



ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH
41/42 LANGDALE GARDENS, PERIVALE, UB6 8DQ

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SANDRA WARNER RIP
Funeral Service - Monday 20th December

Please pray for the eternal repose of the soul of Sandra Warner who sadly passed away on Thursday 2nd December, aged 58. The funeral service will be held here at St John Fisher Church on **Monday 20th December at 10.00am**. This will be in place of the normal weekday Mass. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen

MICHAEL DALANEY RIP
Funeral Service - Thursday 23rd December

Please pray for the eternal repose of the soul of Michael Delaney who sadly passed away on Monday 13th December, aged 92. The funeral service will be held here at St John Fisher Church on **Thursday 23rd December at 10.00am**. This will be in place of the normal weekday Mass. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

JULIAN HAINS RIP
Funeral Service - Wednesday 22nd December

Message from Ana....

Many of you will know by now that sadly my husband passed away on Sunday 12th December, aged 52. Julian was diagnosed with an advanced stage of lung cancer earlier this year and further complications developed in recent weeks. Thankfully, we were able to spend the last couple of days together and he passed away peacefully.

Julian's funeral service will be held here at St John Fisher Church on **Wednesday 22nd December at 1.00pm**, followed by burial at Greenford Park Cemetery.

I know many of you would like to come to the funeral on Wednesday to pay your respects to Julian and support me but, please do not forget that we are still very much in the midst of the pandemic. It would mean far more to me to know that you are keeping safe and healthy, and can enjoy Christmas and the New Year with your loved ones. Please consider carefully before coming.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind words, offers of help, flowers and cards. It is of great comfort to me and I'm sure to Julian, to know that I have such a wonderful 'parish family' around me. It is a blessing. Thank you, Ana.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C
Micah 5:1-4 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45

19th December 2021
Parish Mass Book p.90

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The Christmas Tree has now been put up in preparation for Christmas week. The Christmas tree has its origins in the middle of the first thousand years of Christianity. In some regions it was part of the great pageants and dramas, representing the paradise tree that stood in the centre of the Garden of Eden. At the same time, it represented the tree of the cross, standing in the new paradise established by Christ's death and resurrection. In other regions it represented the one who connects heaven and earth, literally standing as a bridge between earth and eternity—the tree, rooted in the

ground with an angel or, as in our tree, a star on its top. Besides the different theories of the origins of the tree, this sign of Christmas now adorns houses, churches and public places. The lights of the tree are fundamental signs of Christ who is the light of the world. The tree is decorated in festive ornaments, and all of its brilliance reminds us of the one for whom we wait until the end of time. On Friday night, the night in which we will celebrate the great mystery of God's Incarnation, the blessed tree will stand beautifully adorned and lit as a sign of him who is Emmanuel—God-With-Us. As we approach Christmas let us rejoice in Christ's presence in the world.

A BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

"Lord God, we praise you for the light of creation – sun, moon and stars; we praise you for the light of Israel – Law, prophets and Scripture; we praise you for Jesus Christ our everlasting light. As we light our tree, may our hearts be filled with joy, and may all who delight in this tree be brought to the light of knowledge and the joy of Salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen".

LITURGY TIMES THIS WEEK

Masses will be offered for the following intentions:

Saturday	18	Mass	6.30pm	Nora Keigher RIP (Anniv) In thanksgiving for favours received
Sunday	19	Masses	9.30am	Pushpa Fernando RIP (Anniv)
			11.30am	Alcinda Ramos RIP Julian Hains RIP
Monday	20	Funeral Mass	10.00am	Sandra Warner RIP
Tuesday	21	Masses	10.00am	James Mulcahy RIP (Anniv)
Wednesday	22	Funeral Mass	1.00pm	Julian Hains RIP
Thursday	23	Funeral Mass	10.00am	Michael Delaney RIP

CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday	24	Mass	6.30pm	James Flynn & Catherine Bourke RIP Terry Caston RIP
			10.00pm	Maria Fonseca RIP

CHRISTMAS DAY (THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD)

Saturday	25	Mass	10.00am	Sean Healy RIP (Anniv) Basil & Iris Keys RIP Tim & Mike Cooper RIP
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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Sunday	26	Masses	9.30am	Holy Souls
			11.30am	Mr & Mrs Cabral

