



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Year B

26/27 December

***6.00pm (Sat)**

Parish & People

9.00am

Brendan & Bernadette

Magee (int)

11.30am

Fernandes Family (int)

6.00pm

Rosemary Dawson (int)

Monday 28 The Holy Innocents

10.00am: (new time)

Pauline McCarthy (int)

Pauline Brady (int)

Tuesday 29

10.00am: Funeral Mass

(private) Barbara Arnold +

Wednesday 30

No Mass

Thursday 31

10.00am:

Janet Nestor & Family (int)

Friday 1 January 2021

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

10.00am: Maria Sartori +

Saturday 2

6.00pm: Ann McGinn (int)

Sunday 3 Second Sunday after the Nativity

9.00am Catherine Wing +

11.30am Breda Crabb ann+

6.00pm Mary McKenna +

The parish office opening hours will vary this week. Please telephone ahead of your visit to ensure someone is there.

Message from Pope Francis for Christmastide 2020

There is no pandemic or crisis that can turn off the light of Christmas, Pope Francis affirmed, as he greeted the faithful present in St. Peter's Square and following through the media during the Sunday Angelus.

Noting that the Vatican's Christmas tree has been erected in the Square and that the Nativity Scene will soon be unveiled, the Pope said that in many homes "these symbols of Christmas are being set up to the delight of children," and also to the delight of those who no longer are children.

"They are symbols, or signs of hope, especially during this difficult time," he said, and he invited Christians not to stop at the symbols, but to go beyond and understand their meaning: "Jesus, the love of God, who was revealed to us to reach that goodness which has been poured out on the world."

And assuring us all that no pandemic or crisis can "turn off that light," Pope Francis said: "Let us allow it to enter into our hearts and reach out toward those who are most in need." Thus, he concluded: "God will once again be born in us and in our midst."

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We also attach The Pastoral Letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols for the Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.

Once again, a huge thank-you to all parishioners who have kindly given gifts and cards to myself and staff. Please be assured of my continued prayers. May I wish you a peace filled and healthy new year. Fr John



Youth 2000

'We know it's been a roller-coaster of a year, so we're super excited to announce an event that will kick off your 2021 in the best possible way, centred in Jesus Christ!

When: 2-3 January 2021

For: young adults aged 16-35

Where: online (links included in ticket).

To book visit: youth2000.org

The two day event will offer you the opportunity to meet new friends, listen to our wonderful speakers and start your New Year in relationship with God.

Parish Priest: Fr John McKenna

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Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/barnet

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers the sick, their families and all who care for them, including: Emanuele & Carlotta Brunelli, Linda & Stuart Atkinson, Pat Cosgrove, Irene Jones, Ivor Francis, Maria Wallace, Mariella Mansi, Margaret Greaney, Maurice Hunt, Ben Price, Rob Calrow, Amparo Abalos, Linda Quilter, Stasia Gallagher, Suzanne Greig, Marina Melinta, Roberto Lusignani, Leonor Driscoll, Anne McLoughlin, Delia Ward, John Lever, Jeanette Fernandes, Aishleen Sheeran, Elaine Brennan, Sarah Macdonald, Julie Loh, Veronica Soosay, George Buhagiar, Mark O'Brien, Marlene Hollocks, Fr Antony Conlon, Kathleen Flynn, Agnes Day, Rita Rawlings, Mary Stella Soosay, Margaret Trehy.

Recently died: Fr Ennio Casalucci, Xaverian Missionary.

Funeral Mass for Barbara Arnold is on Tuesday 29th December at 10.00am (private mass)
Please pray for her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

Transformation Mass
will hopefully resume on
Friday 5th February 2021
Please check newsletter
for updates

Monday 28 December
Mass is at 10.00am
not 6.30pm
and will not be
live-streamed

YEAR 9 CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2020-22

If you haven't already done so, please register for Year 9 Confirmation by completing the online registrations forms and emailing to anitahammond@rcdow.org.uk by Monday 11th January 2021.

ALPHA COURSE ONLINE

Exploring the big questions of life

Do you have questions about the Christian faith no one has ever really answered? Have you wondered whether Christianity is relevant to your life? During this time of pandemic, have you thought, 'there must be more to life than this?'

