



Parish of St. Vincent de Paul

Newsletter

31st December 2023

Feast of the
Holy Family



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Mass Times this Week

Sunday	10.00
Monday	09.00
Tuesday	07:30
Wednesday	09.00
Thursday	NO MASS
Friday	NO MASS
Saturday (vigil)	18.00

Mass Intentions

Sat 30: Birch Family
 Sun 31: Paul Nicholson RIP
 Mon 1/1/24 Sarah Benjamin
 Tues 2: Harvey Family
 Wed 3: Joe Boughton RIP
 Thur 4:
 Fri 5:
 Sat 6: Frank Hastie
 Sun 7: Alan Randles

Extracts from Archbishop Malcolm's message to be read at all Masses today.

The feast of the Holy Family is an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of family in our lives. Many of us are enjoying the company of our families in this Christmas season, but for others the idea of belonging to a family is quite distant. Circumstances can leave us without immediate family and that can be a lonely experience. The wars and conflicts throughout the world lead to families breaking up and being separated from each other, some families do not always survive the pressures of modern life and there is much relationship breakdown around us.

Nowadays families come in different shapes and sizes but at their heart is a common desire to build a mutual relationship based on love and respect. Jesus' own family, in several ways, did not meet the expectations of what was considered to be a model family. Mary's pregnancy out of wedlock disturbed Joseph greatly and he offered to release Mary from her betrothal and Jesus was an only child which would have been rare in those days. But there was wider family at least on Mary's side. There was her cousin Elizabeth to whom she went for support during her pregnancy.

Mary, Joseph and Jesus knew what it was like to leave their own country and live as refugees in Egypt until another ruler was on the throne in Israel. But at the heart of Jesus' family was the love of God made visible for us in Jesus himself. The church celebrates this relatively modern feast (it is about 100 years old) to help modern Christians remain faithful to God and each other in unstable times.

Malcolm

Days of Obligation

Next Sunday is the 7th January and the feast of the Epiphany. On Monday 8th, we will cele-

brate the Baptism of the Lord. Some people may wonder why the Epiphany this year is celebrated on the Sunday and the Baptism of Our Lord is "reduced" to a Monday.

It is true that the Epiphany is traditionally celebrated on the 6th January, at least in this country, and the Baptism is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday after Christmas. However, when the Epiphany falls, as it does this year, on either the Saturday or the Monday it is transferred to the Sunday. I presume this is to avoid the faithful being "obliged" to participate in the Eucharist on both Saturday and Sunday. This, as we experienced this year, does not apply to Christmas.

The Sunday of the Baptism of Our Lord falls on the first Sunday of "Ordinary time", which means that it is also the end of the period of Christmas. However, this year we celebrate the feast itself on Monday 8th. It is not a day of obligation!

There are 3 other obliged "solemnities" which are treated in a similar manner in this country: the solemnity of saints Peter and Paul on the 29th June, the Assumption on the 15th August, and all Saints on the 1st November.

Why this obligation for these particular feasts? Well, it's the importance we attach to these mysteries. Are we not full of joy at being among the chosen ones to have taken our faith to heart? Are we not in awe that God has touched us with our faith and the hope that it gives us in this world, so taken up with gaining more wealth and power, so distracted by the false joys of our society as a whole?

If we are happy to be Catholic Disciples of Christ, we want to celebrate the important moments in the life of the Church, in the same way we celebrate the life of our families - anniversaries, memories, important moments. It's not the obligation that matters. It's the importance we give to our faith in Christ.

Terry

Parish Notice Board

Monday 1st January is the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

If you follow the rules of the Church, this day is not a "Holy Day of Obligation", although it is in Scotland!

However, it is surely a good thing to participate in the Eucharist which is at 9am on Monday, if you can make it and if the weather is clement!

Please note that there are **no Masses on Thursday and Friday morning**, as the priests have other obligations those days.

