Mary Parker, Patricia Fitzgerald, Margaret Doherty, Canon John Byrne, Jacqueline Brooks, Nora Loughrey, Fr Brian Reeves, Andrew Watson-Walls, Gianna Lancaster, Florence Brown, Delia Rayner, Mary Liona, Edward Ehn, Joseph Carter, Michael Horgan, James Stanton, Stanley Douglas May, Annie Glynn, Francisco Narciso, Teresa O'Brien, Len Cleaver, Emily Cootes, George Shelt, Norah McRoberts, Domenico Trevisai, Richard Barron De Burgh, Iris James, Maureen Regan, Nellie Flint, Louie Holborn, Karen Taylor, Francis Brendan McLynn, Dennis Waskett, Canon Patick McKenna, John Glynn, Rita White and Thomas O'Neill.

About our Parish

Within our Parish there are two churches: The Sacred Heart of Jesus, 418 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, and St John Fisher, 2 Manners Way, Prittlewell (at Cuckoo Corner).

The Parish Priest, Fr Graham Smith, is resident at The Presbytery, 418 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2QB (tel 01702 465720).

Catholic Schools

Sacred Heart Primary School and Nursery (tel 534546) is adjacent to Sacred Heart Church, with its entrance on Windermere Road. Sacred Heart School is the designated primary school for children living in the central and southern parts of the parish (within the boundaries of the former parish of Sacred Heart).

St Teresa's Primary School in Rochford (tel 547918) is the designated primary school for children living in the northern part of the parish (within the boundaries of the former parish of St John Fisher).

St Bernard's High School (for girls) (tel 343583) and St Thomas More High School (for boys) (tel 344933) are the Catholic secondary schools in our area.

Sunday Morning Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held after the Sunday morning Masses at both Churches. All are welcome to attend and enjoy an opportunity to socialise with fellow parishioners.

Social Committee

The Social Committee plans, organises and runs a number of events to create a spirit of community in the Parish. These include the film nights, charity breakfasts, fashion shows and rock'n'roll evenings. The Committee usually meets on the first Monday evening of the month in Sacred Heart Parish Hall - the next meeting is at 7.00pm on 7th January. All are welcome to put ideas to the Committee for further events, and especially to help run them.

Sacred Heart and St John Fisher Parish Magazine and 200 Club

The 200 club was set up for the sole purpose of funding the professional printing of the Parish Magazine. Drawn monthly the three prizes: £30, £15 & £10 mean the subscribers have the potential to win thirty-six prizes annually at a cost of just £1 per month per number – currently there have been more than one hundred and thirty numbers sold. Thank you for your continued support. There are of course numbers still available please speak to Liam or Sandy Rand and Ian or Sandy Stidston after Mass. liam.rand@btopenworld.com or phone Liam 07952 954833

The magazine has been going through a period of regeneration in recent months, the next edition going on sale from Saturday 26th January 2019. Due to work commitments, a bereavement and the running of the night shelter the magazine has taken a back seat but plans are now in place to ensure its publication three times a year bringing your articles to the fore. Now A5 in size with a smattering of colour pages as with previous editions 2019 will see the magazine published on 26th January, 25th May and 28th September. The magazine is reliant on your articles, photographs, stories, jokes and announcements as well the much loved puzzles, all this for just £1. Wishing you the joy of Christmas and a healthy New Year – *Liam & Sandy Rand & Paul Nicholson.*

Knights of Saint Columba

An association of Catholic men formed under the precepts of charity, unity and fraternity, the Southend Council of Knights covers six parishes, Shoebury, Southend, Westcliff, Leigh-on-Sea, Eastwood and Rochford, serving the hierarchy of the Catholic church as well as our local clergy. Supplying your "Keep Christ in Christmas" stickers and posters and Holy Week posters and for many years circulating the Brentwood News, we work tirelessly supporting local charities and bringing many of the issues affecting our faith today to the fore. Our meetings are spiritually based, supporting each other and our families, we meet on the third Wednesday of each month (except August) at Sacred Heart Church Hall from 7:30pm – however, to assist the Night Shelter during January, February and March 2019 we will meet at Nazareth House from 7pm. For further information please speak to Mike Warren & Brian Dillon at Saint John Fisher and Liam Rand at Sacred Heart.

