

SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Saturday 22nd December

6.30 pm Vigil Mass Hannah Kavanagh RIP

Sunday 23rd December

4th Sunday of Advent

8.30 am Chris Morrison (Sick)

10.30am Bill Piper RIP

CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday 24th December

4.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas, Family Mass

8.40pm Carols and Readings

9.00pm The Mass of the Nativity of the Lord

CHRISTMAS DAY

Tuesday 25th December

9.30am Mass - Jeannette Peppiat Intentions

ST STEPHENS DAY

Wednesday 26th December

10.00am Mass for altar servers.

No mass on Thursday 27th December

Saturday 29th December

6.30pm Tony Pluck RIP

Sunday 30th December

8.30am

10.30am Jo & Peggy Smyth RIP

Monday mass 10am

NEW YEAR'S DAY Tuesday 1st January 2019

10.00am Mary The Holy Mother of God

Saturday 5th January 2019

6.30pm

Sunday 6th January 2019

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

8.30am

10.30am Mass - Children's toys Blessing

Please remember in your prayers: We pray especially for the sick of the parish and for those who care for and support them, in particular Karen O'Shaughnessy, Dick Worbey, Helen Fitzgibbon, Sean Petson and Anne Lynch. We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversary occurs around this time.

The Newsletter will return for the Epiphany.



**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY &
ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY**



CHRISTMAS 2018

Saturday 22nd December 2018 to Friday 3rd January 2019

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR DENIS

God-With-Us: A Christmas Reflection

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God ... And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. —John 1:1-2, 14

The Gospel of the Christmas Mass “During the Day”

The Lord said to me: “You are my son; today I have begotten you.” As unlikely as these words are from the psalms, they are a powerful reminder that there is more to the celebration of Christmas than the birthday of Jesus.

Every Christmas we celebrate the truth that God became a human being. This belief is so essential that to deny it or to try to explain it away is to give up the foundational belief of Christians. The Solemnity of Christmas invites us to pause and reflect on what these words really mean.

It is one thing to simply profess the words “and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.” It is quite another to allow these words to effect a change in our lives. How the Polish celebrate Christmas Eve, Basil Hume observed, “The words are simple and direct, but their meaning is far beyond our power to comprehend. ... But it is not flesh and blood that leads us to the truth. It is our Father in heaven who gives us the light to say ‘I do believe’ and with conviction. His touch is gentle. There is no force as he moves us to share his secret thoughts. He, Emmanuel, is God among us, a man to lead us where we truly belong, wrapped in his love for us” (The Mystery of the Incarnation, 142).

To say that Jesus is Emmanuel — “God-with-us” — requires a profound and dynamic statement of faith. But it is only faith that allows us, like the shepherds and sages of so many centuries ago,

to make our way through the darkness to make our way to the manger, even as war, disease, poverty and the senseless loss of innocent life can make us ask, "Where is God?"

But what we, as people of faith, celebrate at Christmas is the reality that God is here, present among us. Ultimately, as Henri Nouwen wrote, Christmas means saying yes to something beyond emotions and feelings. It is saying yes to hope and the knowledge that salvation is God's work, not ours: "The world is not whole. ... But it is into this broken world that a child is born, who is called Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace, Saviour. I look at him and pray, 'Thank you, Lord, that you came... Your heart is greater than mine'" (The Road to Daybreak) Henri Nouwen's Diary.



BACK AGAIN - THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Having survived a vote of confidence in themselves, the Newsletter Team are proud to present the 2018 Christmas Edition. Recycled jokes, puzzles and the odd quiz, freshened up by Fr Denis and his thoughts at this very special time of the year. We hope you enjoy it and from all the Newsletter Team a huge thanks for reading this year, tolerating the editorial gaffs and we wish you a very happy and holy Christmas and 2019.

A BITE-SIZED FOOD & DRINK QUIZ

1. Which takeaway food is so popular in Japan at Christmas that it often has to be ordered weeks in advance? a) Pizza b) Big Mac c) KFC
2. Allahabadi cake a traditional rum fruit cake is popular with Christians from which country?
3. Which country would you be in if you were served Christmas damper, in a wreath or star shape, served with butter, jam, honey or golden syrup?
4. Julmust is a traditional, very sweet, stout-like, Christmas soft drink from which country?
5. Popular in the UK this Christmas drink is made from apple cider, oranges, lemons, cinnamon, cloves, allspice and nutmeg is known as what?

200 CLUB DRAW DECEMBER

The winners of the December 200 Club Draw are: Nick Seed, Frances Wade, Mary Light & Caroline Brooking. The next draw will be on 20th January 2019.

KNIT AND NATTER

Our next meeting will be on Friday 4th January in the Holy Family Room from 9.30 to 11am. You can bring along your own knitting but also knitting wool, needles etc are provided as well as tuition if needed. Cost is £2 per session which will go towards the building fund.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

A big Thank You to all who have helped in the parish this year; those on the following list and anyone missed out by mistake:- The Choir; Young at Heart team; Parish Finance Committee; Parish Council; Parish Hall Committee; 200 Club organisers; Tea and Coffee after Mass team; Parish Gardens & Grounds clearers; Outdoor Summer Mass helpers, movers and chefs; First Communion & Confirmation Catechists; Knit & Natter organisers; Extraordinary Ministers; Mass Readers & Bidding Prayers team; Collection Counters; Children's Liturgy Catechists, and Mass Meeter/Greeters.



