



NEWSLETTER
ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
CLIFTON STREET, LYTHAM, FY8 5EP
Parish Website www.stpeterslytham.co.uk



FOR
Sunday 1st January 2023, Mary the Mother of God - Year 'A'
Parish Priest: Rev Peter D. Clarke - 01253 737037
Deacons: Rev Michael Harrison - 01253 730508 & Rev William Riley (Retired)

Weekend 31st December / 1st January 2023, Mary the Mother of God

Sat 31st December 6:00pm St. Joseph's Freda McGuinness

Sun 1st January 9:15am St. Joseph's People of the Parishes

Sun 1st January 10:30am St. Peter's Harold Thornton

Mon 2nd 9am St. Peter's Thomas & Annie Ainsworth followed by Exposition & Confessions till 10am

Tues 3rd 10:00am St. Joseph's Gareth Tierney followed by Exposition & Confessions till 11am

Wed 4th 9:00am St. Peter's Sr. Anne Murphy SHCJ

Feast of the Epiphany

Thur 5th 7.00pm St Joseph's Special Anniversary

Fri 6th 9am St. Peter's **Maria McKay**

10am St. Joseph's Denis Jones

Weekend 7th / 8th January, The Baptism of the Lord

Sat 7th 6.00pm St. Joseph's People of the Parishes

Sun 8th 9:15am St. Joseph's Ivan de Coutère

Sunday 8th 10:30am St. Peter's Terence Henry Daw

Sacrament of Reconciliation with Exposition this week:

Monday 9:30-10am at St. Peter's, Tuesday 10:30-11am at St. Joseph's.

Confessions also available by arrangement with Fr. Peter. Tel: 737037.

As Mary said "yes" to God's invitation to become the mother of his Son, we too say "yes" to God's call to us to share in that sonship and be his children.

First Reading Numbers 6:22-27 The Lord blesses the children of Israel with peace.

Second Reading Galatians 4:4-7 God sends the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to make us his children.

Gospel Luke 2:16-21 Mary treasures all the things that happen at the birth of Jesus and ponders them in her heart.

This Friday we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses are at St. Joseph's, Vigil at 7pm and 10am, and at St. Peter's at 9am.

MESSAGE FROM FR PETER: And a very Happy New Year, to each and everyone of you, and all your family, friends, and loved ones. Let's hope that this New Year truly is 'new' for us all, a time of peace, love and renewal, exciting new beginnings, and the continuation of our journey together as Parishes and People seeking to live out and share the Living Word of God in the South Fylde.

And what a wonderful Christmas we had together. Almost 1000 people joined us in both of our Parishes over our Masses to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Huge thanks to everyone involved in our beautiful Christmas Services: those who made the Church look so beautiful with their preparation and decoration of the Churches, and their service of the Word and Eucharist at our Masses; and those who made the Church sound so beautiful with their talented music ministry which so elevates all our services; and all those who work 'behind the scenes', not just at Christmas, but throughout the whole of the liturgical year, to ensure that St. Joseph's and St. Peter's are welcoming places of peace, love, and the service of God. Thank you to you all. And personal thanks for the kind cards, gifts, and greetings over the festive season; it all helped to make my first Christmas in this part of the Fylde a happy and memorable one (even if I wasn't exactly firing on all cylinders with this wretched bug!). God bless you all. Let's look forward to celebrating together through the whole of 2023, and continued Christmas Greetings and Prayers for a Happy New Year.

And we begin this New Year under the patronage of the Holy Mother of God, as we celebrate her Feast this weekend of 31st/1st. As we celebrate Mass today, let us rejoice in having Our Lady as a model of faith and discipleship, asking for her prayers, that her Son might give us the gifts of humility and grace, and the spiritual strength which she herself showed in welcoming her Son into her life, her family, and the world. How long does Christmas last? An octave? Twelve days? We can celebrate Christmas right up to February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. So let us do so, stopping off at the Epiphany next week to celebrate the visit of the Magi to the Christ child.