Join us online on Monday evenings, starting Monday 25th January, 8.00pm to 9.15pm to explore the big questions of life. Enjoy an evening meeting new people, watching a video and having a discussion on faith, life and meaning.

Please email barnetalpha.com to register.

All are welcome - please share with family and/or friends and work colleagues

Volunteers' Mass of Thanksgiving and Celebration: sadly we will not be able to come together to celebrate and give thanks to all our volunteers. A mass will be offered up for your intentions and I hope we can celebrate sometime soon.

I would like to thank all the volunteers (*too many to name*) who have continued to work in the parish during this unique time - thank you!

God Bless
Fr John



**Pastoral Letter for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
26/27 December 2020**

These days we hear a great deal about ecology, and rightly so. We must take care of the created world in its beauty and resources.

Interestingly, the word 'ecology' comes from a Greek word meaning 'home' or 'place to live'. So, it is a word that can be applied not only to the natural world but also to our homes and to the Church. It is a good word to have in mind as we celebrate this Feast of the Holy Family.

This year has been so difficult for many families. Homelife has been tested, and financial worries burden many. Separation from loved ones has been painful and many have lost loved ones in death, with little chance to grieve them fully. So, the Prayers of the Mass today are vital. In them, we seek God's blessing on our families and homes, that they may be places of kindness and joy. The reading from St Paul to the Colossians spelt out what that means in practice: compassion, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness. Then he added, 'Over these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love.'

But St Paul is applying these words first of all to the Church, to us, chosen by God to be a witness in the world to God's love and compassion. St Paul adds: 'And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful' (Colossians 3:15).

Today, then, we can think and pray not only about our own families but also about the family of the Church. We can ask for God's blessing on this family, this 'ecology' in which we live, the 'ecology' of the Church.

Over these last months, the life of the Church has been under strain. We have been unable to come together to express our faith as a full community. Often, we have not been able to enter into the mystery of Christ celebrated in the sacraments. We pray that slowly this will return as the threat of the COVID-19 virus is overcome.

Over these last months, the life of the Church has been stained by the emergence of the picture of the abuse inflicted on children and vulnerable people in the Church over the last fifty years. We know, with the benefit of hindsight, that bishops and leaders, including myself, have made mistakes. I deeply regret them. We are continually learning from them.

In this moment of strain and stain, we take our lead from the Gospel. Like Anna and Simeon, we fix our eyes on the Lord, on the child Jesus. With them, we say: 'My eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see' (Luke 2:30). We know that the Lord never forsakes the Church, his own Body. He remains with us always. Our strength, our renewal, comes from him.

There is a quotation of which I am very fond:

'Christ dwelt for nine months in the tabernacle of Mary's womb. He dwells until the end of the ages in the tabernacle of the Church's faith. He will dwell forever in the knowledge and love of each faithful soul' (Blessed Isaac of Stella).

This is our reassurance. In turning every day to him, in welcoming him into our lives with humility and love, we rise from our prayer refreshed and renewed, wanting to do his will and to give him our thanks.

There is another figure on whom we can fix our eyes: St Joseph. He is there, in the background, protecting the child entrusted to his care. We turn to him as protector of the family of the Church, too.

Pope Francis has declared a year dedicated to St Joseph, from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021. He says: 'Each of us can discover in Joseph - the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence - an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble' (Patris Corde - With a Father's Love - Pope Francis). Let's do that. Let's ask St Joseph to keep a watchful eye on this family of the Church, to intercede on our behalf.

A tradition I treasure is that of always having a statue of St Joseph in the kitchen, so often the heart of the home. I recommend this to you. Bring St Joseph into your kitchen. Then he will be before your eyes each day, as protector and guide in these difficult times.

Pope Francis writes: "Joseph teaches us that faith in God includes believing he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture".

As we come to the end of this year, a year of such pain and difficulty, try to see this 'bigger picture': that our lives are in the hands of God; that our Church is constantly consoled by the presence of the Holy Spirit; that our world is God's work of art. As we enter the New Year, we place all this before the Lord, knowing that He, who 'steers our course', will bring each one of us, and the whole of creation, to completion, in the fullness of time.

May God bless you all.

Yours devotedly,



✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

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