Winter Night Shelter

Run in conjunction with Southend Winter Night Shelters ensuring that every night of the week during the winter months those on the margins of society have an opportunity to receive a hot meal, a warm bed for the night in the safe surrounding of seven different church halls. Running from 5th December for sixteen weeks until 20th March we have been up and running for three weeks by the time you come to read this message. We are incredibly grateful to all of our volunteers who have produced dinner and dessert for thirty

five people each week, those who have welcomed our guests into our Church hall, made them feel at home and served them in any way they can. Those who have donated clothing and toiletries, as well as volunteers who stay through the night and the early morning gang serving a basic breakfast and ensure the hall is returned to working condition for parish use. Our guests are extremely grateful, frequently shaking our hands as they leave and thanking us for our hospitality – we are making a difference to the lives of so many people and while their stories are heartbreaking, with the extraordinary help of HARP many will be rehomed this winter, their lives starting on a journey of healing and rejuvenation. Our Lord spent his time on this earth amongst the poorest and most deceased in society spreading the Good News and healing as he went – the meek will truly inherit the earth – working in the night shelter one is privileged to watch God at work... Thank you everyone...

Southend Foodbank

The Southend Foodbank has been running since November 2013, is based at Belle Vue Baptist Church and is run by six local Churches.

Food is only given on the presentation of a voucher which is issued by Social Services a local church or any one of a further 60 voucher holders. The food is sufficient for three days, three meals per day. The items make up balanced meals, but of their nature (tinned or dried) is not normally fresh food, although some fresh vegetables are donated on some days. Three vouchers can be issued to the same guests over a period of six months. This can be spread out or in quick succession, depending on the nature of the problem/s affecting the guests. Many guests are given a voucher because of a delay in receiving state benefits or they have incurred a penalty for some reason. As well as distributing food, we also give advice about services that may be able to help the guest, for example, signposting for help with dealing with debt (Christians Against Poverty).

We collect donations of non-perishable food in both churches on all but the first Sunday of the month (when donations are collected for HARP – our local charity for homeless people). Please look at the weekly newsletter to see what the current priority items are and give as generously as you can. Thank you.

St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP)

Has it actually been another year doesn't time fly it seemed only last week I was sitting here typing away at what your SVP had done through the year. Well it has been more of the same, camp was a big success, mini-bus was repaired and back on bringing our parishioners to church, did have to take home after though. Two very successful parties held during the year, pictures on front of church magazine. We visited as many as we could through the year and plan on doing more next year, so if you know anyone in need of our services or if you would like to offer your services then let us know.

SVP as a whole has seen some changes at central level with new president and secretary and I am pleased to say we saved our Lady of Lourdes from closure.

Well that's really about it, before I use up all the space, so on behalf of us on the SVP we would like to wish you a merry Christmas, a happy new year and please continue with your support.

Pete Wake (President)

Craft Group

Inspired by similar groups I thought it would be good to start our own craft group at Sacred Heart where people could come together to be creative whilst getting to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere. We are an inclusive group where all are welcome with the idea to inspire each other.

Members pay £2 a session and can enjoy a cuppa with light refreshments such as soup, scones and cake while chatting and being creative. Some members enjoy knitting, crochet, sewing and/or art. If you can't do any of that you are still welcome and may fancy just having a go. There's always someone on hand to offer help and advice.

Amazingly, since we started in March 2018 we have raised over £2,000 for parish maintenance funds. This included a Summer Garden Party and a successful Christmas Craft fair, which we plan to run again next year.

We start again on Tuesday 8th January 2019 and we hope you will join us. If you have any queries please contact Maddy on 07837 215757.

Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group - Give us your prayer Requests!

Life is a funny thing. We all hurry along, caught up in the mundane time consuming clutter that makes up our days; getting the kids to school, getting to work on time, looking for work, traffic, tv, social media, gaming, shopping, arguments, gossip, drama, what to wear, what to eat, how to earn money, how to spend

it, you name it, we fill our time with it. We fill our heads with it. And still we bumble on, assured that we have time enough, life enough, to get our lives sorted and discover that perfect balance or thing that will make us happy. Do-ing, do-ing, do-ing. It's only when something goes wrong, be it a health scare, concerns about work or cash flow or the loss of something or someone precious in our lives, that we stop. We lift our heads clear of the clutter and we take a look at where we are at. A bit like one of those movie moments when the character stands still as the world around them carries on buzzing past at high speed.

In these moments, there is always choice. Fear or love. Of course, you can be fearful of a possible outcome, but in the midst of that storm of uncertainty and seeming powerlessness, you always have the choice to lean into God, lean into His love, strength and power and let that dictate your decision, not the fear you are feeling. Or not. It's your choice.

If you choose to lean in, a perfect way is to pray. Open up the channel and feed your friendship with God. He loves you perfectly and utterly, no matter how long it has been, if at all, since your last chat. Nothing you have done is too terrible for His love, forgiveness and comfort. You could thank Him, tell Him your fears, your needs and then just breathe. Be still. Release the clutter, if only for 5 mins. Remember, the best chats are when we talk and listen to each other. Give Him the space to answer!

If you have the time, you can always join our group on Wednesday mornings in Sacred Heart Hall, from 10am til 12pm during term time. Newcomers are always welcome. We worship, give thanks, share testimonies and pray for each other and the parish. There is a lot of laughter, honesty, sometimes tears but always hope, compassion and friendship as we reconnect with God in a relaxed, sometimes noisy child friendly environment that is prayer group. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 9th January 2019.

