

Sunday 26th DECEMBER 2021

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Welcome to all at mass today and especially anyone who is new. Please take this Newsletter home with you. You may wish to share it with family and friends. This newsletter can also be found via our website. We ask God's blessing on you and your loved ones this week and know that we pray for you all each day.

Sunday Cycle
Readings Year C

Weekday Readings
Christmastide

Divine Office
Christmastide

For children,
download a weekly sheet:
<http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/>

THIS WEEK

Sun 26 Dec	THE HOLY FAMILY
8.30am	Hannah O'Gorman RIP
9.45am	THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
11.15am	Eric Duffner RIP <i>No evening Mass</i>
Mon 27 Dec	S.JOHN
9.30am	Thanksgiving for 10th wedding Anniv. Mr & Mrs Fernandes
Tues 28 Dec	THE HOLY INNOCENTS
9.30am	Jimmy Bonner RIP
Weds 29 Dec	S.THOMAS BECKET
9.30am	Tom & Dee Kelly RIP
11.00am	FUNERAL MASS Sangeerth Girirathan RIP
Thurs 30 Dec	Sixth Day of the Octave
9.30am	Fernades Family Intentions
Fri 31 Dec	Seventh Day of the Octave
9.30am	Walsh family Intentions
Sat 1 Jan	MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD
12 noon	<i>No 9.30am Mass</i> Neil Cummins RIP
Sun 2 Jan	THE 2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
6.15pm (Vigil)	Delany & Dempsey Family
8.30am	THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
9.45am	Baptiste Fernandes (Special Int)
11.15am	Mary Griffin RIP
5.30pm	Bernard Welikala RIP

TODAY'S MASS



Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. In his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.

First Reading: *1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28*
Hannah dedicates her son, Samuel, to the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 84:2-3,5-6,9-10*
Those who dwell in the Lord's house are happy.

Second Reading: *1 John 3:1-2,21-24*
We are God's children now.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:41-52*
The boy Jesus is found in the Temple.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Nazareth is a kind of school where we may begin to discover what Christ's life was like and even to understand his Gospel."

Pope St Paul VI

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

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GOSPEL REFLECTION

DAILY MASS TIMES

SUNDAY MASS: 6.15pm (Saturday Vigil), 8.30am, 9.45am (Family) & 11.15am (Solemn), 5.30pm.

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday – Saturday 9.30am.

HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION: 9.30am, 8.00pm.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Friday 9.00-9.30am, Saturday 5.15-6.00pm.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 5.15pm - 6.00pm. *and any time by appointment.*

DIVINE MERCY: Tuesday 10.30am.

ROSARY: Daily after Mass.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

SICK & HOUSEBOUND: Marie Rego, Eileen Kidd, Christopher Browne, Noel Gill, Tom Fernandes, Dee Auriol, Kathleen O'Brien, Allan Noronha, Fiona Power, SMR, Aaran Thayaparan Jocalyn Almeida,

RECENTLY BAPTISED:

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Sangeerth Girirathan , Jimmy Curran (Brother of Mary Murphy)

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Jimmy Bonner (6th)

SANCTUARY LAMP

Thanksgiving

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Private Intention

POPE FRANCIS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER:

Catechists: Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



For a large part of his life Jesus was part of a family. We always imagine that this must have been an extremely happy family. Yet, like every other family, it must have had from time to time its ups and downs, its joys and sorrows, its problems and difficulties.

There may have been problems about supplying the family's needs on occasion. Surely someone fell sick at one time or another and was a source of anxiety for the rest of the family. And this was in an age when medical resources were few and relatively little was known about health and hygiene. During Jesus' public life, Mary appears a number of times and she witnessed his death on the cross. But we do not know anything about Joseph. Had he already died by the beginning of Jesus' public life (although his name is mentioned during Jesus' visit to Nazareth [Luke 4:22])? Given the short life expectancy of those days, it is very possible that, by the time Jesus was in his 30s, Joseph had already died. If so, it must have been a painful experience for mother and son. There is no reason to think that Holy Family was spared any of the pains or denied any of the joys of ordinary families.

It must have been a painful time – as it can be for any family – when Jesus, already about 30 years old, left his family for the work his Father had given him to do. But warning of this had come much earlier, as described in today's Gospel.

The family had gone to Jerusalem, according to their regular custom, to celebrate the Passover with thousands of other pilgrims. We are told that Jesus was just 12 years old, the age when he was regarded as entering adulthood and be required to observe all the requirements of the Mosaic Law.

