



The Sunday Gospel through School on Wednesday

Pope Francis writes: "May we stop before the Child of Bethlehem and allow the tenderness of God to warm our hearts." This Sunday is Christmas

Day when people throughout the world celebrate the birth of Christ. It is a special time for families and to ask ourselves how we might bring more of God's love and joy into our families? Can we also remember and pray for those families who, for whatever reasons, will not be able to come together this Christmas, and especially for those families whose lives continue to be devastated by war?

Ministers

December 25th

Liturgy of the Word

Liturgy of the Eucharist

8.00pm P. Redshaw & M.Farmer
8.30am C.Ivatts & M.Crewdson
10.00am

S.Dyson + 3 others
S.Crewdson/M.Booth

January 1st

6.00pm M.Jefferis
8.30am E.Davies
10.00am J.Sheard

S.Dyson
S.Crewdson/M.Booth
C.Ward/K.McKune

Parish Diaries & Offertory Envelopes



The 2017 Pocket Parish Diary is now available at the back of the church. Please feel free to take one for use during the year. They contain information about the Liturgical Seasons, Holydays of Obligation, Festivals and Bank Holidays and the major Feasts and Saints' Days.



There are still a few boxes of Offertory Envelopes to be collected from the back of the church. If you have not already collected yours, please do so as they begin NEXT weekend on Sunday 1st January

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First: £5449.22 Second: £209.59 Shop: £159.23 Thank You

The Charity Shop will be closed until Tuesday January 10th 2017

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING CHEQUES

If you are making out a cheque please make it payable to
DIOCESE OF LEEDS— SACRED HEART



Sacred Heart & St. William

31 High Street
Uppermill OL3 6HS
web: www.sacredheartparish.org.uk

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25th 2016 Year A (Matthew's Gospel)

Times of Masses & Intentions

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|----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Christmas Eve | <u>7.30pm</u> <u>8.00pm</u> | Carols Parishioners' Intentions People of the Parish Families of the Parish |
| Christmas Day | 8.30am 10.00am | Anne Hall (Boxing Day) Pat & Terry Collins |
| Monday | 10.00am | No Taizé Prayer group this week |
| Tuesday | 9.30am | Service of the Word & Holy Communion |
| Wednesday | 12.00 noon | Pamela Daniels |
| Thursday | 9.30am | Patricia Doran |
| Friday | 9.30am | Carols Round the Crib |
| Saturday | 10.00am | Lionel Dossett |
| Vigil | 6.00pm | Michael Reynolds and Family |
| Sunday | 8.30am 10.00am | Angela Gorman People of the Parish |

Confessions: After the 10.00am Mass on Saturday and on request

Exposition: 40 minutes before Mass each weekday

When there is A Service of the Word & Holy Communion there is NO Exposition

Telephone Contact Details:

Parish Priest: Fr Bernard Bickers Tel: 01457 872603
Permanent Deacon: Revd Peter Rudd Tel: 01457 876559
Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Tessa Spalding Tel: 01457 873515
Mrs Michelle Moore Tel: 01457 829895

Christmas 2016



After the longest and fullest Advent we can experience in the Church's Liturgical Year, this weekend we have the great joy of celebrating the Solemnity of Our Lord's Birth at Christmas.

Last Saturday more than a dozen families came together to listen and sing about the birth of Jesus, and then, with a creativity beyond expectation they created both a Christmas Tree and a crib scene, both of which are in the porch to welcome everyone to celebrate Mass this Christmas. Have a look as you enter and leave the church today.

We will also have opportunities over the Christmas season to look into the crib in front of the altar and to share our own thoughts and prayers with the Lord. As we do so we will be aware that in many parts of the world families will NOT be free to visit a church or other places of worship, but rather will be seeking out somewhere they can go for safety. We ask the Prince of Peace to bring peace into our world.

CRIB OFFERINGS:

This year, at the request of Bishop Marcus, our parish will be donating crib offerings to **Friends of the Holy Land**. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health and housing initiatives. Friends of the Holy Land is apolitical and ecumenical.

"Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for Christmas, for coming into our world to fill our lives with your joy, peace and love. Help us to welcome you with love and to share your love with all, especially those who are most in need, near and far."

One Christmas Card for All



More than £300.00 has already been donated through the One Card for All. All the money collected will be used to buy World Gifts.

Please see the booklets at the back of the church for more information. Also a **cheque for £200.00** was sent to CAFOD in response to the urgent appeal for the people of Yemen who are suffering so terribly at this time. Thank You

The Feast of the Holy Family

This feast is normally held on the first Sunday after Christmas, but the way the calendar has fallen this year means that next Sunday is January 1st New Year's Day on which we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. As a result the Church will be celebrating the Holy Family on

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30th.

As well as the morning Mass at 9.30am we will have

CAROLS ROUND THE CRIB



4.00pm

Followed by Refreshments in the Parish Centre

All families are most welcome. Written invitations have been sent to all the families who have had a child baptised during 2016.

Remembering those we have loved



Christmas is a poignant time for those who have been bereaved, especially since last Christmas. We might like to say the following prayer for ourselves or those we know:

When we are needy and in need of strength—we remember them

When we are lost and sick at heart - we remember them

When we have joys to share and news to give—we remember them

In the dull of winter, the rebirth of spring, the warmth of summer and the beauty of autumn—we remember them

So long as we live—we will remember them

Thought for the week



We must restore HOPE to young people, help the old, be open to the future and spread LOVE. Be poor among the poor, include the excluded and preach PEACE. Pope Francis