CANDLELIGHT

This week in memory of

NORA KEIGHER RIP (Anniv)

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

Please pray for: John McCarthy, Hannah Tran, Mary Dykes, Clare Ashton, Gigi Reale, Jo Dearlove, Malgorzata Myrkowa, Terril Park, George and Gabriel Brum, Chris Keeffe, David Newbert, Teresa Oatway, Stanley Cummins, Avit Castillo, Avelina Pelaez Siddiqi, Marlene Lock, Maria Wales, Suzanne Acton, Carl Bryan, **for those who have died recently:** Julian Hains, Michael Delaney, Sandra Warner, Remo Losi, Timothy Mulcahy, Margaret Rattray, Blanca Crisanti, Elsa Robertson, Teresa Gannon, Carlos Pereira, Anne Wilson, Barbara Czaykowska, **and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time:** Margaret Walsh, John Burke, Anna Sleater, Ann Jordan, Bridget McHugh, Nicholas Fardey, Perpetua de Souza, Neil Doherty, Bridget Markey, Michael O'Neill, Monika Strabel, Nora Keigher, Pushpa Fernando, James Mulcahy, Oliver Glennon, David Dodd, Johnny Leung, Kate Quinn, Sean Healy, Patrick Mahon and Michael Garrett

ADVENT GIVING 2021

Charity 3 - Mary's Meals Talk and Double the Love Campaign

There is still time to donate to Mary's Meals and the 'Double the Love' campaign. Donations made to Mary's Meals from 1 November 2021 until 31 January 2022 will be doubled. This is all thanks to a group of generous supporters who have promised to match donations, up to £1.6 million. Funds raised will allow Mary's Meals to reach hungry children around the world, including those affected by natural disasters, conflict, and the ongoing Covid pandemic.

For just £15.90 you can help feed TWO children for a whole school year

There are several ways in which you can donate:

- By phone: Calling 01838 200605 or 0800 698 1212
- By cheque: Please send any cheques, made payable to Mary's Meals to: Craig Lodge, Dalmally, Argyll, PA33 1AR
- By bank transfer: Account Name: Mary's Meals
Account Number: 00609134
Sort Code: 83-26-24
- By cash: There is a collection box on a table in the lobby, beneath the poster

Please consider supporting this wonderful charity again this year!

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the 'Rags to Riches' campaign (clothes donation), that has operated in previous years, will not be running this year. There are however other charities such as Oxfam, the British Heart Foundation, the Salvation Army and Emmaus House, who are accepting clothes donations. Please contact them directly or check their websites for what they are happy to receive.



MASSES DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Below are the Mass times for Christmas and the New Year. Due to the ongoing pandemic, to ensure social distancing is maintained, we have reintroduced the booking system for some of the Masses. **It is therefore necessary to book a place in advance for the Masses as indicated below. It will not be possible to attend these Masses unless you have booked a place. Please ensure you book the correct number of places for the correct Mass. Any cancellations or amendments must be made via the parish office at least 48 hours before the Mass you were planning to attend. Please do not cancel bookings on the day of the Mass as we will not be able to action this.**

PLEASE NOTE THAT BOTH MASSES ON CHRISTMAS EVE ARE NOW FULLY BOOKED

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DECEMBER 2021

Friday 24th	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas Eve)		
	6.30pm	Vigil Mass	FULLY BOOKED
	10.00pm	Mass during the Night	FULLY BOOKED
Saturday 25th*	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas Day)		
	10.00am	Mass	BOOKING REQUIRED
Sunday 26th	HOLY FAMILY (Boxing Day)		
	9.30am	Mass	
	11.30am	Mass & Enrolment of Altar Servers	
Monday 27th	10.00am	Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Tuesday 28th	10.00am	Mass	
Wednesday 29th		No Mass - church closed	
Thursday 30th	10.00am	Mass	
Friday 31st	10.00am	Mass	

