



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



Sunday 24th December 2023, 4th Sunday of Advent - Year 'B'
 Parish Priest: Rev Peter D. Clarke - 01253 737037
 Deacons: Rev Michael Harrison - 01253 730508, Rev David Pope 07950844747
 & Rev William Riley (Retired)

Weekend 23rd / 24th December - 4th Sunday of Advent

Sat 23rd Dec 6pm St. Joseph's George McKeon

Sun 24th Dec 9:15am St. Joseph's People of the Parishes

**Sun 24th Dec 10:30am St. Peter's Intentions of Simon Waddington
 Christmas Masses:**

Sun 24th 6.00pm St. Joseph's Robert 'Bob' Cookson

8pm St. Peter's Deceased of Murphy & Mason Families

Mon 25th 9.15am St. Joseph's Harrison Bretherton

Mon 25th 10.30am St. Peter's Sister Teresa Malone

12noon Mass at Stella Matutina

Tues 26th Dec 10am St. Joseph's Freda McGuinness

Wed 27th 9am St. Peter's For a Successful Operation

Thurs 28th 10am St. Joseph's Special Intentions (K)

Weekend 30th / 31st December - The Feast of the Holy Family

Sat 30th Dec 6pm St. Joseph's Kate Golightly

Sun 31st 9:15am St. Joseph's Deceased of Gillett & Nickson Families

Sun 31st Dec 10.30am St. Peter's People of the Parishes

Confession is also available by arrangement with Fr. Peter. Tel: 737037.

Message from Fr. Peter: And a very happy and holy Christmas to you all... when it comes! First of all we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. And let's not forget that Christmas, like Easter, has its own Octave, eight days of especial celebration, taking us right through to the beginning of 2024. And on top of the Christmas Octave, almost everyday of the Octave has its own celebration too. Tuesday 26th is the Feast of St. Stephen, upon which Good Wenceslas famously looked out. St. Stephen is honoured as the First Christian Martyr, whose death and immediate entrance into heaven remind us of the consequences of that very first Christmas. On Wednesday 27th we remember St. John, the youngest Apostle, the only one to stay faithful with Christ throughout the crucifixion, who tradition tells us stayed with our Blessed Mother Mary after the resurrection, and gave us the fourth Gospel, the prologue of which tells us so much about Jesus as the Light coming into the world. Thursday is the Feast of the Holy Innocents, murdered by Herod in his search for the King of the Jews, and venerated now as martyrs. Friday 29th is the English Feast of St. Thomas Becket, famously murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by the henchmen of King Henry II, and the weekend gives us the Feast of the Holy Family, and we listen to the story of Jesus being presented in the Temple, with the Good Man Simeon proclaiming Jesus as the 'Light to the Gentiles', but also prophesying Jesus' death on the cross, the sorrow of which would pierce the soul of his Mother, before we celebrate the Feast of the Mother of God on January 1st! What a wonderful week! Let's make sure that Christmas is not just one day, but one week leading us to a whole year, that as the Parishes of St. Joseph and St. Peter, we can celebrate together the love of Christ, come to this earth on the first Christmas day, and who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen! And... when it comes... a very Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas to you all. I look forward to celebrating our Christmas Services with you, and to sharing together a wonderful New Year. Fr. P.

Huge Thanks to everyone who came along to the wonderful Joint Parish Christmas Quiz Night. A great time was had by all. Especial thanks to the quiz questioners, the cooks, the Ukulele Orchestra, and all who organized a great event. Let's look forward to more joint socials in the New Year, and please continue to support these great fun fund raisers for our parishes. And Huge Thanks (2) to everyone who organised and attended the Advent Meditation and drinks in my house afterwards - including a surprise appearance from the Bishop!

Unwanted Christmas Presents: If you have any extra presents or something which you might not be using, please bring them in to Church so that if suitable they can be distributed to those in need, or used as fund raising prizes for our parish gatherings. Even socks from Aunty Brenda are welcome (unworn)! (I won't tell Aunty Brenda.) Incidentally, *sharing socks is a very Christian act: it's good for the sole.* I'll get my coat... and put the crackers in the bin...

CRIB OFFERINGS

Bishop Paul has asked that our Crib Offerings this year be donated to the work of the **Holy Family Parish in GAZA**. Please be as generous as you can be. **Thank you.**

Christmas Mass Times:

Sun 24 Dec 6pm at SJ's: Children's Christmas Mass - All children are asked to come dressed as a character from the Christmas Story: Mary, Joseph, an Angel, a Shepherd, a King, or an Ox, Donkey, or sheep, to create a 'living crib'. All Welcome!

