Catholic Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Northfields

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Parish Priest: Fr. Jim Duffy; Parish Deacon Rev Andrew Goodall

Pastoral Assistant: Anna Maria Dupelycz; Parish Administrator: Rosa Bambury

**Alternative Number:** 07787 048144 (Anna); [northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk)

**Office Opening Hours Mon – Weds.& Fri, 10am – 2.00pm. Closed Thursdays.**

**Sacraments and Devotions: Suspended until further notice.**

Psalter Week 4

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4th Sunday of Advent Year C

Sunday 19th December 2021

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**Readings:**

**This Week** (**4th Sunday of Advent Year C)** Micah 5:1-4; Ps 79:2-3, Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

**Next Week** **(Holy Family Year C, *ad libitum*)** Samuel 1:20-22; Ps. 83; 1 John 3:1-2; Luke 2:16-21

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**Reflection from Fr. Hilary: Hope and Fears**

“The hopes and fears of al the years Are met in thee tonight”

Words from the carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem”. They are very powerful and beautiful words. Do you need encouragement? You’ll get it in these words “In thee” if course refers to Bethlehem and the precious child born there. One of the great documents of the Second Vatican Council is called “The Church in the Modern World” Its opening words are “The joys and hopes, the griefs and fears of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and hopes, the griefs and fears of the Church, the followers of Christ.

Fear – This is a tough one. There are so many kinds and we are all affected. And then we hear “Do not be afraid” frequently from Our Lord since he is the one who came to calm our fears and didn’t hesitate to face so many fearful things himself **to conquer fear for us!** That’s generosity. Then there are the fearful matters concerning the state of the world. Without the right kind of Hope, therefore, we cannot deal successfully with fear.

And that Hope is Our Lord’s outstanding gift to us all. No make-believe or wishy-washy thing **his** Hope. It goes much deeper than just being an optimist. God’s promise is to see us through anything – no matter how terrible. That’s Christian Hope and it cannot ever be cancelled out by any bad news event the worst like threats of nuclear bombing. Christ will always have the final word.

Thus, the Hope Jesus offers is not any old kind. It is not Hope in money or power or selfish ambition. His Hope has the ring of certainty about it. That’s not the case when people use the word in ordinary conversation. The Resurrection of Our Lord is the greatest triumph of all time, a triumph never to be reversed. That triumph over Evil and Death is far-reaching in its power and it is ours even now. His Resurrection was hi **complete** birth. What do I mean? In Bethlehem, he took on all of the many limitations of our human condition including suffering and death. But in the Resurrection he is freed from them all and transformed for ever in his humanity. Yes, that’s his complete birth. Wonderful for us.

Note this – at the core of our Faith is a profound paradox – of life out of death, victory out of defeat, hope out of despair.  **The reality of that paradox is what makes Christian Hope the wonderful, thrilling and joyful thing it is.** The kind of Hope certainly “springs eternal”. So, in the light of all that, Hope conquers Fear! But we will always have tension. With such Hope we can live with peace in our hearts. Whoopee!

*Please keep.*

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**Rest in Peace** We pray for the repose of the soul of : **Martin (Sean) Corley** whose requiem will be celebrated on **Wednesday 22nd December at 10.30am**. The Mass for Andrew Coll has moved to 12th January 2022. **This Mass will replace the normal Mass of the day**.

**Advent** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Monday only this week.

**Stewards, Readers & Eucharistic Ministers over the Christmas Period** For all services either please sign up on the lists in the sacristy or contact Anna via e-mail ([northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk))

**Carol Service**, **Today**, 3.30pm, in the church (and in the car park, weather permitting, for anyone who would feel more comfortable being outdoors). Refreshments will be served after the service, location dependent on the weather.

**Preparing for Christmas**

**1. All-Age Flower Workshop** **Christmas Eve, 10.00am**, Parish Hall, to make arrangements for the church. See poster.

**2. Greenery** We are trying to become more sustainable in the materials we use for flower arranging. You can help the arrangers achieve this by donating greenery safely pruned from your gardens : eg. ivy, holly, pittisporum, laurel, choisia, aucuba. Please leave in the corner between the garage and the church on 22nd/23rd December. Thank you!

**Parish Office** will be closed from 22nd December to 4th January.

**Church Cleaning** Weds, from around 12 Noon (after the funeral). All welcome. (A change from the date on the poster)

**Masses this Week**

**Sunday 19th December (4th Sunday of Advent Year C)Thursday 23rd December (St John of Kanty)**

*(Sat.)* 6.00pm Nora & Geraldine Lynch, Margaret Cronin (Ann.) **No Mass**

8.30am Rose Burke (Ann.) & Czeslawa Marek(LD.)

10.00am Martin Londra (Ann.) **Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)**

11.30am Mary Webster (LD.) 5.00pm O’Sullivan & Tully Families (RIP)

6.00pmPeter Riddle (LD.) 7.00pm Peter Fernandes (Ann.) 9.00pm Michael Starr (Ann.)

**Monday 20th December Saturday25th December (Christmas Day)**

9.30am Rosa Babbic (LD.)8.30amGertie Martin (L.D.)

