



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

HOLY FAMILY
29th Dec 2024



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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OUR SCHOOLS

St Charles Primary Hadfield SK13 7PQ
Head : Mrs B Quirke
Tel : 852692

St Margaret's & All Saints Federation
Gamesley SK13 6HB
Head : Mrs G Beaumont
Tel : 855818

St Philip Howard Secondary
SK13 8DR
Head : Mr J Kayes
Tel : 853611/861022

DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 29th	THE HOLY FAMILY 9.15 (BB) Federico Pasqua RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Mon 30th	Christmas Octave, day 6 9.30 (HAD) Derek Fitzsimmons RIP (fam)	
Tues 31st	Christmas Octave, day 7 (St Sylvester) 9.30 (HAD) Ian Watson RIP (D&KH) 6pm (BB) M&J Gavan RIP (SL)	
Weds 1 Jan 2025	MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD 9.30 (HAD) dec'd of Holtom fam RIP	
Thurs 2nd	Ss Basil & Gregory 9.30 (HAD) Dec'd of Perry family (D&KH)	
Fri 3rd	Christmas feria (Holy Name of Jesus) 9.30 (BB) Peter Fish RIP (MR)	FIRST FRIDAY VISITS TODAY
Sat 4th	Christmas feria 9.30 (HAD) M & J Holtom RIP (fam)	
Sun 5th	THE EPIPHANY 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Ken Pover RIP	

HOLY FAMILY (C)	
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: Sam 1 : Samuel is pledged to the Lord in life-long dedication.	
Responsorial Psalm: THEY ARE HAPPY WHO DWELL IN YOUR HOUSE O LORD!	
Second Reading: 1 Jn 3 : We are called God's children for that is what we are.	
Gospel : Lk 2 : Jesus is found by his anxious parents teaching in the temple.	
Comm ant:	OUR GOD HAS APPEARED ON THE EARTH, AND LIVED AMONG US.

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, Joe Singleton, Maura Farrell, Joan Killeen, Winifred Cook, Rita Dwyer, Una Wilkinson, Christine Wild, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Jean Ashton, Bro Philip Revell, Beatrice Eaton, Keith Winston.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time; Revv Peter Peterken, Dan Reid, Bob Woodbridge, Jeremiah McGillicuddy, Bernard Mooney, Paddy Kearney, Peter Wilson; *Edward Boyle, Dennis Clayton, George Langton, Michael Deary, Leonard Judge, Kitty Ball, Toby Higgs, Robert Owen, Vincent O'Brien, Philip Love, Denis Brady, Maureen Axon, Tommy Nelson, Celina Klimczyk: May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen*

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY we honour the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph. Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. In her liturgy the Church hurries over this period of Christ's life with equal brevity. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families. The **Gospel** concludes St Luke's detailed story of the Infancy with the presentation of the child Jesus in the temple. When this rite was carried out the Holy Family returned to Nazareth.

On this Sunday we are asked to pray especially for expectant mothers everywhere.

THE GOSPEL Luke's account of the birth and infancy of Jesus is built on the comparison and contrast of the two stories of John the Baptist and Jesus: the annunciation to the parents, the birth of each, the joy on earth and in heaven, the circumcision, the growth of the child. In each incident John is shown to be great, but Jesus greater still. Only in this incident do the two families meet, the two stories cross. The two mothers meet each other to marvel at the destiny of their children. The journey from Nazareth to even the nearest of the towns in the hill country of Judah (traditionally Elizabeth's home is located at Ain Karim, now on the outskirts of Jerusalem) would have been arduous, a week's walk for a fit young woman. This special exertion and generosity shows her love and care for her elderly relative, as well as the natural excitement of the two in sharing their motherhood. Luke has already told us that Mary was filled with the Holy Spirit. Now Elizabeth too is filled with the Holy Spirit as they share and exchange the praise of God for the gift of their child.

PASTORAL LETTER Bishop Patrick has issued a pastoral letter on the theme of 'the Jubilee Year of Hope (2025)'. This will be read at Masses this weekend.

SAINTS ALIVE This week we honour **Pope St Silvester I (- 335)** who ruled the Church from 314 during the reign of the newly-converted Emperor Constantine. In his time the Donatist schism and the Arian heresy caused great trouble for the Church. He died in 335 and is buried in the cemetery of Priscilla in the via Salaria in Rome. His life has been so accreted with pious legends that very little else is known about him for certain, but his reign as Pope is the eighth longest on record. **St Basil the Great (330 - 379)** was born in 330 at Caesarea in Cappadocia, of a Christian family. A brilliant scholar and a virtuous man, he started by becoming a hermit but was made bishop of Caesarea in 370. He fought against the Arians and wrote many notable works, in particular the monastic rule that bears his name and which many monks in the East follow to this day. He was also generous to the poor. He died on 1 January 379. **St Gregory Nazianzen (330 - 389)** was born in 330, near Nazianzus. He travelled widely in search of knowledge. He followed his friend Basil into the wilderness, but he too was ordained and later made a bishop. He was elected Bishop of Constantinople in 381 but because of

the factional fighting within the Church he retired to Nazianzus, where he died on 25 January 389 or 390. He is known as "Gregory the Theologian" in honour of his learning and eloquence.

FIRST FRIDAY visits are planned for 3rd Jan.

BISHOP'S CHARITY BENEFIT Best thanks to those who attended the Nine Lessons & Carols at BB just before the Christmas season. A welcome £141 was collected for the Advent charity nominated by the Bishop.

INTER-PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE this raffle raised over £550 per parish. A welcome boost to church income in both parishes. Many thanks for your support.

USED STAMPS Used stamps are being collected in supported Reuben's Retreat, a local charity. Doubtless many people are receiving Christmas messages by post these days. Please remember to keep those used stamps to church.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS *Immaculate Conception* (The Big One!) 1st, £100 : D Norton; 2nd, £50 : T Cass. *St Charles* (The Big One!) : 1st, (£100) : M Walsh; 2nd, (£50) : A Wilkie; 3rd (£50) M Martin.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS My thanks to you for this kindness and so many others that have come my way in recent days.

NEW YEAR'S EVE Please note that a vigil Mass for New Year's Day (The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God) will be celebrated at 6pm at Immaculate Conception on Tuesday.

PUBLICATIONS The January 2025 edition of 'Magnificat', is available from the back of church (£6.50). 'My Day by Day' is also there, free of charge. Why not make a copy a gift to a friend or neighbour?

CRIB DONATIONS When you visit our cribs here and there, please note that donations will be sent to the Holy Childhood mission charity, to help needy children in Catholic parishes in the developing world.

STANDING ORDERS: *Immaculate Conception* : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "St Margaret's church/collection (or tote)" 00510567. *St Charles* : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "Charles church/collection (or tote)" 00269177.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had
come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to
day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The Carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
'There is no peace on earth,' I said;
'For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!'

Longfellow