If you don't have time, or feel it's not for you, but you still want us to pray for you, prayer request cards are in the porch. No prayer request is too big, too humble or too persistent and will always be dealt with in the strictest of confidence. Just remember, you are loved and you are precious to the only one who really matters, so try and take time out each day to chat with your biggest fan.

God bless and Merry Christmas!

● Sacraments and Services ●

Sunday Masses

Our regular Sunday Mass times are 5.30pm on Saturday evening and 11.00am on Sunday at Sacred Heart and on Sunday at 9.00am at St John Fisher. We aim, during school term time to offer a separate Liturgy of the Word for pre First Holy Communion children at the Sunday Masses.

Weekday Masses and Holy Days of Obligation

Weekday Mass times may vary: please check the weekly newsletter. Masses for Holy Days of Obligation are celebrated at 9.30am at Sacred Heart and at 7.30pm at St John Fisher.

Polish Mass

Polish Masses are held at Sacred Heart at 9.00am every Sunday.

Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite

This is held at St John Fisher on the first and third Sunday of the month at 11.30am.

Mass Intentions

To "book" a Mass said for a specific intention, please complete one of the special forms in the church porch and give it to Fr Graham. Intentions are assigned on a 'first come, first served' basis. If you want to mark a particular occasion, e.g. an anniversary, it would be best to make the request at least three months ahead of time.

Baptism

Baptism (sometimes known as "christening") is the sacrament by which a baby, child or adult becomes a member of the Church. To help parents to understand the importance of Baptism for their children, we offer a short preparation session. The next course is on Monday 14th January at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart Hall. Please pick up a form from the church porch to register for the course and request the Baptism.

First Reconciliation and First Communion

In Holy Communion we receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, as he promised at the Last Supper. Our First Communion programme prepares children - and their parents - for the moment when they first celebrate this most important part of their lives as Christians. The programme normally runs from January each year and is open to children in school year 3 and above. The First Communion programme also includes preparation for the children's first celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Reconciliation

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God welcomes the return of the repentant sinner and offers the grace of forgiveness. This sacrament is also known as Confession (because it involves the sinner making a spoken confession to God through the ministry of a Priest) or Penance (because it requires an attitude of genuine repentance for wrong-doing). Sacramental Reconciliation is available every Saturday, 10.00-10.45am at Sacred Heart, and at other times by appointment.

Confirmation

In Confirmation we receive a sacramental gift of the Holy Spirit. For young Catholics, Confirmation is the moment when they become full, adult members of the Church. The Confirmation programme in our Parish usually begins in the autumn of each year and is open to young people in school year 10 or above.

Getting Married

If you are considering getting married in the course of the next year or two, please bear in mind that both Sacred Heart and St John Fisher Churches are licensed for marriages. It is the Church's firm belief – based on the teachings of Our Lord, and on 2000 years of collective experience - that the full blessings of marriage are most likely to come when the couple make a mature commitment to each other in the presence of God and with the support and prayers of the Christian community. To help you to make this commitment – and to prepare for a joyful celebration of the wedding day – we normally require about six months notice. Please speak to Fr Graham if you would like to get married in one of our Churches.

Thinking of Becoming a Catholic?

Each year a number of people join the Catholic Church in our parish. The next course will begin in September 2019, and the new group will be meeting on Thursday evenings. Some of those who follow the course will be received into the Catholic Church at Easter in the following year, others may take longer to reach a firm decision for themselves, and all are welcome to join the course on a "no commitment" basis.

The course is open to adults who have never been baptised, or who have been baptised in another Christian Church. It may also be suitable for adult Catholics who have been baptised but not yet confirmed. Please make initial enquiries to Fr Graham at the Presbytery (01702 465720 or by email parish@catholicsouthend.org.uk).

Holy Communion for Sick and Housebound People

A source of spiritual comfort, for those who are not able to attend Sunday Mass, is Holy Communion brought by a Priest or a lay minister. This can be arranged on individual occasions, or as a regular weekly or monthly visit, depending on circumstances. If you believe that you or someone close to you would benefit from the Holy Communion, please contact the Presbytery (01702 465720).

Hospital Visits

At Southend Hospital there are regular arrangements for visits by the Catholic chaplain (Fr Gerry Drummond) and for Holy Communion on Sunday, however you must let the nursing staff know you would like a visit. Fr Graham can also visit on request. To arrange this please phone the presbytery or, if Fr Graham is away, contact Fr Gerry at Rochford (01702 544334). In emergencies, a Catholic priest can be called by hospital staff.

Bereavement

The Parish Priest and parishioners are always ready to assist in the event of a death, whether what you need is prayer, guidance, practical support or help with planning a funeral.