This partly explains his behaviour on this occasion.

As the caravan of pilgrims (very likely the people of Nazareth went together with relatives and neighbours) was on its way home, Mary and Joseph suddenly realise that the Jesus is not with them. Being in a group of neighbours and relatives they would not at first have experienced any alarm if he was not in their immediate company. If he was a normal boy, he would be spending much of his time with other boys in the group.

But then – perhaps he did not turn up for a meal or in the evening time – the parents began to become anxious. When they went looking for him, there was no sign anywhere among family members and friends. So they went back to Jerusalem “looking for him everywhere”. Only people who have lost a son or daughter or sibling in this way will be able to appreciate the anxiety such a situation would engender. What was worse, the city of Jerusalem was filled with strangers and anything could happen to a young boy on his own. Finally, the parents went to the Temple and were amazed to find their boy calmly sitting with the religious teachers and discussing with them. And he was impressing them with his intelligence and the answers he was giving to their questions.

Mary, however, was not quite so appreciative. “My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.” “Why were you looking for me?” Jesus replied. “Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?” What did he mean talking like that? Mary had mentioned Jesus' ‘father’ but Jesus had spoken about ‘my Father’. They did not yet fully grasp what he was talking about.

They all then went back together to Nazareth where peaceful family life resumed as it had been. But this interlude was a presage of things to come. Their Son had a very special mission which went far beyond the life in Nazareth. Only later would the Mother understand. For now, she stored the memories in her heart.

From now on, Jesus would belong to a new family, the family of the world and especially of those who were committed to follow his Way. His mother, brothers and sisters would from now on be those who became his disciples, those who heard the Word of God and kept it. They would, of course, also include Mary his mother, for no one kept and heard God's Word better than she. Most people, in one way or another, leave their family environment. While the family must always have top priority in our concerns, it is not an absolute priority. All of us, and especially Christians, are called to follow the example of Jesus and align ourselves not only with the Holy Family but also with the family of the world. For, with one Father, we are all brothers and sisters to each other and are called to care for each other and love each other as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

NEWS UPDATE



Thank you for wearing your face covering in church and for considering others

WELCOME to all at Mass today and a big welcome if you have not been to Mass for a while due to the Covid restrictions. You are no longer required to sign in though you can still choose to do so on the QR Code. Please continue, unless if you are exempt, to wear a face mask to protect yourselves and others. Under the present restrictions we are required to do so. There continues to be no required social distancing in Church. However the top left hand side of the church will be kept for those who wish to do so. We ask that you sanitise in and out of church but if you wish to sanitise before communion we ask you bring your own and do so yourself. **Above all be responsible to others, look out for each other and make sure if you feel ill or have been in crowded situations that you are tested.**

KEEP ST GEORGE'S COVID SAFE: If a member of your household has tested positive for COVID, even if asymptomatic (i.e. without symptoms), please refrain from coming to the church, in case you are asymptomatic yourself. Additionally, it may be helpful to know, that the Catholic Bishops have fully endorsed all aspects of the UK Vaccination Programme. The more people who are vaccinated, the less risk there is to us all.

MGR JEREMY, Fr. JULIO & PETER thank so many parishioners for your kinds in cards and gifts this Christmas. We can't thank you enough for your generosity and kindness. It means a lot to us.

FUNERAL MASS of Sangeerth Ghrathan on Wednesday 29th December at 11.00am followed by burial in Greenford Park cemetery. May he rest in peace.

UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE—as we do yearly we will be collecting gifts on behalf of the Catholic Children's Society. Please bring your gift wrapped and please state whether it's for a girl or a boy and the appropriate age group.

IF YOU ARE GOING AWAY OR TRAVELLING THIS CHRISTMASTIDE we wish you a happy and safe celebration of Our Lord's birth and NEW YEAR

CHRISTMAS GIVING ENVELOPES: These are still now available. They are an opportunity for you to make a Christmas gift, but not to the clergy, (if you wish to give anything to the clergy now you must do it in a private Christmas Card as they no longer receive anything from the Christmas Collection). The envelopes are for you to give to St

George's, in thanksgiving for the blessings you have received in this Holy place over the past, challenging year. **IF YOU GIFT AID, PLEASE REMEMBER TO FILL IN THE RELEVANT PART ON THE ENVELOPE**—It benefits the parish hugely

REPOSITORY is closed this weekend.

