

From Sunday's Gospel



When Jesus was a baby, his parents, Mary and Joseph, took him up to the Temple to present him to God and make an offering of two young pigeons. Now in the Temple there was a good and holy man named Simeon. The Holy Spirit had promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen Jesus, the Light of the World. Prompted by the Spirit, Simeon came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to make

their offering, Simeon took Jesus in his arms and blessed God, and he said: "Now, I can die in peace because you have kept your promise. This child, Jesus, will be a light for all nations." Jesus' parents took him back to Nazareth where Jesus grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

(From the gospel for Sunday 27th December 2020 Luke 2:22-40)



Pope Francis writes, "My dear young people, all God's children, of every people and language, are invited and called to be part of this great family, as brothers and sisters and sons and daughters of the one

Father in heaven." Today's word is **Family**. This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In the gospel passage we read about the Holy Family's openness and obedience to God. Christmas is a special time for families, and this year because of the virus, we will not be able to meet together as in past years. Perhaps we might be helped by remembering that things were not easy for the Holy Family as we heard Simeon predicting that Jesus would be a 'sign that would be rejected' and that 'a sword would pierce' the soul of Mary. We might ask the Holy Family to help all our families at this time and to do what Pope Francis suggests, **"Dear families, always live in faith and simplicity like the Holy Family of Nazareth."**



Sacred Heart & St William

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Please visit the website above.

For Daily Mass Readings, Video reflections and any updates go to Sunday Mass in the Newsletter

The Feast of the Holy Family December 27th 2020 (Mark's Gospel)

The intentions are as follows:

- Sunday: **9.00am Live Streamed Mass without a congregation
People of the Parish**
11.00am Margaret & Jack Holmes (**Booking Essential**)
- Monday: **10.00am** Loraine Ackerley
- Tuesday: **9.30am** Pamela Daniels
- Wednesday: **12.00 noon** Monica Wilde & Joseph Brian Wilde
- Thursday: **9.30am** May Collins (Recently deceased)
- Friday: **9.00am Live Streamed Mass without a congregation**
Pat Armstrong **Mary the Mother of God**
12.00 noon People of the Parish (**Booking Essential**)
- Saturday: **6.00pm** Tara Dyson
- Sunday: **9.00am Live Streamed Mass without a congregation**
**The church will be open for Mass each day except when
Mass is being streamed.**

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

Feast of the Holy Family



Every year the Church invites us to reflect on the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph on the Sunday after Christmas Day. This year Mark's Gospel will be our guide during Ordinary Time. As we know Mark does not have an Infancy Narrative so there are no details about Jesus' birth or early life, so the gospel passage chosen for today comes towards the end of Luke Chapter 2. It tells the story of the Presentation introducing us to two elderly people, Simeon and Anna. It is

Simeon who gives us the prayer the Church uses at Night Prayer every day of the year, the prayer called the 'Nunc Dimittis' - the first two words of the prayer in Latin. It is a prayer upholding the faithfulness of God and recognising Jesus as a Light for all the nations to see. But Simeon does not stop there, he speaks directly to Mary, telling her that her Son, despite being the Light to the Nations will in fact be 'a sign that is rejected', and not only that but a sword will pierce Mary's soul. So even in Luke's Infancy Narrative, there is the promise of difficult times ahead, and we might want to commend to the intercession of the Holy Family those families we know who are experiencing great challenges, perhaps with children, or elderly relatives, or taking into their homes those no longer able to care for themselves due to dementia or other conditions. Many families, too, will have been disappointed not to be able to get together this Christmas, both here and elsewhere throughout the world. We commend them all to the love and care of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.



Offertory Envelopes for 2021

These are now ready for collection at the back of the church. They are arranged in alphabetical order. Please collect your two sets of envelopes whenever you visit the church for Mass. Thank You. There are some Pocket Diaries 2021 available for collection at the back of church.

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God



New Year's Day falls on a Friday this year and there will be two Masses to celebrate the beginning of a New Year under the patronage of Mary the Mother of God. **The first, at 9.00am, will be streamed without a congregation,** and the second at 12.00 noon, will be open to a congregation, for which booking will be essential. Susan will be available to take bookings from **10.00am-12.00noon on Thursday December 31st. 01457 878055 / 07778856089.**

2020 will long be remembered for the Coronavirus pandemic which has had such serious consequences for so many people both here and throughout the world, not only taking the lives of so many people, but also leaving people unemployed. Part of our prayer as we step into the New Year of 2021 will be that the vaccines, those already approved and those still to be approved, will be effective, and we will once again be able to meet each other without danger of infection.

One Card for All



As in previous years there will be the opportunity to sign The One Card for All which will be at the back of the church from this weekend. All the proceeds from signing the card will be used to buy GIFTS for LIFE sponsored by CAFOD. Please put any donations in the box next to the card.



As this year comes to the end of the year I would like on behalf of the whole parish to thank Mick and Mary Farmer and Michele and Chris Paterson for making it possible to live stream the Sunday Masses not only within the parish but to Nicaragua and other parts of the world. Also thanks to the musicians, pianists, harpists and violinists, and singers, those known and unknown to us, and for permission to use hymns and carols by the Saddleworth Sing for Pleasure Choir. Their generosity with their time and abilities has greatly enhanced the celebration of the Sunday Mass.



"It takes the same amount of Energy to Worry as it does to Pray. One leads to Panic the other leads to Peace." David Jeremiah