

PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE

Parish Clergy

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Parish office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m. till 12 Noon

31st December 2023 – The Feast of the Holy Family

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, and the purification of a woman after childbirth.

According to the Law of Moses as presented in the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered ritually unclean during her menstrual period and for a prescribed period of time following the birth of a child. After the birth of a son, a woman was considered ritually unclean for 40 days. After the birth of a daughter, a woman was considered unclean for 80 days. In order to be restored to ritual purity, a Jewish woman performed the appropriate rites of purification and made the prescribed ritual offering.

Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, he was called Jesus, the name he was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor.

Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognise the infant Jesus as the fulfilment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross. The Canticle of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, *Nunc Dimitis*, is prayed at night prayer, or compline, during the Liturgy of the Hours.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday 30/12	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	NO MASS Peter Gilchrist RIP
Sunday 31/12	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	Jane and Archie Conlon Christmas Mass Bouquet People of the Parish
Monday 01/01	St Mary's	11.00am	Michael and Margaret Kenny and Deceased Relatives RIP
Tuesday 2/01	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Marian Tillotson RIP
Wednesday 3/01	St. Mary's St Mary's	10.00am 7.00pm	Mary and Michael O'Brien RIP My family and I
Thursday 4/01	St Mary's	12.10pm	Requiem Mass – Lyndsey Humphries
Friday 5/01	St Patrick's	10.00am	Nuns of Hynning
Saturday 6/01	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Special intention EMP People of the Parish
Sunday 7/01	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	Robert Hewitt and Alexander McDade RIP Janet Oakley Get Well

FEAST DAYS:

Monday 1st January is the solemnity of **Mary, Mother of God.**

Tuesday 2nd January is the feast of St Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen

Sunday 7th January is the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord** and is a Holy Day of Obligation

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Irene Benson, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Dean Brownlee, Davina Tetteh, Terry Bridge, Edgardo Hecate, Dee Rowley, Mary Walsh, Pam (Mary) Clark, Rev Jim Murphy, Winnie Coupe, Zoe Jarman, Alan Anderson, Karen Guerrero, Win Cowell, Tony Manley, Deacon John McCann, and the sick and housebound in the parish and those in local hospitals and nursing homes.

LATELY DEAD: Lyndsey Humphries, Helena Mary Bland, Michael Alan Derham

FUNERALS:

Helena Mary Bland, Tuesday, 2nd January 2024 at 12.00pm at St Mary's Church followed by interment in Hale Carr Cemetery. Reception into church will take place on Monday evening.

Lyndsey Ann Humphries, Thursday 4th January 2024, funeral Mass at St Mary's at 12.10 p.m. followed by committal at Thornton Crematorium at 2.15 p.m.

Michael Alan Derham, Friday 5th January 2024 at 1.00 p.m. at St Mary's Church followed by committal at Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium at 2.30 p.m.

1ST ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for Brenda Gallagher and all those whose first anniversaries occur between 31st December and 7th January and all those names on the anniversaries' lists for December and January which are on the noticeboards in each church porch.

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EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. till 9:55 a.m., followed by 10.00 a.m. Mass, Thursday 11:00 am till 12 noon followed by the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Saturday 10:30 a.m. till 11:00 am

WEEKLY COLLECTION:	£1091.89	ATTENDANCE:	218
CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE:	412		

PARISH NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: If you are new to the area, or are visiting us just for the weekend, you are very welcome! Please introduce yourself to Fr Darren or Deacon John. Please could new parish members and parish members who have not yet done so complete a parish registration form. There are also gift aid forms and bank standing order forms available at the back of Church.

TEA AND COFFEE: Tea and coffee are available in the church hall after the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday. Why not come along, have a chat and a cuppa and meet new friends? Everyone is very welcome!

HOLIDAY: Please note that I will be away on holiday from Sunday 7th January until Friday 26th January 2024. Monsignor Verity will be covering the Masses whilst I am away. Deacon Stephen Pendlebury will be covering any funerals and will deal with arrangements and will assist at any funeral Masses. Please note there will be no Wednesday evening Masses whilst I am away.

THANK YOU: Many thanks to all who helped clean and prepare the Churches for Christmas and who took part in the Masses by reading, providing the music and serving at the altar and the florists. Thanks also to those who decorated the trees and window ledges at St Mary's and St Patrick's and for further donations toward the cost of flowers in memory of loved ones.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS: Many thanks for the cards, gifts and best wishes that Deacon John and I have received over the Christmas period, they are very much appreciated.

SVP LUNCH: The next SVP lunch will take place after 12.10 p.m. Mass on Thursday 4th January 2024. Sign-up sheets are in the back of church.

MASS OFFERINGS: Thank you for your Mass offering envelopes. If you would like a specific date or anniversary Mass saying please could you give plenty of notice, particularly around Easter and Christmas, so that we can ensure we can meet your request. Thank you.

EVENTS:

SAVE THE DATE - QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 2nd February 2024: Students from the OLCC Uganda Project are holding a quiz night at St Patrick's Church on Friday 2nd February, starting at 7 pm. They will be planning some interactive fun rounds as well as more traditional ones. Tickets are £4 to include light refreshments. They will be available from Ali Bates at St Patrick's or Pat Ormesby at St Mary's in January. You can also pay 'on the door' but it would be useful to let us know numbers. All proceeds from the evening will be used to support our Ugandan Partner Communities. Thank you for your support.

Day	Time	Event	Location
Every Sunday	After 10:30am Mass	Tea and Coffee	St Mary's Parish Hall
Every Monday	10.00am–11:30am	Playgroup	St Mary's Parish Hall
Every Wednesday	12noon–2pm	Warm Welcome	St Mary's Parish Hall
Every Friday	2.00pm–3.00pm	Lectio Divina	St Mary's Presbytery
Tuesday 2 nd January	10.00am	Legion of Mary	St Patrick's
Monday 8 th January	10:30am–12noon	Cuppa and Chat	St Patrick's
Monday 15 th January	1.00 – 3.00 pm	Bereavement Group	St Mary's Parish Hall
Tuesday 16 th January	1:30pm	Bingo	St Patrick's

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

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

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER:

FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY:

FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.