

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

- LEADER:** Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.
- ALL:** O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved.
- LEADER:** Bless our families. Bless our children.
- ALL:** Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.
- LEADER:** Mary, Queen of the Clergy!
- ALL:** Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. *Amen*

FR PHILIP SCANLAN would like to thank all parishioners who have sent him greetings and cards for Christmas. He is unable to reply to them all, so he wishes you all a very happy Christmas and will keep you all in his prayers.

TO ALL ALTAR SERVERS: On St Stephen's Day, **Wednesday 26th December**, there will be a special Mass at 10.30am for you. Since he is your Patron Saint please do your best to attend. *Fr Paul*

NEW YEAR'S EVE BENEDICTION AND TE DEUM: On **Monday 31st December** at 7pm, there will be Solemn Benediction and Te Deum in the church in thanksgiving for the past year for which a Plenary Indulgence is attached. To gain the Indulgence, one must have attended Mass, confessed within 8 days either before or after and be free from all attachment to sin. Then say one Our Father and Hail Mary for the Pope's Intention. If you don't manage to fulfil all the conditions the Indulgence is 'partial' which can still be a lot. Any Indulgence may be applied to the Holy Souls in Purgatory if you so wish. *Fr Paul*

ROSARY GROUP: There will be no Rosary group meeting on Tuesday **December 25th 2018 and Tuesday 1st January 2019**. The group will recommence on **Tuesday 8th January**. We begin at 6.45pm and all are most welcome to join us

THE SECOND COLLECTION ON CHRISTMAS DAY is your offering to the priests of the Parish. Please use the **white envelopes** for any Gift Aided contributions. Cheques should be made payable to the **Institute of Charity**, NOT St Mary's.

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE

First Collection: **£ 822**

New & Poor Parishes: **£249**

Standing Orders: **£ 665 @ 25.11**

Thank you



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Served by the Rosminians: Fr Paul Gillham, Parish Priest;

Rev David Jones, Deacon. In community: Fr Simon Giles

Newsletter for Sunday 23rd December 2018 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Psalter Week 4

The Wonder of the Incarnation

In today's readings, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, there is a great expectancy that Christ is near. In the First Reading from the Prophet Micah we hear, "*You Bethlehem, Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the One who is to rule over Israel, His origin goes back to the distant past, the days of old.*" This prophecy is about JESUS, the Eternal God made man. Then in the Gospel, the time has nearly arrived. Elizabeth says to Mary, "*Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*" It is JESUS Who is Lord and God, and Mary is carrying Him in her womb.

We are so familiar with the Christmas story that we can forget quite how revolutionary Our Lord's coming was. The idea that God could become human, be born of a virgin and live with us is earth shattering! How does the infinite enter the finite? How does He, whom the very heavens cannot contain, enter the womb of the Virgin Mary? How can He, who holds all creation together in Himself, be held in Mary's arms? These are all great mysteries for us to ponder. Our Lord's birth is the turning point of human history because our salvation is made possible only by His coming among us as man and by His atoning death on the cross.

We can only be silent and fall to our knees in wonder and awe before these mysteries. At the Christmas Masses the Church directs us to kneel in the Creed at the words, "*And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*" Let us take to heart the words of our Father Founder, Blessed Antonio Rosmini whose final words were, "*Adore, be silent and rejoice.*"

Finally, on behalf of Fr Simon, Fr David and myself, I wish you all a very blessed and peaceful Christmas. May the coming of our Saviour bring great joy and many blessings to you and your families.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

**Due to the office being closed over the Christmas/New Year period,
there will be no newsletter next week.**

MASS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	22 nd	5.30-5.55pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	23 rd	<u>Fourth Sunday of Advent</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass
		12.45am	Polish Mass
		3.00pm	Italian Mass
		4.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Mon	24 th	<u>Christmas Eve</u>	
		9.15am	Advent Feria
		6.00pm	Family Christmas Vigil Mass
		9.30pm	Polish Mass
		11.30pm	Carols, followed by Midnight Mass
Tues	25 th	<u>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY)</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		11.00am	Solemn Mass
Weds	26 th	10.30am	St Stephen (Feast)
Thurs	27 th	9.15am	St John, Apostle (Feast)
Fri	28 th	9.15am	Holy Innocents (Feast)
Sat	29 th	9.15am	St Thomas Becket (Feast)
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT today Sunday 23rd December at 4.30pm.
Please come and join in carols and readings to enhance the Advent season.
Mulled wine and mince pies to follow in the hall.

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Doreen Wesseldine, John McGeechan, Giovanni Brunette, John Moore, Maria Calabrese, Mary Wade, Liz Prentice, Wladyslaw Moson, Sue Mooreland, Anne America, Cynthia Kilyon, Ian Merriman, Mary Temple, Gladys Collins, William Lindley, Irene Hollis, Edouardo Romaniello, Norah Thurland, Edward Fitzpatrick, Horace Walmsley, Louis Madge, Peter Harvey, Sheila Lucas, Tony O'Malley, Jerzy Piekarski, Eileen Sutton, George Brogden, Kazimierz Romanowski, Dennis Savage, Millicent Spencer, Alice Onions and Brian Marchant

MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

Sun	30 th	<u>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Feast)</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30 -10.55am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass
		12.45pm	Polish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	31 st	9.15am	St Sylvester, pope
		7.00pm	Solemn Benediction and Te Deum
Tues	1 st	10.30am	<u>MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (SOLEMNITY)</u>
Weds	2 nd	9.15am	Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
Thurs	3 th	9.15am	Christmas Feria
Fri	4 th	9.15am	First Friday of the Month – Deceased relatives & friends
Sat	5 th	9.15am	Christmas Feria
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Devotion of the Five First Saturdays & Reconciliation</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	6 th	<u>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY)</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass
		12.45pm	Polish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass

NB: Due to the new government regulations regarding personal data (GDPR), we are only able to publicise the Mass intentions in the printed edition of the newsletter.

FROM THE SAINTS: "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.
(*St Teresa of Calcutta, 1910-1997*)
