

From Sunday's Gospel



In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God and the Word was God. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him, and that life was the light of all people, a light that shines in the dark, a light

that darkness could not overpower. The Word was the true light that enlightens all people; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world and the world did not know him and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born of God. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

(From the gospel for Sunday 3rd January 2021, John 1:1-5, 9-14)



Pope Francis writes, "My dear young people, Christ comes among us at Christmas: it is the perfect time for a personal encounter with the Lord. With Christ our life becomes full—everything makes

sense." Today's word is **Christ**. Jesus Christ is God's greatest gift to the world. His wonderful birth, indeed his whole life, death and resurrection gives witness to the fact that he is the Son of God. Christ, 'the light of the world' came to enlighten us, to show us the way to God and to confirm our hope of heaven. He came to draw everyone into his love, so that we may joyfully share in God's own life. As families we can talk about the ways we might be able to live and love more like Christ during this New Year of 2021.

"Dear Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for coming into our world to fill our lives and families with your joy, peace and love. Help us to share your love and spread your peace and joy with those around us. Amen"



Sacred Heart & St William

31 High Street

Uppermill OL3 6HS

www.sacredheartparish.org.uk

Please visit the website above.

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

2nd Sunday after the Nativity

January 3rd 2020 (Mark's Gospel)

PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED WHILE WE ARE IN TIER 4.

Fr Bernard will celebrate Mass each day without a congregation. Please watch this space for further information.

The intentions are as follows:

Sunday:	Vincent Ryan
Monday:	People of the Parish
Tuesday:	Sr Alphonsus Kelleher
Wednesday:	Vera Ackerley
Thursday:	Jill Bickers & Michelle Bickers
Friday:	Nick Hays
Saturday:	Yorkshire Brethren
Sunday:	People of the Parish

Confessions by appointment

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

That was the Year that was!

AS we gathered to celebrate New Year's Day and the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God on January 1st 2020, none of us could have had a notion that the year would turn out as it did. The year got off to a normal start but then news came filtering through about a new Corona Virus, now more commonly known as Covid-19, reminding us that its origins were in 2019. We continued reasonably unaffected by the spread of the virus until middle of March when the Prime Minister announced the first lockdown which included the closure of places of worship. This announcement was quickly followed by directives from the Bishops of England and Wales concerning the celebration of Mass without a congregation.

From Saturday 21st March Fr Bernard celebrated Mass each day alone.

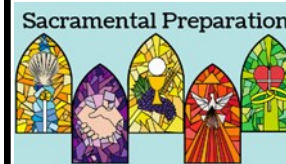
This solitary celebration of Mass continued into Holy Week and included the Triduum. It was very strange celebrating Holy Thursday, Good Friday, The Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday without a congregation. People with access to the Internet could go to the Leeds Cathedral website and join in the Masses that were being live streamed there, and many people did so.



In our own parish, thanks mainly to Mick, Chris and Michele, we started live streaming soon after Easter. The readings and any music had to be pre-recorded and then played at the appropriate times. Mick and Mary, and latterly Celia, have been involved in these recordings.

Music was provided by Chris Johnson on the piano, Michele's small group, the Sing for Pleasure Choir and other musicians, for which we, as a parish, are extremely grateful. The streamed Masses have enabled parishioners to celebrate Sunday by Sunday in their own homes, and have also been seen in Nicaragua. At first a couple of hundred people joined Fr Luis to celebrate, and as time went on so the numbers grew. Thanks to modern technology people in Nicaragua are now able to connect through the internet in the six villages for which Fr Luis has pastoral responsibility. Between six and eight thousand people join us every week. It is a wonder outreach and greatly appreciated by all.

Some consequences of the Pandemic in our parish



This year we had to suspend parish based catechesis of our children, young people and their parents. One of the things we will have to do this year is to see how best we can take up and continue preparation for First Sacraments and Confirmation. The diocese has recently produced DVDs on sacramental preparation and Fr Bernard has sent for copies. It may be that preparation could be done at home using these materials. Please watch this space for further information.

There has been only ONE baptism in our church in 2020, several others were postponed initially until the church was re-opened and then a further postponement when we were told only 6 people could attend.

There have been NO Marriages this year, again two couples choosing to postpone because of the limit on numbers.

There have been 7 funerals but only one in church.

With two vaccines now available there is a real hope that in the not too distant future we will be able to meet in larger numbers both within and outside church.



Thanks to those who were able to contribute to the **One Card for All—CAFOD WORLD GIFTS**. The total reached was £185.11p
The Crib donations will be sent to Friends of the Holy Land.



For your cards, gifts and greetings, for the Christmas Offerings of £651.00, but most of all for your support and understanding during this past very strange year. Thanks too, for your continued financial support of the Parish. In December the following was banked:

First Collection: £3,174.00; Second Collection: £432.00; Donations: £199.00 in memory of Bridget Shewring; £200.00 in memory of Mary Vallow and a gift of £100.00 from Sally Anne. For all of which Many thanks.



"We leave nothing behind except the love we left behind as memory." Shams of Tabriz