ANSWERS

Food & drink: 1. KFC; 2. India; 3. Australia; 4. Sweden; 5. Wassail

Opening Lines: 1. It's a Wonderful Life; 2. Love Actually; 3. Braveheart; 4. The Godfather; 5. Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Quiz of the Year: 1. b) 1.9bn; 2. Mars; 3. Dua Lipa; 4. Tommy Lawrence; 5. Michael

It Happened in December: 1. Buenos Aires; 2. Ford; 3. b) 18th; 4. Abu Dhabi; 5. The Manhattan Project

IT HAPPENED IN DECEMBER

1. The first underground rail service in the southern hemisphere was opened in December 1913 in which Latin American city?
2. Which car company was the first to introduce the moving assembly line in December 1913?
3. Marie Tussaud the French-English sculptor who founded Madame Tussauds Wax Museum was born in December but in which century? a) 17th b) 18th c) 19th
4. Formed in 1971 Ajman, Fujairah, Sharjah, Dubai, and Umm al-Quwain and which other Emirate formed the United Arab Emirates?
5. In 1942 a team led by Enrico Fermi initiated the first artificial self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction. What was the project called?



QUIZ OF THE YEAR

1. The wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle was held with an estimated global audience of how many? a) 730 Million b) 1.9 billion c) 3.1 billion
2. In July which planet made its closest approach to earth since 2003?
3. April to June's number one spot was again dominated by Calvin Harris. He teamed up with which female vocalist on One Kiss?
4. Goalkeeper who made 306 appearances for Liverpool up until 1971 and passed away in January this year.
5. The most intense hurricane to hit the mainland United States since Camille in 1969 struck Florida in October. What name did they give to the hurricane? a) Katie b) Norman c) Michael

A CHRISTMAS DAY REFLECTION

Christmas is at its heart a feast and a day where we try to appreciate again the initiative of God. So much of our lives are shaped around the initiatives that we take - what we strive to do, what we want to achieve. But Christmas is actually about God's initiative. God's initiative from the very beginning in creating this world in giving this world its astonishing beauty. And God's initiative working through that long history of salvation, till his eternal Word takes on flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary and enters into our reality in the stable in Bethlehem.

So, in front of this initiative of God, we first of all should be still. We should be full of wonder and awe as so many of the Christmas carols and songs remind us. On this day we should take such joy that God bothers about us that God reaches out to us. That God doesn't - as it were - stay at his eternal distance, but actually embraces our reality and each one of us.

While Christmas Day is an enormously busy day, one full of bustle and excitement, it's so important and so worthwhile to try and give it a silent heart, a quiet heart. Because it's from that quiet appreciation of God's love for us that our real joy and our real celebration will flow like an enormous river.

I really want to wish you a very happy Christmas with a happiness that comes from that source as we respond to the initiative of God who first comes to us - long before we think we might ever reach out to God.

For your family and those around you who you love, a very happy Christmas. Please think about Premier's Christmas Alone, and visit this website <https://www.premier.org.uk/Projects/Christmas-Alone>, to see what they are doing to help people spend Christmas with others. I hope that maybe through your home or church there will also be an effort today that those who are alone and wish to come and join in something are given that opportunity. Then they too may experience through us the reaching out of God who wants us to come close to him and draw us to himself, into the community of the church so that we may praise him with a full heart and voice.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols' Archbishop of Westminster



THE HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR CHRISTMAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Christmas!

In Bethlehem, Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary. He was born, not by the will of man, but by the gift of the love of God our Father, who "so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life". This event is renewed today in the Church, a pilgrim in time. For the faith of the Christian people relives in the Christmas liturgy the mystery of the God who comes, who assumes our mortal human flesh, and who becomes lowly and poor in order to save us. And this moves us deeply, for great is the tenderness of our Father.

The first people to see the humble glory of the Saviour, after Mary and Joseph, were the shepherds of Bethlehem. They recognized the sign proclaimed to them by the angels and adored the Child. Those humble and watchful men are an example for believers of every age who, before the mystery of Jesus, are not scandalized by his poverty. Rather, like Mary, they trust in God's word and contemplate his glory with simple eyes. Before the mystery of the Word made flesh, Christians in every place confess with the words of the Evangelist John: "We have beheld his glory, glory as of the only-begotten Son from the Father, full of grace and truth".

Today, as the winds of war are blowing in our world and an out dated model of development continues to produce human, societal and environmental decline, Christmas invites us to focus on the sign of the Child and to recognize him in the faces of little children, especially those for whom, like Jesus, "there is no place in the inn" ...

We see Jesus in the many children forced to leave their countries to travel alone in inhuman conditions and who become an easy target for human traffickers. Through their eyes we see the drama of all those forced to emigrate and risk their lives to face exhausting journeys that end at times in tragedy. I see Jesus again in the children I met during my recent visit to Myanmar and Bangladesh, and it is my hope that the international community will not cease to work to ensure that the dignity of the minority groups present in the region is adequately protected. Jesus knows well the pain of not being welcomed and how hard it is not to have a place to lay one's head. May our hearts not be closed as they were in the homes of Bethlehem. *Pope Francis*



OPENING LINES FROM FILMS

We all love to settle down in front of a film at Christmas, but do you know these films from their opening line?

1. "I owe everything to George Bailey. Help him, Dear Father."
2. "Whenever I get gloomy with the state of the world, I think about the arrival's gate at Heathrow airport."
3. "I will tell you of William Wallace. Historians from England will say I am a liar."
4. "I believe in America. America has made my fortune."
5. "The key to faking out the parents is the clammy hands."



"Peace on Earth, good will toward men?
There's an app for that!"