Faith Study Group Next Meeting – Thursday 3rd January

'The more we know about God, the more reasons we have for loving Him'. The Faith Study Group has been running for five years and meets between 1.30 - 3pm on the first Thursday of the month (excluding school holidays). We usually watch a DVD on some aspect of our faith which is then followed by a discussion to which you can contribute to as much or as little as you want. We try to put into practice FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING and have just embarked on a new inspirational series by Bishop Barron, exploring some of the church's most influential people, namely St Francis of Assisi, St Thomas Aquinas, St Catherine of Sienna, Blessed John Henry Newman, G K Chesterton and Michelangelo. So why not come along and be enlightened?

We are a friendly, inclusive group which welcomes new members. Tea and biscuits are provided. For further information please contact Sandy Stidston tel no: 01702 467188. Wishing you all the many blessings of Christmas.

Mass Text for 23rd December 2018 – Fourth Second Sunday of Advent (C)

(Divine Office Week 1)

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a saviour.

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Psalm: Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 response v4

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

- 1 O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.
- 2 God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.
- 3 May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Mass Text for 24th December – Nativity Mass – 6.00pm at St John Fisher

Entrance Antiphon Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

First Reading Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 96

Response I will sing for ever of your love, O lord.

- 1 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.'
- 2 Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
Who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss.
- 3 'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me."
I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.'

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia! Alleluia! Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world and the saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

The Gospel is the script for the Children's Nativity and is from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke

Communion The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.
Antiphon

Mass Text for 24th December – "Midnight" Mass – 11.00pm at Sacred Heart

Entrance Antiphon The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

First Reading Isaiah 9:1-7

Psalm 95:1-3 11-13 response Luke 2:11 **Response:** Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.

- 1 O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.
- 2 Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory
And his wonders among all the peoples.
- 3 Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
Let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy
At the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth.
- 4 With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples within his truth.

Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! I bring you news of great joy: Today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2: 1-14

Communion The word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

Antiphon

Mass Text for 25th December – Christmas Day

Entrance Antiphon A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

First Reading **Isaiah 52:7-10**

Psalm 97:1-6 response v 3 Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God

- 1 Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.
- 2 The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel.
- 3 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God
Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy.
- 4 Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord.

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel Acclamation **Alleluia, alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. Alleluia!**

Gospel John 1:1-18

Communion All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Antiphon

Mass Text for 30th December 2018 – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

(Divine Office Week 2)

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the **Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a saviour.**

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Psalm: Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 response v4

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

- 1 O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.
- 2 God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.
- 3 May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Readings for the Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 response v11, Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12

Masses and Services		Sacred Heart	St John Fisher
Saturday 22 nd December	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>(to include a blessing for Natalie and Patrick Farine on their 25th Wedding Anniversary)</i> <i>Jerry O'Driscoll RIP</i>	
Sunday 23 rd December	Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Intentions of IJeoma Okolo</i>	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 24 th December	Feria	No Mass this morning	
Monday 24 th December	The Birth of Jesus Christ the Lord	10.30pm Carols 11.00pm "Midnight Mass" <i>People of the Parish (followed by refreshments in the hall)</i>	6.00pm Children's Mass <i>People of the Parish (followed by refreshments in the hall)</i> 11.30pm <i>Polish Carols</i> 12 Midnight <i>Polish Mass</i>
Tuesday 25 th December	Christmas Day Holy Day of Obligation	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>
Wednesday 26 th December	St Stephen	No Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group today	10.00am <i>Edith McCouat RIP</i>
Thursday 27 th December	St John	10.00am <i>In thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart</i>	
Friday 28 th December	The Holy Innocents	Mass for Vocations 12 noon at Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh-on-Sea <i>(No Mass at Sacred Heart today)</i>	
Saturday 29 th December	St Thomas of Canterbury		9.00am <i>Intentions of Theresa and Mike Donaghy</i>
Saturday 29 th December	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>Mary and Patrick Greene RIP</i>	
Sunday 30 th December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Angie, Thomas and Gerald Carroll RIP</i>	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 31 st December	Seventh Day within the Octave of Easter	10.00am <i>Intentions of the Kelleher family</i>	
Tuesday 1 st January	Mary, Mother of God		
Wednesday 2 nd January	Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	(no Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group today)	10.00am <i>Intentions of Jon and Charmaine Arnold</i>
Thursday 3 rd January	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	6.30pm <i>Mike Smith RIP</i>	
Friday 4 th January	Feria of Christmastide	12 noon <i>Monty Wood RIP</i>	
Saturday 5 th January	Feria of Christmastide	10.00am to 10.45am Confessions	9.00am <i>Geraldine Scraggs RIP</i>
Saturday 5 th January	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>Mary Rand RIP</i>	
Sunday 6 th January	The Epiphany of the Lord	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Eileen Lovas RIP</i>	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>