



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

THE HOLY FAMILY (C)

Dec 26th 2021



CHRISTMAS

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
I give you my heart and my soul;
Jesus, Mary and Joseph assist me now
and in my last agony;
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
may I bring forth my soul in peace with you.
Amen

The word was made flesh, and dwelt amongst us!

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DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 26th	THE HOLY FAMILY 9.15 (BB) B & E Laidlaw RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) the Callon family	
Mon 27th	ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST 9.30 (HAD) M&J Gavan RIP	
Tues 28th	THE HOLY INNOCENTS 9.30 (HAD) J&R Martin' welfare (A&LK)	
Weds 29th	ST THOMAS à BECKET, bishop and martyr 9.30 (HAD) G McSherry RIP (JM)	
Thurs 30th	sixth day in the Christmas octave 9.30 (HAD) M&C Holtom RIP (D&KH)	
Fri 31st	seventh day in the Christmas octave 9.30 (BB) Liam Handley RIP (anon)	
Sat 1st Jan	MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD (Solemnity) 9.30 (HAD) Margaret Robinson RIP (SL)	
Sun 2nd	SECOND SUNDAY IN CHRISTMASTIDE 9.15 (BB) Patricia Kenny RIP (D&CN) 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Mon 3rd	Holy Name of Jesus 9.30 (HAD) C Evans RIP (fam)	
Tues 4th	Christmas feria 9.30 (HAD) Sister Philomena's welfare (DW)	
Weds 5th	Christmas feria 9.30 (HAD) Sister Angela	
Thurs 6th	THE EPIPHANY 9.30 (BB) for the parish Noon (HAD) Mass bouquet	
Fri 7th	St Raymond of Peñafort 9.30 (BB) George Simpson RIP (fam)	
Sat 8th	Epiphanytide feria 9.30 (HAD) Sp int	
Sun 9th	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Eileen Berry RIP (fam)	

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish: Peter James, Pauline Anderson, Isabella Phillips, Monica Krommendijk, Joe Singleton, Una Wilkinson, David Healy, Josie & Peter Cowden, Denise Walsh, Nella Lewyckyj, Jacob Ibbotson, Evelyn Matthewman, Neil Appleton, Alice Canning.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time: *Revv Bowman Short, Bishop Grasar, Stan Borrows, Peter Wilson, Paddy Kearney, Bernard Mooney, Jeremiah McGillycuddy, Bob Woodbridge, Dan Reid, Hugh Atkinson, Paddy Snee, Michael Stewart;* Patricia Porter, Margaret Asher, Carl Evans, James Pollitt, Bridget Pyke, Edward Boyle, Dennis Clayton, George Langton, William Gray, Hilda Normyle, Lenard Judge, Kitty Ball, Toby Higgs, Philip Love, Tommy Nelson, Celina Klimczyk, Lawrence Cassidy, Sister Catherine Keogh, Colleen Whitham, Ken Pover, Florence Walton, George Simpson, Brian Derbyshire, Maria Fenton, Paul Farnsworth : *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, may they rest in peace. Amen*

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We have words of encouragement from Bishop's House : On this Feast of the Holy Family, we are reminded that Jesus belonged to a family. Living within the community of the family demands the exercise of virtue. Charity and patience are not won easily for most of us. Virtues are developed through learning and practice. Within the family, we discover our identity. There are popular television programmes in which individuals discover long-lost parents and siblings or something of the generations which have gone before them. Every parent can surely imagine the nightmare of having lost their child. Today's Gospel moment shares this with us. The shadow of the cross hangs over this scene. Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. After they returned to Nazareth, the evangelist tells us, his mother stored up all these things in her heart. May our experiences of family life help us to reflect upon the mysteries of Gospel life. We pray that good folk will help couples to prepare for their life-long vocation in marriage, and that all families may embrace their vocation to holiness.

ADDITIONALLY you can find at the back of church material from the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, urging us to message the PM at assist in allowing pro-life campaigners from being silence. A basket is there for your contributions to this charity.

'FAITH IN FAMILIES' is the diocesan organisation (erstwhile 'Catholic Children's Society') that promotes family welfare and fostering/ adoption. In the new year this society joins with its counterpart in Birmingham, retitling as 'Adoption Focus'. Many parishioners over the years have supported this charity either by filling collection boxes or standing orders. Our thanks to Val G who faithfully administered this for us locally. Means of support are therefore changing. If you wish to continue to support this valuable charity, let me know, and I'll give info as to how to do this in future.

PARISH TOTES The pre-Christmas drawing took place in our churches last weekend. Here is the list of winners:

BB 1st - £100 : Denise Walsh; 2nd - £50 : Ann Byrne.
HAD 1st - £150 : Gwyneth Collins; 2nd - £100 : M Cowden; 3rd - £100 : C Pease;
4th - £75 : J Bradley; 5th - £50 : S Wynne.

Thank you to all who support our parishes through the totes, and greater thanks to those who administer them.

THE PARISH RAFFLE The list of winners is found at the back of church. There are a number of

unclaimed prizes. Please check to see if you have a delight in store!

HEARTY THANKS to Monsignor Moore who came twice to hear confessions and give absolution in the Sacrament of Penance recently. This kindness is much appreciated!

'MY DAY-BY-DAY' January is freely available. I wish I could say the same for the 'Magnificat', which again is mysteriously undelivered.

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the **Afghanistan Crisis Appeal**. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal. Please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

"KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" is the message on the window-posters found at the back of church. There was a popular take-up when these were placed ten days ago. We ran out of copies—almost! A kind parishioner caused many more copies to be produced. Be a missionary disciple, take and display and thereby proclaim that God has become man in Jesus his Son!

CARDS APLENTY as ever during Advent Christmas cards addressed for parishioner-friends are brought to church left for collection. The mountain is quite a high one this year again! Please check and take—either yours or someone you know.

BEST THANKS to our dedicated teaching staff for their hard work over a long term. They deserve their Christmas break. And equal good wishes to the pupils. To you all, thanks & God Bless!

THE OUTSIDE CRIB displayed on the rectory lawn always attracts attention and delight—and questions like 'where's Baby Jesus'? This gave chance for a bit of encouraging catechesis on the story of the divine birth - and the importance of waiting in Advent. The lit star within had one child humming 'Twinkle Twinkle little Star'. Thanks to Nick C who yearly causes this local delight to encourage devotion to the infant!

'MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB', or in the case of the church crib at St Charles where unknown kind hands have furnished an additional four lambs. Thank you! They are lovely! All crib donations this year go to help needy children in the land of Our Lord's birth.

A LONG LIST of wonderfully kind parishioners who have decorated our churches for Christmastide - too many to mention! Certainly a labour of love!

THIS NEWSLETTER has two weeks' currency. The next publication is planned for 9th Jan 2022.

THIS POEM by Christina Rossetti was chosen by Radio 3 as its text for its annual Christmas Carol contest this year. Worth checking R3 website for the winning setting. Delightful!

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.



WISHING YOU ALL a healthy, hopeful and happy Christmas, and a surprisingly joyful new year!