Talking of the Twelve Day of Christmas; someone the other day was asking what the song meant, and I did remember reading an article about the spiritual significance of the song, which is as follows: The Partridge in the Pear Tree is Jesus

Christ. The 2 Turtle Doves are The Old and New Testaments. The 3 French hens are Faith, Hope and Charity, the theological virtues. The 4 Calling Birds are the four gospels and the four evangelists. The 5 Golden Rings are the first five books of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch. The 6 Geese A-laying are the six days of creation. The 7 Swans A-swimming are the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments. The 8 Maids-a-Milking are the Beatitudes. The 9 Ladies Dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. The 10 Lords A-leaping are the ten commandments. The 11 Pipers Piping are the eleven faithful apostles. The 12 Drummers Drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed. So there you go. Maybe something to think about when we next sing that song?

Mass Intentions for the year ahead: If you would like a mass said for a relative or friend for a particular date in the coming year now is the time make your request. We have the diary ready in the parish office to save the date. There are 3 masses per week available at each church. Please put mass intentions in an envelope and state a preference of where you would like the mass to be said if necessary. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

LATELY DEAD - Sunday 18th December 2022 - ROSEMARY MOSS

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon her, may she rest in peace. Amen.

**St Vincent de Paul Society
Sudan Baby Feeding Appeal 2022**

Three weeks ago we launched our annual appeal on behalf of the SVP for your help in feeding the poor babies and young children in Sudan and South Sudan. Continuing civil unrest, the effects of Covid 19 and global food shortages have contributed to a worsening plight of some of the poorest people in our troubled world. The baby feeding stations set up by the SVP keep hundreds of babies and young children alive each year. This work has been generously supported over the years by St. Peter's parishioners and friends and we cannot thank you enough. However, these poor people continue to need our help to keep their babies and young children alive and so we again raise our voices on behalf of the poor and ask for your support. It costs about £50 to feed a baby/young child for a year; whatever you can afford to give, at a time when we are all feeling the effects of rising food and energy prices, will be a great help and will be much appreciated. SVP members will be handing out donation forms as you leave church today. These can be returned with your kind donations in the weeks up to Christmas. Cheques should be made payable to 'SVP Twinnage'. Please Gift Aid your donation if you are a taxpayer. Thank you.

***This Appeal still remains open.**

CRIB OFFERINGS

The Bishop has asked that our Crib Offerings this year benefit the charity "Friends of the Holy Land" (FHL). FHL help the most deprived Christian Families, especially those living around Bethlehem, in Gaza, Israel and Jordan. With pilgrimages only slowly returning and little income for almost 3 years, many families in and around Bethlehem are increasingly calling on FHL for vital help. There are a lot of calls on our generosity at present, but please help these Christian families if you can.

**Responsorial Psalm for Solemnity of
Mary the Holy Mother of God**

and the response is:

O GOD, BE GRACIOUS AND BLESS US.

'Thank You'

Collection Sunday 18th December: **£324.00.**
Further donation - Diocesan Youth Service: **£20.00.**
Sudan Baby Feeding Appeal: **£1045.80***

*Total to date: **£1407.00.**

Thank you for your generosity.

Sanctuary Lamp Booking - Red Lamp -

"Billy - health" & "Special Intention - B"

& Our Lady - "Tina - B"

To book email Sue on info@stpeterslytham.co.uk (or speak to her). Suggested **minimum** donation - £5 each lamp. Sue is taking bookings for this coming year.

ANNIVERSARIES occurring at about this time:

George Smith, Mary Smith, John Blacoe, Lillian Kelly, Theresa Corcoran, Alice Ingham, Colin Stoupe, Edward Flynn, George Harrison, Marian Smith, Michael Patten, Richard Southern, Hilda Sempers, Mary Anderton, Barbara Anderton, Sr. McCarten, Frances Collings, Sheilagh Phillips, Ron Smith, Josephine Fleming, Alicia Russell (née Ashton), Deacon John Kennedy (Cleator), Mattie Simpson, Audrey McNutt, Michael Ryan, Christopher Cottam, Freda Mary Cottam, Karen Harper, Peter Morrison.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Please continue to pray for: Frank Loftus, Jennie Antoine, Anne Jones, Graham Bentley, Fred & Mary Wylie, Ruth Whiteside, Anne Smith, Kath Hywel-Buckley, Joe Ainsworth, John Lavelle, Margaret Fearn, Jean Bolton, Tony Bolton, Phoebe Rowlings, Patrick Gilligan, Robin Upton, Michael Golowicz, Brian Craig, and all those in the Hospice, Hospital, Rest Homes & Convents. **May God give them His healing grace.**

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

Copies of the 2023 Lancaster Diocesan Directory are available from Bill Whiteside, price £5.