

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sunday, 31st December	9.30 am	Feast of the Holy Family	Winifred Lee - Anniversary
Monday, 1 st January	9.30 am	Mary, Mother of God World Day of Prayer for Peace	Katarzyna Nazar - RIP
Tuesday, 2 nd January		St. Basil the Great, Bishop	
Wednesday, 3 rd January		The Holy Name of Jesus	
Thursday, 4 th January	9.30 am	St. Elizabeth	Leo & Lucy Westhead, Paul Williams, Mavis and Paul Gilgannon - RIP
Friday 5 th January		St. John Neumann	
Saturday, 6 th January			No Confessions
Sunday, 7th January	9.30 am	Feast of the Epiphany	Roy Rowlands – 1st Anniversary

Sick - Philip Akehurst, Sylvia Armitage, Peggy (Margaret) Atherton, Philip Bond, Sarah Bond, Luke Bryan, Vincent Carr, Pat Chapman, Patricia Chisnall, Imelda Cowley, Francis Curran, Ava Davidson, Tony Devereux, Gerada D'Orsi, Dennis Edmund, Jim Evans, Elaine Fairclough, Marjorie Fairhurst, Ellen Firth, Father Tom Gagie, John & Lily Glover, Hilda Hamlett, Mary Hill, Jack Kelly, Shelagh Lowe, Will McDookin, Angela Monks, Margaret Murphy, Brian O'Reilly, Annie Plant, Beryl Pudifer, Tanya Rattigan, Nathan Sa Joe, Jean Sharkey, Patsy Shiel, Danny Singleton, Georgina Smith, Margaret and Frank Speakman, Stan Springford, Howard Thomas, Michael Twist, Marjorie Wills, Eden Rose Wilson, Baby Callum James, and those suffering from Covid.

Lately Dead – Maurice O'Gorman, Pat Owen

Anniversaries – Paul Cowell, Daniel Daly, John Jones, Martin Andrew Jones, Winifred Lee, Moira Mitchell; Gerry Pilkington, Roy Rowlands, Joyce Sephton, Mary Simcox

Special Intentions – Innocent people on both sides of the Israel/Gaza conflict, people of Ukraine

Fr. Michael has been called for Jury service from 2nd January until the 16th January 2024. The weekday Masses during the week of 1st January will be covered by Fr Owen Ince. During the week of the 8th, Masses will be replaced with Eucharistic Services with Deacon Brendan. Sunday Masses on the 6th and 7th January will be covered by Monsignor Stephen Alker and on 13th and 14th by Fr Mark Fairhurst.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with decorating the church for Christmas and everyone who helps in so many ways throughout the year to keep the church running smoothly.

Would you consider becoming a Eucharistic Minister and take Holy Communion to those in the parish who cannot get to Mass? Or becoming a chaperone or driver to support the Eucharistic Ministers? This is a very rewarding ministry and means so much to the sick and housebound. You would not be required to distribute Holy Communion or lead Eucharistic services in church unless you wish to! Please contact Fr Michael to find out more.

Appeal for Altar Servers - We would love to see more boys and girls become **altar servers** in church. Anyone who has made their first Holy Communion can be a server. Please contact Fr Michael or Magdalen Scott to find out more.

The St Helens Singers would like to thank all those parishioners and friends who supported their recent Christmas concert in St Julie's church. We were able to raise £1,120 which was donated to our church. Well done everyone!

St Julie's Christmas Eve Coffee Morning and Raffle - The winner of the Christmas Hamper was Dave McKenna. The total raised from the raffle and sale of cakes was £300, which will go towards the maintenance of St. Julie's church. Michael Blackburn very kindly donated the mince pies! Many thanks to all who sold and bought raffle tickets, donated prizes, baked cakes, helped on the day and made this event such a success.

Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

Holy Family (B)

ENTRANCE ANTI-PHON: Lk 2:16
 The shepherds went in haste,
 and found Mary and Joseph and the
 Infant lying in a manger.

FIRST READING:
 Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood

PSALM: 104:1-6, 8-9, R.vv7.8

**R) He, the Lord, is our God.
 He remembers his covenant for ever.**

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
 make known his deeds among the peoples.
 O sing to him, sing his praise;
 tell all his wonderful works! (R)

Be proud of his holy name,
 let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
 Consider the Lord and his strength;
 constantly seek his face. (R)

Remember the wonders he has done,
 his miracles, the judgments he spoke.
 O children of Abraham, his servant,
 O sons of the Jacob he chose. (R)

He remembers his covenant for ever,
 his promise for a thousand generations,
 the covenant he made with Abraham,
 the oath he swore to Isaac. (R)

SECOND READING:
 Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
 Alleluia, alleluia! Heb 1:1-2
 At various times in the past
 and in various different ways,
 God spoke to our ancestors through
 the prophets;
 but in our own time, the last days,
 he has spoken to us through his Son.
 Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40
The child grew, filled with wisdom.

COMMUNION ANTI-PHON: Bar 3:38
 Our God has appeared on the earth,
 and lived among us.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



Much is said in the Gospels about the Jews not recognising or accepting Jesus as the Messiah. Two of the most notable exceptions to this appears in today's Gospel. Simeon, to whom the Holy Spirit had promised he would not die until he had 'set eyes on the Christ of the Lord'. Anna, who 'spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem'. In fact, it is probable that Mary and Joseph were taken aback when they heard these things being said about their infant son. And for Mary, Simeon's prediction that her son would be rejected and that a sword would pierce her heart, must have been a strange surprise. Having said her yes to God, she was prepared for whatever was to happen to her, but little did she know just what that would entail. When we decide to follow Jesus, we don't know what

awaits us. Perhaps it is just as well, for we may be frightened at the thought of the suffering we will pass through. The answer: we must do what Mary did, and live the will of God perfectly in each present moment.

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
 BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



POPULAR VS. POPULIST

162. The biggest issue is employment. The truly "popular" thing – since it promotes the good of the people – is to provide everyone with the opportunity to nurture the seeds that God has planted in each of us: our talents, our initiative and our innate resources. This is the finest help we can give to the poor, the best path to a life of dignity. Hence my insistence that, "helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work".¹³⁶ Since production systems may change, political systems must keep working to structure society in such a way that everyone has a chance to contribute his or her own talents and efforts. For "there is no poverty worse than that which takes away work and the dignity of work".¹³⁷ In a genuinely developed society, work is an essential dimension of social life, for it is not only a means of earning one's daily bread, but also of personal growth, the building of healthy relationships, self-expression and the exchange of gifts. Work gives us a sense of shared responsibility for the development of the world, and ultimately, for our life as a people.

¹³⁶ Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* (24 May 2015), 128: AAS 107 (2015), 898.

¹³⁷ Address to the Diplomatic Corps Accredited to the Holy See (12 January 2015): AAS 107 (2015), 165; cf. Address to Participants in the World Meeting of Popular Movements (28 October 2014): AAS 106 (2014), 851-859.



The Fire of Love*

THE THREE PERSONS OF THE TRINITY



The Father is called Father because he has begotten the Son.

The Son is son because he is begotten of the Father.

The Holy Spirit is the life of both.

What the Father is, he received from no one.

What the Son is in his eternal birth, he receives from the Father alone.

The Holy Spirit comes from both Father and Son and eternally exists in them as third Person of the blessed Trinity.

The Son became man, and for our sakes was crucified. There is nothing so sweet as loving Christ, so we should desist from enquiring too closely into things that we cannot possibly understand. Only in heaven shall we be clearly 'taught of God' (Jn 6: 45).

*The Fire of Love by Richard Rolle Published by Aeterna Press

