



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 3rd January 2021 SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

The Year of St Joseph

This is the first newsletter of 2021 and so on behalf of all the priests I wish you all a very Happy New Year. I think we are probably all glad to see the back of 2020 as a lot of people have had a very tough time of it, and we have all had some sufferings and trials. Let us offer them up in union with the Cross of Christ and invoke the help of Our Lady and St Joseph for an end to the pandemic that has been plaguing the whole world this past year and for a good solution to all the problems of Brexit. We also thank God for the blessings we have received in 2020 and that we were able to celebrate Christmas Mass together publicly. This was not the case everywhere in the world.

I mentioned a couple of weeks ago that Pope Francis has declared a **Year of St Joseph** to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St Joseph as **Patron of the Universal Church**. It runs from 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021. I think it is great news and is very timely with the situation in which we find ourselves in the Church and the world today. The Church today needs the protection of St Joseph more than ever as She is under attack both from the outside and the inside. When the Church is in trouble, so will the world be. **Pope St Paul VI** famously said in 1972, "*the smoke of Satan has entered the Church*", and we have seen so much evidence of that in recent decades with many scandals reaching even to the highest levels of the Church. But this is the **Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds** (*Matthew 13:24-30*). In God's own good time the wheat and the weeds will be separated and a new period of glory will be given to the Church, the Bride of Christ. God can always bring good out of a bad situation. Let us invoke St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church to bring about the new reign of Christ in the world and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, promised by Our Lady of Fatima. Here is a lovely prayer to St Joseph by **St Francis de Sales** (1567-1622) which seems very apt for our times:

Glorious St Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary, we beseech you through the Heart of JESUS Christ, grant to us your fatherly protection. O you, whose power reaches all our necessities and who knows how to make possible the most impossible things, open your fatherly eyes to the needs of your children. In the confusion and pain which press upon us, we have recourse to you with confidence. Deign to take beneath your charitable guidance this important difficult affair, the cause of our worries, and make that its happy outcome serve for the glory of God and the good of His devoted servants. Amen.

St Joseph, Protector of Holy Church, pray for us!

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	2nd	6.00pm	For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	3rd	<u>Second Sunday of Christmas</u>	
		9.00am	For the Sick of the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	Cliff Brookes RIP – PUBLIC MASS
		4.00pm	Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS
Mon	4th	9.15am	Family Intention – PUBLIC MASS
Tues	5th	9.15am	Intention for the living (GE)
Weds	6th	<u>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY)</u>	
		9.15am	Brian Smith (RIP) (Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS
		6.30pm	Intention for the living (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC MASS
Thurs	7th	9.15am	Intention for the living
Fri	8th	6.30pm	Maunie & Eugie Scanel RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Sat	9th	9.15am	Kim RIP
		10.30am-	Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
		12.30pm	Confessions available 10.30am-11.30am
		6.00pm	For the end of the pandemic – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	10th	<u>BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Feast)</u>	
		9.00am	For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS
		4.00pm	Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

MASS INTENTIONS: Although the times of Masses are all displayed in this newsletter, the PRIVATE Masses (ie. those not open to the public) will not necessarily be offered at those times. But the Masses will all be celebrated for the particular intentions on the days advertised.

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

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Paul Gibson, Russell Glenn Lomotos and Theresa Mammicka. **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: George Brogden, Carmen DeSousa, Kazimerierz Romanowski, Dennis Savage, Alice Onions, Brian Marchant, Carlo Cutillo, Sabine Sienko, Joe Guarasci, Frank Savage, Roy Dakin, Dorothy Boyce, Carlos Garcia, Frank Barraclough, Brian Smith, Margaret Tickle, Rosemary Pearson, Robert Milnes, Juozas Petrenas and Marie Paparozzi



FROM THE SAINTS: “St Joseph, after Mary, is the greatest saint and the most dear to JESUS” (*Blessed Bartolo Longo, 1841-1926*).

THANK YOU so much, particularly in these difficult times, for your great generosity to the clergy of St Mary's over Christmas. We have very much appreciated your kindness to us, your cards, good wishes and gifts.
Fr Paul, Fr Simon, Fr David

THE CRIB, as has become our tradition, will remain up until 2nd February, the Feast of Candlemas which is the traditional end of Christmastide. These forty days of Christmastide parallel the forty days of Eastertide which ends with the Ascension of Our Lord. Pay a visit to the crib if you can.
Fr Paul

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF CHALK: Wednesday **6th January** is the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord**, when we commemorate the visit of the Magi or Three Wise Men. As things stand at the moment, it is **not** a Holyday of Obligation due to the pandemic, but there will be two Masses that day: **9.15am** and the usual Wednesday Latin Mass at **6.30pm**. Chalk will be blessed at both Masses with which you may inscribe a blessing over the front door of your homes. A sheet with the text and instructions is available with this newsletter. I will make sure the chalk is also available for you to take next weekend.
Fr Paul

LAST RITES DOES NOT MEAN LAST MINUTE: As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come. Don't leave it too late.
Fr Paul

CONGRATULATIONS to Eva and Domenico Lallo, who celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on 29th December 2020.

EXAIREO has written to thank the St Mary's for a donation of £500 which enabled them to provide £20 Argos vouchers to those residents with children. They have been encouraged to go and choose a gift for their child.

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.*

A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION: My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to possess You within my soul. Since I am unable at this moment to receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

PRE-BOOKING PLACES FOR MASS: Online bookings can be made on the diocesan website at <https://massbooking.uk>. Telephone bookings can be made by calling **07554 603972 on Tuesday or Wednesday between 2pm and 4pm or Thursday and Friday between 5pm and 7pm. Please do not phone the Presbytery.** Due to the higher demand at weekend Masses, a pre-booked seat is not guaranteed if you arrive after Mass has begun. May I take this opportunity to remind you that **the Sunday obligation is still suspended, and therefore I would encourage some of you to take advantage of attending Mass during the week if possible** to help ease the numbers at the weekend. Thank you. *Fr Paul*

LAST TWO WEEKS' FINANCE:	
20/12 First Collection: £327 of which £176 was gift-aided	Grub Club Donations: £50
27/12 First Collection: £498 of which £221 was gift-aided	Kwediboma Donations: £60
Standing orders: £776 of which £679 is gift-aided	Apostleship of the Sea £149 of which £15 was gift-aided
Christmas offerings to Clergy: £1575 of which £655 was gift-aided	Christmas offerings to the Parish: £701
	<i>Thank you</i>

There will be a Second Collection for Pax Christi on 16th/17th January.