THANK YOU AGAIN TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED MONEY FOR FLOWERS—I think you will agree that the Church looks splendid. Thank you to all those who behind the scenes have decorated the church and produced wonderful flower arrangements.

THANK YOU to SAVILLE'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS who have donated the Christmas Tree this Year

COFFEE & TEA AFTER MASS has now recommenced for those who wish and all the following Fridays. The café/Bar is looking very underused and we have a new updated coffee machine too. See you there! If you might consider helping please contact **Angela Traynor** at angelatraynor@btinternet.com

THE PARISH OFFICE will be open for booking Masses etc every Thursday and Friday after 10.00am—3.00pm.

REBUILDING OUR PARISH: as we get back together again after all these months of lockdown and subsequent restrictions we do need help, especially in building up the Sunday Liturgy. The 9.45am Mass needs singers and musicians. Could you help with that. The 11.15am Mass Choirs needs men and boys to sing together. Could you help with that? **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE THIS TO OTHERS**—if you do nothing will happen. Thanks!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - We look forward to helping the Year 3 children learn about the Mass, during part 2 of the FHC Programme, as they prepare for their First Holy Communion in May 2022. We look forward to welcoming back **Parents/Carers only** in the **Parish Centre** on **Tuesday 25th January** as we prepare to accompany the children as fruitfully as possible in the coming months as they begin this next stage on their journey of faith.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY HELPERS: - The Children's Liturgy has started up again in the Parish on last Sunday at the 9.45am Family Mass. We are looking for new volunteers to help the younger children (4-7yr) reflect on Sunday's Gospel during Mass in a fun, creative & simple way. If you might consider helping once every six weeks, joining an established group of experienced Catechists, please contact **Una Moran** una@bfmconsult.co.uk or **peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk**.

REPOSITORY: Volunteers urgently required to assist in the Repository after all Masses. If you

are able to help please contact Imelda on 07982683664.

CONFIRMATION 2022: - Young people in **Year 10** & above are welcome to join our Confirmation Programme to prepare to receive this Sacrament of Confirmation. If you are a young person wishing to be confirmed in 2022, please join us in the Parish Centre with a Parent/Carer for the **Confirmation Information Evening at 7.30pm on Monday 10th January 2022** when Registration Forms will be provided to those attending wishing to be confirmed.

CHURCH CLEANING: - Church cleaning takes place on **Mondays after the 9.30am Mass**. All are welcome! Thank you for all who are already helping out.

ALTAR SERVING: - If your child would like to help with Altar Serving at Mass please note that you must first complete an Altar Serving Form, providing Parental Consent. Blank forms are available for completion from the Sacristy. Only once this form has been completed can your child begin serving at Mass.

CHURCH LAMPS: These have now been rehung and the ship lamp at Our Lady of Walsingham has been restored. These can be booked each week in memory of someone. Just contact the parish office. We have several empty gaps!

RCIA—Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults. Do you know anyone (or it may even be yourself) who would like to explore what it means to be a Catholic Christian? If so, please speak or contact to Fr Julio.

SUPPORT WEEKLY FLOWERS AT ST. GEORGE'S: How you can help? Give a general donation in an envelope handed to Monsignor or one of the Flower Team (these can be found at the back of the Church). A special donation of arranged flowers for one week. Perhaps for a Wedding Anniversary, Birthday or in Memory of a loved one. An indication of costs follows:-

PLEASE, IT'S A KINDNESS when Mass has ended to ensure that your seat area is left clean and tidy, ready for the next Mass. It's particularly helpful to lift the kneelers so they are not walked on and so others can get in and out of the benches easily. Over the past two weeks, Newsletters, Mass sheets and spilt, food and loads of used tissues have been left in church for others to clear away. This is not helpful in the current climate. Let's look after our church and each other!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Entrance Antiphon: *Lk 2: 16*

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Collect

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First reading: *Ecclesiasticus 3:3-7,14-17*

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 127:1-5*

R/. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. *R/.*

2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. *R/.*

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! *R/.*

Second reading: *Colossians 3:12-17*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do

the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. 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.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel Acclamation: *cf. Ac 16:14*

*Allelula, allelula!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Allelula!*

Gospel: *Luke 2:41-52*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

Prayer over the Offerings

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: *Bar 3: 38*

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Prayer after Communion

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord.