

St. William of York R.C. Church



Registered Charity No 233699

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 (Marcello – via text message)

Mass - Sunday
 Sat 5.30 pm (1st Mass of Sunday)
 Sunday 8 am & 10 am
 Weekdays
 Mass Monday Tuesday & Saturday 9.30 am
 Thursday As announced
 Mass on Friday 7 p.m.
 Confessions: Saturday 10 am – 10.30 am & on call

4th Sunday of Advent

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

19/20 December 2020

26/27 December 2020

Saturday 19th December

5.30pm People of the parish

Sunday 20th December
 4th Sunday of Advent

8am Maureen Ride RIP (Anniv)

10am Barbara Chandler RIP
 (Anniv)

Monday 21st December

9.30am John Halpin RIP

Tuesday 22nd December

9.30am Bridie Maguire RIP
 (Anniv)

Wednesday 23rd December

NO PUBLIC MASS

Thursday 24th December
 Christmas Eve

5.30pm People of the parish

Midnight People of the world

Friday 25th December
 Christmas Day

8am Victims of COVID

10am For families and children

Saturday 26th December
 St Stephen, the first martyr

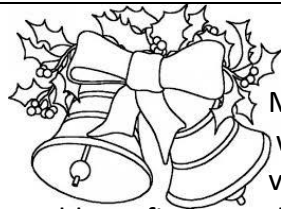
10am People of the parish

5.30pm Joaquim Desouza
 Intention

Sunday 27th December
 The Holy Family of Jesus,
 Mary & Joseph

8am Lourda & John
 (Thanksgiving)

10am For COVID recovery



A unique Christmas and a bit special too!

This is a two-week edition of the newsletter! Father Michael writes- 'The Christmas of the pandemic – how will the future read the time we are now living? The virus has revealed to us all sorts of truths about our world; we find ourselves all in the same boat. Our real lives, our differences and distinctions – all seem to be somehow levelled. Our clever technology and investments now fade with the request to wash hands, maintain social distancing etc. - right down to basics! The whole globe consists of people wearing masks (largely). Painfully, tragically something is being **revealed** to us. Yes, too much suffering and death! At the same time, we find ourselves in need and looking for **rescue**. Bethlehem is the birth of the One who came to rescue us; the one who 'got into the boat' with us. Jesus born for us - the Son of God, in that stable enters into our reality. He didn't arrive with fanfares or press releases. Could we say that God entered our world almost anonymously? Together - as a parish community we are living through this COVID experience and these Bethlehem days. Perhaps we find ourselves turning to Jesus with more intensity? Perhaps we feel empty and afraid? Whichever is the case, Jesus Christ accompanies us. The gospel of the 4th Sunday of Lent focuses us on Mary - the mother of Jesus. Without fully understanding, Mary accepts the request of God the Father through the angel. "I am the handmaid of the Lord - let what you have said be done to me." Here is a clue to our rescue! Over these days between Christmas Eve and the arrival of the three Kings - let us sink our own experience and fears into the coming of our Saviour.

Finally - welcome to everyone joining us - either in church or online. Welcome to any visitors around. Thank you to EVERYONE who has helped and supported the life of the parish in so MANY ways. For me, as your priest, it has been an amazing and intense experience. Thank you also for the many kind Christmas cards and remembrances received; most of all for your love and prayers. I wish you the blessing of the Christ child of Bethlehem. With joy (and a few tears of reality) I ask the Lord to bless you now praying for better days in 2021. **Father Michael**

All the tickets for Our Christmas Masses have now gone!

COVID number restrictions limit our numbers. Father Michael adds- "Heartbreakingly - it will probably be necessary to say – 'no entry' for those without tickets; a horrible prospect. Please pray."



2020-2021 Christmas and New Year

Thursday 24 December Christmas Eve

5.30pm (Vigil) – ticket required
Midnight Mass – ticket required

Saturday 26 December Boxing Day

10am Mass for St Stephen's Day
5.30pm Vigil Mass of the Holy Family

Thursday 31 December

5.30pm Mass for New Year's Eve – then Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 25 December Christmas Day

8am – ticket required
10am – ticket required

Sunday 27 December

8am and 10am Mass of the Holy Family

Friday 1 January 2021

10am New Year's Day Mass (no 7pm Mass)

Preparing for Christmas 2020 - the Sacrament of Confession

Father Michael writes- 'Normally at this time, I would be announcing the visit of a number of priests and an opportunity for Confession. A little "house-clearing" and soul searching is the best way to get ready for Bethlehem. 2020 is different in so many ways, yet the Lord still invites us to receive the gift of his mercy. **This Monday 21 December - 6pm-8pm** I will be in the sacristy for anyone who wishes to receive the power of the Lord's forgiveness. Because of social distancing – we are not using the Confessional box. Simply enter the sacristy. You may sit facing me or BEHIND to respect anonymity. The important thing is to journey towards Christmas with an open and pure heart'

Christmas offerings and donations

Just a reminder from the diocese – "all offerings at Christmas are for the direct support of the parish and diocese. If parishioners wish to offer something specifically for their priests - it has to be in a card/envelope with his name on the front, thereby making it clear that it is a GIFT to a named individual."

News and views

***The Missio RED BOXES - supporting the work of the Mill Hill Missionaries have produced in 2020 a grand total of £1167.94. In the circumstances a wonderful achievement. Parish gratitude to all who donate and to Valerie for organising everything.

***Pope Francis had declared a special year dedicated to Saint Joseph; a saint who truly inspires. Don't forget that we have a very nice icon of Saint Joseph; the silent man of faith. The year began on December 8.

***If you missed our Christmas Carol sing-along on Zoom - you are really unlucky. It was a wonderful gathering of so many households - greatly enjoyed and sung with Christmas gusto. Many thanks to ALL participants (near and far), to musicians and technicians also.

A few reminders of extra Masses and times!!!

Remember that on Boxing Day/Saturday 26 December- there will be a 10am Mass for Saint Stephen. In the evening - the usual Saturday Vigil 5.30 Mass.*****Thursday 31 December New Year's Eve- Mass at 5.30pm followed by a time of Eucharistic Adoration*****Friday 1 January 10am Mass for New Year's Day. NO 7pm evening Mass

Counters Rota

20 December

Judith Brightwell, Monica Assoku, Funmi Da Silva

27 December

Richard Wong, Pearly Jesuthasan

3 January

Amal Graham, Patricia Cleary, Marcello Borgese

Mass Intentions

Monday 28th December – The Holy Innocents

9.30am Mary Juliet Fernando RIP

Tuesday 29th December, St Thomas Becket

9.30am Thanksgiving to God (Martins family)

Wednesday 30th December

Monica David memorial - No public Mass

Thursday 31st December – New Year's Eve

5.30pm People of the parish

Friday 1st January – Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

10am People of the parish

Saturday 2nd January – Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

5.30pm For all elderly and vulnerable

Sunday 3rd January – 2nd Sunday after the Nativity

8am Tim Harrington Intention

10am William Fahey RIP (Anniv)