

St. William of York R.C. Church



Registered Charity No 233699

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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

2nd Sunday after the Nativity

2/3 January 2021

Saturday 2nd January

5.30pm For all elderly
 and vulnerable

Sunday 3rd January

2nd Sunday after the Nativity

8am Tim Harrington Intention

10am William Fahey RIP (Anniv)

Monday 4th January

9.30am Anne Coyle RIP (Anniv)

Tuesday 5th January

9.30am Sister Patricia Wragg RIP

Wednesday 6th January
 The Epiphany of the Lord

9.30am Nolan Family

8pm People of the parish

Thursday 7th January

NO LITURGY

Friday 8th January

7pm Rodney Fernandes RIP
 (Martins)

Saturday 9th January

5.30pm Daryl Pereira RIP
 (Imelda)

Sunday 10th January
 The Baptism of the Lord

8am Margaret Goode RIP

10am Barbara Chandler RIP
 (Birthday)

A most unusual Christmas with its own special meaning

Father Michael writes- “Well Christmas happened! Talking with you, dear sisters and brothers, I heard that though uniquely different - Christmas 2020 had its own special quality. Numbers were limited, yet many people said that their Christmas experience had a very different quality, “it was just us” “less pressure” “simple and straightforward”. At one level it was a question of making the best of things; at another it was rediscovering basics! Limited and indoors there was a chance to have real time together without different generations running off in other directions. Christmas 2020 opened up many moments of shared insight and appreciation. I would like to make a suggestion - so that these moments are not lost.

Why not write a few lines? **Christmas 2020 a special experience!!** Perhaps send an email, leave a phone message, drop a note through the front door. Anonymously if you wish. God’s blessings are always there - even in a pandemic. Somebody said - ‘Christmas was much more real, less tinsel’. Yes of course - for many of you Christmas was challenging in terms of separation, for those alone or caught out by distance. Without revealing names and details - it would be good to share these blessings. Don’t forget! **Christmas 2020 a special experience!!**

This Wednesday - 6 January - the Solemnity of the Epiphany

The arrival of the Wise men with their gifts completes the 12 days of Christmas. They were clearly ‘foreigners’ who had travelled a long way. Reading their maps and the signs in the heavens - led by a star, they even consulted Herod. Eventually they find the Christ-child. The word Epiphany means ‘manifestation’. The small child in the manger is seen as the Saviour of the world - receiving visitors with their significant gifts. **There will be two Masses on Wednesday - 9.30am and 8pm.** Next weekend - a further manifestation when we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord by John the Baptist.

Tasks and thanks

Either viewed in church or on-line the Christmas trees are up; the church decorated, the crib found a new home placing it at the very heart of our liturgies. Hard work by just a few hands meant that the church was clean and shining. Stewards and supporters kept things moving. Music and song, somehow found their place - even with the ban on singing in church. Thank you to the faithful organisers and musicians. Let me mention by name two

very strategic people who have been totally reliable and worked hard for the parish; Tony Murphy (lead on our COVID response) and Janice Pereira (lead for on-line Masses, Zoom and the very appreciated 'Christmas Carol: sing-a long'). Both have been well supported by willing hands and hearts. Gratitude also to readers, servers, counters and other tasks undertaken. Finally - renewed thanks for the kindness and generosity shown to your Parish Priest, which is DEEPLY appreciated.

This weekend - the Gospel of Saint John

This in-between Sunday offers us one the most outstanding passages in the New Testament. For many individuals this prologue to Saint John's gospel is a favourite. With the often used words - 'The Word was made flesh. He lived among us' - somehow Saint John's version of Bethlehem. Through the centuries since - these words have been repeated in prayer and meditation. Let us hold them close in our hearts. Perhaps they can be the words for 2021. Happy New Year again!

Mass intentions

It is very much part of our Catholic tradition to have Masses celebrated for people (living or dead), for particular needs and intentions or in thanksgiving for blessings received and prayers answered. In the church porch there are the special envelopes requesting a Mass to be said. When completed it can be dropped into the regular collection baskets at the exit or through the letter box of the parish house. Thank you.

From Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter on St Joseph

Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities. Perhaps for this reason, Joseph is traditionally called a "most chaste" father. That title is not simply a sign of affection, but the summation of an attitude that is the opposite of possessiveness. Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one's life. Only when love is chaste is it truly love. A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous: it imprisons, constricts and makes for misery. God himself loved humanity with a chaste love; he left us free even to go astray and set ourselves against him. The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus. Let us now make our prayer to him:



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen



Counters Rota

3 January Amal Graham, Patricia Cleary, Marcello Borgese
10 January Eddie Whittaker, Anthony Owolabi, Mary Kehoe
17 January Richard Afonso, Walter Acuti, Beatrice McAdam