10.00am Peter Krianski (Ann.)

**Tuesday 21st December (St Peter Canisius)** 11.30amGeraldine & Pat Sullivan and Family

6.00pm Deidre Sheil (LD.)

**Sunday 26th December (Holy Family Year C)**

**Wednesday 22ndDecember** 10.00am John & Sheila Ford (Int.)

10.30am Funeral Martin (Sean) Corley *RIP* 11.30am Alma & Ivan Mahon-Smith (Int.)

**Prayers for the Sick** We pray for those suffering from illness and their carers: , Nina Roldan, Doreen Foley, Vera Zunzic, Anna Keane, Barbara Lennon Snr, Teresa Hartnett, Stephania Pullin, Geraldine Davison, Michael Davison, Sylvia O’Connor, Dave Mortby, Cerys Edwards, Andrew Chandiram, Ivan Mahon-Smith, Kathleen Walsh, Donna O’Hagan, Ann Hagan, Alan Worman. Sankar Ghosh, Margaret Adu, Therese Biks, Shantha Kumari, Sagundala Devi, Victor Young. Ernst Barroclough, Kathleen & Patsy O’Donoghue. Our Lady, help of the Sick, pray for us.

**Prayers for those Recently Deceased and Anniversaries** We pray for the repose of the soul of, Martin Corley, Peter Riddle, Deidre Sheil, Martin Guidera, Mary Webster, Gertie Martin and Czeslawa Marek and those whose anniversaries occur around this time including, Nora and Geraldine Lynch, Margaret Cronin, Martin Londra, Peter Fernandes, Michael Starr, Peter Krianski. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

**Liturgical Ministries:**

**a) Altar Servers**  Recruitment of new servers is ongoing. Please contact Deacon Andrew ([andrewgoodall@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:andrewgoodall@rcdow.org.uk)). Training session in the church for new and any existing servers who would like a refresher**.**

**b) Stewards** For weekends, it is hoped that this develops into the resurgence of a ministry of welcome. Please consider if you and/or your family would like to be involved in this important role.

**Celebrating Christmas**

**1. Children’s and Family Mass Christmas Eve** This year the gospel will be part read not dramatized. Nevertheless, children are invited to come to Mass dressed up as characters from the Nativity story. Reading rehearsals will take place as follows: **5.00pm Mass**: Tues. 21st, 12 Noon; **7.00pm Mass,** Mon. 20th, 12 Noon. Both in the Church

**2. Music : a) Children’s Mass, 5pm**: Anybody welcome to join in our ‘scratch’ choir and instrumental group. Meet at 4.00pm for a run through before Mass **b) Christmas Eve, Solemn Mass and Christmas Day, 11.30am**: Tues. 21st, 7.30pm – 9.00pm, in the church. All ages welcome! No rehearsals this week for Family Mass or Christmas Day 10.00am.

**Catechetics (Sacramental Preparation)** Contact Anna initially on [northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk) or 07787 048144 with enquiries and queries. **Please include a mobile/phone number with your e-mail enquiry.**

**Infant Baptism** Participation in a short preparation course is required before celebrating the sacrament. For more information, please contact Anna preferably by e-mail initially. The next course will take place in January.

**First Reconciliation, Communion and RCIA** Sessions continue after Christmas.

**Synod 2023** Thank you for posting your experience, reflections and thoughts on the Listening Wall and in the blue box, and also thank you for your prayers for the process.  Please continue to do all these through Christmas and New Year – especially exploring with your friends and family to do so during this time. The *Share Your* Thoughts questions could still be completed and submitted online (<https://forms.gle/7QD6intj6fEfTcE18>).

A Zoom **Listening Event** is being organised for 7.30pm to 9.00pm, **Thursday 13 January** – it would be wonderful to see as many there as possible. Please consider registering for it. This is the only way of joining this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEud-CsrDItHdycjf5dDFi3yv-gTmnmx8B6>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. This may go you’re your spam/junk folder, please check it until you receive it. Please read the information carefully.

Your **synodal reps** are Roisin Sullens and Joseph Lo, and they would be more than happy to hear your comments and questions about the synodal process at the parish.

**Needed:** Warm winter coats and jackets for homeless men at The Passage. Please call Elizabeth Gowans on 0208 567 1415 for pick up. Many thanks.

**Safeguarding** The Parish reps are Susie Worthington, [northfieldssg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfieldssg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) and Tracy Paterson [northfieldssg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfieldssg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk).

**Thank you!** Many thanks to all who bought tickets and those who attended the fundraiser last Saturday evening in the parish hall; also thanks to those who made donations. The total raised was £1575, divided as follows: £875, Acton Homeless; £400, EHID; £300, SVP. Special thanks to those who helped in any way with the bar, arranging the hall, printing the tickets and setting up the hall and food.

**Parish Newsletter** Items for the Christmas newsletter need to be submitted by **Tues. 21st.** Thank you! The newsletter will cover the weekends of 25th/ 26th December and 1st/2nd January.