8pm at St Peter's: CandleLit Christmas Mass with Carols and Readings from 7.30pm.

Mon 25 Dec: 9:15am at SJ's and 10.30am at St Peter's: Christmas Morning Mass.

St. Vincent de Paul Society South Sudan Baby Feeding Appeal 2023

We have now launched our annual appeal on behalf of the SVP for your help for the people of South Sudan and in particular for the feeding of destitute babies and children. South Sudan, independent from Sudan since 2011 after its own gruesome and long civil war has a population of 11.5 million. With 70% of the population experiencing shortages, the SVP Baby Feeding Centres provide daily meals to babies and young children in some of the poorest communities, but they need our help to fund this vital lifesaving work. Over the years you have generously supported the SVP in this work and we cannot thank you enough. Sadly, these poor people continue to need our help to keep their babies and young children alive, so once again we raise our voices on behalf of them and ask for your support. SVP members will be handing out donation forms as you leave church today. These can be returned with your kind donations up to Christmas and into the New Year. Cheques should be made payable to 'Twinning - South Sudan Appeal' and please do Gift Aid your donation if you are a taxpayer. Thank you and God bless, Deacon Michael.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Please continue to pray for: Jennie Antoine, Anne Jones, Graham Bentley, Fred & Mary Wylie, Anne Smith, Kath Hywel-Buckley, John Lavelle, Jean Bolton, Tony Bolton, Patrick Gilligan, Michael Golowicz, Brian Craig, Greta Turner, Anne Hayes, Deacon William Riley, Dorothy Riley, Winefred Byrnes, Judith Cross, Red Wood Farago, and all those in the Hospice, Hospital, Rest Homes & Convents. **May God give them His healing grace.**

2024 Diocesan Directories are available at the back of Church priced £6. See where the Bishop has moved all your favourite priests to!

**Responsorial Psalm for
4th Sunday of Advent
and the response is:**

**"I WILL SING FOR EVER
OF YOUR LOVE, O LORD"**

'Thank You'

Collection Sunday 17th December:- **£527.40.**
South Sudan Appeal:- **£165.20** (Running total **£310.20**).

Further donations:-

Sick & Retired Priests:- **£40.00.**

World Missions:- **£5.00.**

Diocesan Poor Missions :- **£3.00.**

Many thanks to all who contributed.

Sanctuary Lamp Bookings -

Red Lamps: *"Rose Cooney"*

and "In loving memory of Kenneth"

Our Lady's Lamp: *"In loving memory of
Mary Elizabeth & William Sumner"*

Sue has room in her diary for new bookings. To book, email Sue on info@stpeterslytham.co.uk (or speak to her). Suggested **minimum** donation - £5 each lamp.

Please pray for all who have died *recently* -
and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

From Sunday 24th Dec to Saturday 30th Dec:

Sister Gonzalez, Margaret Beck, Molly Brown, Mary Tomlinson, James Simpson, Kevin Craig, Thomas Whiteside, Winifred Baines, Kathleen Windley, Bob Cookson, Rt. Rev. Brian Charles Foley (3rd Bishop of Lancaster), Edith Robinson, Mary Morris, George Smith (Jun.), Emily E. Illingworth, Joyce Lloyd, Joseph W. Ashton, Stanislaus Chevsky, Mary Plumb, Kathleen Kyte, Marion Cross, Jeff Woodburn, John Donegan, Sister Fidelis CP, Jessie Hope, Sister Gemma CP, Stuart Ridgway, Peter F. Bamber, Msgr. James Hook. **May they rest in peace. Amen**

From Sunday 31st Dec to Saturday 6th January 2024:

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 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, Sister McCarten, Frances Collings, Sheilagh Phillips, Ron Smith, Josephine Fleming, Alicia Russell (nee Ashton), Deacon John Kennedy (Cleator), Mattie Simpson, Audrey McNutt, Michael Ryan. **May they rest in peace. Amen**

If, due to circumstances, you are unable to attend Mass, this is how to make a Spiritual Communion

Desire, with earnest longing, to receive our Lord present — Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity — in the Blessed Sacrament. Say this prayer of St. Alphonsus de' Ligouri: "My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You are already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; do not let me ever be separated from You. Amen".