We really do need **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**, who can help in the distribution of the Holy Communion in church and also take communion to the sick. Please do consider if this ministry might be for you.

Some of our other needs: singers for the choir, helpers for refreshments after Mass, Mass Servers, catechists to prepare baptisms and marriages, welcomers at the door, cleaners, web site & FB & microphone and slide projector "nerds", Readers, Justice & Peace people: So much to do ...

PLEASE NOTE

With the turning of the year, the notice for **PRAYER INTENTIONS** and the **SICK LIST** will be renewed. Please inform either Alice, Marian or a priest if you have someone for whom you require the Community's prayer. **The names presently on the list will not be automatically carried forward without a new request.**

Thank you.

Lord, hear our Prayer.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Our Prayers are asked for the following who are sick: Lorraine ALLEN, Stefan ASHTON, Natasha BAKER, Christopher BROWNE, Eleen DOLAN, Daisy Marcia DUNN, Chelsie CAMPBELL, Joe EDIE, Bobby ENWRIGHT, baby Phoebe FENNELL, Baby FRANKIE, Lenny GINLEY, Mary HOWARD, Edie JONES, Maria JUDGE, Maureen MAGUIRE, Jane MANN, May McGARRY, Eddie McKENNA, Elizabeth MORRIS, Peter O'BRIEN, Ava RUDZINSKI, Martina STEWARD, SWEENEY, Jean TAYLOR, Mary TUIE, Pauline WALSH, Joanne WILCOCK, Camila WILD

Also, for the intentions of: Anne BAXTER, Ryan EDWARDS, Rita & Jimmy FLATLEY, Beverley HARPER, Joan HART, Theresa HASTIE, Ann MOORE, Joan MOORE, Susan MORSELLINO, MURRAY & STEVENSON Family, Skyla REID, Maureen RICE, Teresa SWIFT, Martha TAGUE, Cath WILSON,

Those who have died recently: Mary MWANJE (died 27th December 2023)

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment

Next weekend, our Deanery Synod Representative, Barbara Tolmie, will speak at the end of each Mass on the subject of Families of Parishes. Please come prepared to remain behind for 5 minutes or so, to listen to what she has to say!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2024

The Peace of Christ be ours !

Many thanks to all of you who made our Christmas such a joyful occasion this year. You decorated the crib and the Christmas trees, arranged the flowers, cleaned the church, assured the service of the sacristy, welcomed at the door, served refreshments, enlightened our liturgies by singing or playing an instrument, reading, serving, preparing and projecting the slides, or simply being here with us, making SVP the beautiful Christian Community it is!

OFFERINGS 24th December

Envelopes: 25.00

Plate: £142.34

Many thanks to you all.

Pope Francis on Monday blasted the weapons industry and its "instruments of death" that fuel wars as he made a Christmas Day appeal for peace in the world and in particular between Israel and the Palestinians.

Pope Francis said he grieved the "abominable attack" of Hamas against southern Israel on Oct. 7 and called for the release of hostages. He begged for an end to Israel's military campaign in Gaza and the "appalling harvest of innocent civilians" as he called for humanitarian aid to reach those in need.

Francis made a call for peace in the world, noting that the biblical story of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem sent a message of peace, but that Bethlehem "is a place of sorrow and silence" this year.

Francis' annual "Urbi et Orbi" speech typically offers a lament of all the misery facing the world, and this year's edition was no different. From Armenia and Azerbaijan to Syria and Yemen, Ukraine to South Sudan and Congo and the Korean peninsula, Francis appealed for humanitarian initiatives, dialogue and security to prevail over violence and death.

He called for governments and people of goodwill in the Americas in particular to address the "troubling phenomenon" of migration and its "unscrupulous traffickers" who take advantage of innocents just looking for a better life.

He took particular aim at the weapons industry, which he said was fuelling the conflicts around the globe with scarcely anyone paying attention.

Thanks to Fr. Peter Morgan

Lottery Results – 24th December

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