JANUARY 2022

Saturday 1st*	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (New Year's Day)		
	12.00noon	Mass	BOOKING REQUIRED
Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Mass	
	11.30am	Mass	
Monday 3rd	10.00am	Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Tuesday 4th	10.00am	Mass	
Wednesday 5th	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Vigil)		
	7.30pm	Mass	
Thursday 6th	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD		
	10.00am	Mass	* Please note that on Saturday 25th December and Saturday 1st January, there will be no Holy Hour, Confessions nor the 6.30pm Mass.
Friday 7th	10.00am	Mass	

HEATING AND VENTILATION IN THE CHURCH

It is very important that we ventilate the church, as by bringing fresh air in, we remove older stale air that may contain virus particles and helps to reduce the chance of spreading COVID-19. The more fresh air that is brought inside, the quicker any airborne virus will be removed.

At the same time, it is increasingly getting colder outside and we appreciate that cold air is coming in. Unfortunately, our heaters are old and they are of the type that blow air around the church. If the church is not ventilated, they are simply blowing stale air around the building.

In order to balance keeping the church warm but at the same time safe for everyone, the church will be heated beforehand but will turn off a few minutes before Mass starts. We will then open just a few windows to help circulate the air during Mass. We therefore ask that you come prepared.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 20th	Funeral Mass - Sandra Warner RIP	10.00am	Church
Wednesday 22nd	Funeral Mass - Julian Hains RIP	1.00pm	Church
Thursday 23rd	Funeral Mass - Michael Delaney RIP	10.00am	Church

Please note that Fr Agustin will be away from Wednesday 29th December - Sunday 9th January

Parish Office

The Office will be open during the following times next week:

Monday 20th:	11.30am - 4.00pm
Tuesday 21st:	9.30am - 2:30pm
Wednesday 22nd:	CLOSED
Thursday 23rd:	9.30am - 2.30pm
Friday 24th:	CLOSED

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Calen Famaiya Silveira

who will be baptised on Sunday.

Please pray for Callen as she is welcomed into the Holy Church, her parents and godparents.

THE CRIB

Next week the crib will be put in place on the Sanctuary. The first image of a crib can be traced to the end of the fourth century. It is found on the wall of a burial chamber of a Christian family in Rome. The crib or manger/nativity scene, which we know today, is associated with Saint Francis (12th century). One Christmas Eve he gathered with his friars and people from the small town of Greccio, not far from Assisi. There he created a life-size depiction of the manger scene of Christ's birth. We are told that Francis received a vision of the Christ child appearing to him in the crib of this scene.

As an image of the manger scene, the crib serves as a picture of the great mystery of the Incarnation. In a way, it is the whole mystery of the Incarnation in one image: Christ became flesh (represented by the Christ child with his parents, Mary and Joseph) and was born into the world (the crib and the manger), to call people of every race and nation (the Shepherds rubbing elbows with the magi), and to unite all creation (the ox, ass, and sheep) with heaven (the star or the angel).

The power of the crib is its ability to draw us into this scene depicting the mystery of the Incarnation: God, in human form, entering our world, coming among us as one of us in the most vulnerable form, that of a child. The nativity scene is such that we are able to enter into it and to see ourselves with the shepherds and the magi. Its power and grace comes from its ability to engage us and to connect our lives, to our situations, to the joys and struggles we are experiencing whenever we enter into this holy scene.

A BLESSING OF THE CRIB

"God of all creation, in our need you sent your Son Jesus, born of Mary, to be our Saviour, who brings us peace and joy. Lord, bless all who gaze upon this crib. As we recall his humble birth may we always raise our thoughts to him, our Emmanuel, who lives and reigns for ever. Amen"

POINSETTIAS FOR THE CRIB

As we have done in previous years, we would like to decorate the Crib with poinsettias in memory of loved ones. We invite you to bring your poinsettias to the church and if you would like to, please attach a tag with the names of your loved ones.

We will remember them personally throughout Christmas but especially on **Monday 27th December at the 10.00am Mass.**

CHARITY 4 - CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

You are invited to make a 'Crib Offering' again this year, which will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society **to support their work with disadvantaged children and families in the UK.** Your donations will help bring hope and change to children and families living in poverty, as well as those experiencing emotional and psychological distress. Through their services, the Catholic Children's Society aim to help children overcome disadvantage, achieve their full potential and have better chances in life.