

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

THE HOLY FAMILY (B)

Dec 27th 2020



*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
I give you my heart
and my soul!*

The child grew, filled with wisdom

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DATE	PARISH MASS	OTHER
Sun 27th	HOLY FAMILY (B) 9.15 (BB) D Bone RIP (SMH) 11am (HAD) M&J Gavan RIP (SL)	
Mon 28th	Advent feria / St Peter Canisius 9.30 (HAD) Joe Singleton (DW)	
Tues 29th	Advent feria 9.30 (HAD) First Friday folk (DW)	
Weds 30th	Advent feria / St John of Kanty 9.30 (BB) Thomas Heywood RIP (JM)	
Thurs 31st	Advent feria 9.30 (HAD) for Str Philip Howard school	
Fri 1st Jan	9.30 (BB) M G Robinson (SL) 11.00am (HAD) Gleam Team's welfare	
Sat 2nd	St Stephen, martyr 9.30 (HAD) Helen Heywood RIP (JM)	
Sun 3rd	CHRISTMAS II (B) 9.15 (BB) D W Bone RIP (AC) 11am (HAD) for the parish	

HOLY FAMILY (B)

Psalter wk 1

Introduction to the Readings : Today we celebrate the Holy Family, the model for all who fear the Lord and walk in His ways.

First Reading: Gen 15 : Abram's dynasty is promised.

Responsorial Psalm: HE THE LORD IS OUR GOD!

Second Reading: Hebr 11 : Faith in the family.

Gospel : Lk 2 : Jesus is presented to Simeon in the temple.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish:

Mary Perry, Peter James, Fr John Cairns, Cn Michael Moore, Pauline Anderson, Isabella Phillips, Monica Krommendijk, Una Wilkinson, Nella Lewykyj, Evelyn Matthewman, Neil Appleton, Alice Canning, Mary Mycio, Dorothy Yarwood.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time: Revv Eric Grasar, Bowman Short, Stan Borrows, Peter Wilson, Paddy Kearney, Bernard Mooney; Bridget Pyke, Teresa Woolley, Edward Boyle, Dennis Clayton, Yvonne Morris:

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, may they rest in peace. Amen

PARISH NOTES

THIS WEEKEND we find ourselves celebrating the Holy Family. As they set off into the wilderness to exile in Egypt, may they smile on families who are sadly disconnected by COVID constraints.

MASS BOOKING SYSTEM Thanks to Angie (BB) (07977202639) and Sophie (HAD) (07907 884 105) who administer this system. Please ring them to book a place at BB or Friday or Sunday, or St Charles on Sunday.

THE CHRISTMAS TOTE BB/GAM winners : Angie Cass £100; Emma Soper £50..

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS Christmas of course has just begun; we are on the third day of the Christmas Octave. Happy Christmas!!

Renewed thanks to

- * *Our faithful steward who assisted the 165 worshippers who came for Christmas Masses;*
- * *Our devoted florists who brought such honour to God and delight to his people with their artistry;*
- * *Our ever-diligent sacristans who arranged our sacristies and sanctuaries for worship*
- * *Our generous-hearted servers, readers and Eucharistic Ministers who helped us in worship*
- * *From Fr Daniel and me to those who sent both Fr Daniel and me greetings, and lavished us with gifts and kindness*

NOTE WELL

*There will be additional weekday Masses on
Wednesday at BB at 9.30, and
Friday at 11am at HAD.*

Our Bishop has urged his priests to ensure that people have extra chances to come to Christmas Masses during the Octave.

MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS With January arriving this week, your spiritual journey into the New Year will be enlivened by our spiritual readers: **"MY DAY-BY-DAY"** free; **"MAGNIFICAT"** - £5.

BISHOP PATRICK'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear brethren in Christ Jesus,

What a year it's been as we've tried to adjust, as best we can, to the enforcement of the COVID-19 guidelines. This meant for a time the closure of our churches and huge restrictions on so many aspects of our ministry. But it also saw a huge output of creativity, on the part of both clergy and laity, with online streaming of Masses, opportunities for parishioners to 'join in' the Mass by means of their phone, and many other pastoral initiatives to keep people connected in parishes and chaplaincies. When our churches were allowed to be open again, for private and later for communal worship, the hygiene, stewarding and social distancing guidelines had first to be negotiated. I take

this opportunity to thank all who cooperated, in the generous collaborative work that ensured so many of our churches were able to reopen safely. My point is that, while it's certainly been a difficult year for the diocese, there's also much to celebrate and give thanks to God for as we journey through the season of Christmas.

The message of Christmas is, in a sense, an unspoken one. In the infancy narrative, as described by Luke, there is an atmosphere of silence. There's certainly much movement, but few words! The child in the manger cannot speak. Of Joseph, described by St Francis in 'Patris Corde' as a tender, loving, obedient, accepting, creatively courageous and working Father, no word is recorded. Mary, the mother of Jesus, also says little, but ponders all these things 'in her heart' (Lk 2:19). It can be said that the events of Christmas speak for themselves; that they are indeed more eloquent than any amount of words. They speak to us of the immensity of God's love which, as St Paul reminds us in the 2nd Reading of the Dawn Christmas Mass, we have done nothing to merit: "When the kindness and love of God our Saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us" (Titus 3:4-5). We know God speaks to us at all times but, especially at Christmas, he speaks to us through his beloved Son, the Word made flesh, in whom he is well pleased. In the midst of all our preparations for Christmas, let's each accept the invitation to a little more attentive listening than usual; to create within ourselves a zone of inner silence where that 'still small voice' of God can be heard.

This Christmas, I wish each of you all the Blessings of the Christ-child, our Lord and Saviour, the one whom we strive to serve each day.

With gratitude and prayer,

+ Bishop Patrick

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Bishop Patrick refers to St Joseph. Here is the context:

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled **Patris corde** ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

