

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY YEAR B

31 December 2023

As an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more “dramatic” events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today’s Gospel reminds us (especially in the shorter version), there were also the so-called “hidden years” - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. The family is a basic unit of our Christian society, despite coming under threat nowadays. Our celebration of this feast, and the Word of God we proclaim, announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

PARISH OF DIVINE MERCY PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, help us never to abandon your ways. As you have loved and shown us your mercy, may we sincerely express our love for God by loving our neighbour and being merciful to them. Jesus, King of Divine Mercy, we trust in you.

2. READINGS

First: Genesis 15:1-6. 21:1-3 - The word of God spoken to Abram in a vision ... Look up to the heavens and count the stars - such will be your descendants.

Psalms: 104 – He, the Lord, is our God, he remembers his covenant forever / Give thanks to the Lord tell his name / Be proud of his holy name / Remember the wonder he has done.

Second: Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19 - The faith of Abraham leaving his home and Sarah believing she would conceive - and their faith in God when they offered Isaac to the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 - Jesus is taken to the Temple for purification, and there he is seen by Simeon, who recognises him as salvation, and the prophetess Anna.

3. NEW YEAR’S EVE CELEBRATION: In St Herbert's Parish Centre. 7.30pm till late! This year we have live entertainment provided by singer George William & DJ Andy Glynn. A Hot Supper all for £21.

4. MASSES ON NEW YEAR’S DAY – (SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD) : Masses on New Year’s Day are as follows:

Corpus Christi: Mass at 9.30 am
St Herbert’s: Mass at 11.00 am

5. DIOCESAN SYNOD: On 15 October, Bishop John announced that as part of the Diocesan Synod we are going to come together as a Diocese for what he describes as ‘The Big Listen.

Parishes are encouraged to hold Listening Sessions and there is an opportunity for individuals to respond directly to the questions being posed. As a parish we are planning to hold our listening session on **Saturday, 13 January 2024**, in the hall at Corpus Christi School from **9.30 am to 12.00 noon**. There are sheets at the back of Church where you can register

your interest. We would like to encourage as many people as possible to take part in our listening event.

SYNODAL PRAYER

Loving Father, be with us as we seek new ways of being your people in our Diocese. May each new day bring us closer to your son, Jesus, as we follow his teaching and become disciples of love.

As we continue our Synodal journey, draw us closer to each other. May the truth of your Spirit enlighten us. Open our hearts, as we listen to each other and reach out in love to your people. Stay with us, Lord, on our journey. Amen.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us. St Joseph, pray for us.

6. CORPUS CHRISTI PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: Planned giving envelopes are available at the back of Corpus Christi church. Please help yourself. They start next weekend, 6/7th January.

7. CHILDREN’S LITURGY AT CORPUS CHRISTI: will restart on Sunday 14th January. Clip boards with sheets and colours are available as you enter church.

8. CORPUS CHRISTIE CLEANING: The 'A' team will resume cleaning on Monday 8th January please. New volunteers are welcome to join us. See details on the notice board.

9. SAINTS OF THE WEEK

SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEK, BISHOPS AND DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH – 2 January:

St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzek were close friends, and great figures of the Eastern Church in the fourth century. Basil was Bishop of Caesarea and was active in promoting the monastic life, writing a “rule” which is still observed today.

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: 536; Offertory: 153, 614; Communion: 651; Recessional: 317.

ST HERBERT’S: Entrance: 501; Offertory: 526; Communion: 614, 365; Recessional: 317.

Gregory was Bishop of Constantinople, and because of his great learning is still known in the East as “Gregory, the Theologian”. He eventually retired from the episcopacy to return to his monastery in Nazianzus. Gregory summed up their lives: “Our great concern, our great name, was to be Christians and be called Christians.”

THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS – 3 January:

The greatest promoters of this devotion were St Bernadine of Siena and St John of Capistrano, who used the monogram of the Holy Name in their preaching. Because the manner in which St Bernadine preached this devotion was new, he was accused before Pope Martin V, but was successfully defended by John. This feast reminds us that the word “Jesus” means “God Saves”, and our salvation comes through Christ alone.

11. SUNDAY SMILES FOR CHRISTMAS

After their Christmas Vigil Mass, a local church had a social gathering with mulled wine and mince pies. A parishioner, noted for his wit, entertained everyone with the following one-liners: (11)

I asked my wife what she wanted for Christmas. She told

me that nothing would make her happier than a diamond necklace. So I bought her nothing.

You always know when Santa's in the room. You can sense his presents.

I bought my newly married son a fridge for Christmas. I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it.

You will never see Santa in hospital. That's because he has private elf care.

Did you hear about the snowman who was always at the gym? He was known as the abdominal snowman.

Is it true that when Santa is on holiday he stays at a ho-ho-ho-tel?



WEEKDAY CALENDAR

NEW YEAR'S DAY: (The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

MONDAY: Corpus Christi: Mass at 9.30 am

St Herbert's: Mass at 11.00 am

TUESDAY: Corpus Christi: Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm

WEDNESDAY: St Herbert's: Divine Mercy Chaplet at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am

THURSDAY: Corpus Christi: Private Prayer at 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am

FRIDAY: St Herbert's: Private Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am

SATURDAY: Corpus Christi: Private Prayer at 5.00 pm; Mass at 5.30 pm

SUNDAY: Corpus Christi: Private Prayer 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am

St Herbert's: Private Prayer 10.30 am; Mass at 11.00 am

CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE BEFORE OR AFTER MASS ON REQUEST

MASS REQUESTS

Missa pro populo

Special Intention: Antony Rielly

Lately Dead: Kathleen Omered, Malcolm McLintock

RIP: Bell & Crompton Families, Holy Souls

Aniversary: Jeffrey Ollerhead, Tony Wall

Thanksgiving: Abhulimen Family

PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish: Sheila Cavey, Agnes Conroy, Louise Whittaker, Stuart Williams, Peter Stone, Wade Stevens, Luke Burke, John McCarthy, Mary Gowran., Edith Hamilton, David Roberts, Mrs Monica Anne Turner, Angela Delph, Dorothy Buckley, Nora Hickey, Nancy Pinto, Mrs H Fallas, Anthony McDermott, Jean Winterbottom, Maxine Bennett, Dominic Boardman, Angela Fairgrieve, Peter Wooldridge, Nikki Winnard, Pauline Powell, Phillip Lees, Andrew Lees, Mary O'Connor.



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ARE YOU...

New to the Parish?

Know someone who is sick or in hospital?

Can you help the parish or us you?

Like a visit from the priest?

Please speak to Fr Lawrence after mass or at any convenient time.