



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



Sunday 31st December 2023, Feast of the Holy Family - 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 30th / 31st December - The Feast of the Holy Family

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

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

Sun 31st Dec 10:30am St. Peter's People of the Parishes

Mon 1st January 10am St. Peter's Deceased of the Hindley Family

Tues 2nd Jan 10am St. Joseph's Ursula Cooper *followed by Exposition & Confessions 10.30am-11am*

Wed 10am Saltcotes Cemetery Fr. Frank Flynn

Thurs 4th 12noon St. Joseph's Requiem Mass Audrey McSherry

Fri 5th 2pm St. Joseph's Joy Warwick

Weekend 6th / 7th January - The Epiphany of the Lord

Sat 6th Dec 6pm St. Joseph's People of the Parishes

Sun 7th 9:15am St. Joseph's John Worsley

Sun 7th Jan 10.30am St. Peter's In Memory of a Dear Brother

Sacrament of Reconciliation with Exposition: Tuesday 10.30-11am at St. Joseph's

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

This week's readings: 1st Reading Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3 - The childless Abraham and Sarah are given a child by God for their goodness, a son, that Abraham names Isaac.

2nd Reading Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 - The writer discusses Abraham and Sarah's great faith, and their great gift of many descendants.

Gospel: Luke 22:22-40 - The presentation of Jesus in the Temple, with Simeon making a great prophecy about the future of Jesus, and how this will affect Mary.

FIRST WEEK OF 2024 at St. Joseph's and St. Peter's

This Monday 1st January: Mass at St. Peter's at 10am for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God,
 followed by Tea and Mince pies in the Parish Hall.

This Wednesday 3rd January: Mass at Saltcotes Cemetery at 10am.

This Friday 5th January: 1st Friday Mass & Anointing of the Sick at St. Joseph's at 2pm.
 followed by Refreshments in the Parish Hall.

Message from Fr. Peter:

Continued Christmas Greetings! And a very Happy New Year to you all... when it comes! We begin every New Year with the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, putting 2024 under her patronage. *'This celebration, assigned to January 1 in conformity with the ancient liturgy of the city of Rome, is meant to commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation. It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the holy Mother ... through whom we were found worthy ... to receive the Author of life'. (Marialis cultus - 1974). In the Gospel for this Feast we conclude the stories of Jesus' birth that we have been listening to over the past week as we are told that Mary 'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'. These are the words of Pope Saint John Paul II on this Gospel: 'The Octave of Christmas ends on the first day of the New Year, which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, venerated as the Mother of God. The Gospel reminds us that she "kept all these things, pondering them in her heart". So she did in Bethlehem, on Golgotha at the foot of the cross, and on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended in the Upper Room. And so she does today too. The Mother of God and of human beings keeps in her heart all of humanity's problems, great and difficult, and meditates upon them. The Alma Redemptoris Mater walks with us and guides us with motherly tenderness towards the future. Thus she helps humanity cross all the "thresholds" of the years, the centuries, the millenniums, by sustaining their hope in the One who is Lord of history.'* Our Lady, Mother of the Holy Family, Wife of Joseph, Queen of Peter and the Apostles pray for us and our Parishes this New Year. Amen.

What a wonderful Christmas we celebrated at St. Joseph's and St. Peter's. Over the festive season we celebrated 4 beautiful masses together, and huge thanks to everyone who made them so special. And huge thanks from me personally to: Michael and David, my friends and deacons; our Altar Serving teams and those who work in our Sacristies; the amazing Organists, Musicians and Choirs (*I tell everyone how blessed I am with the music in my parishes*); The Readers; Ministers (*both inside and outside Church*); Welcomers; Collectors; Cleaners; Counters; the Flower People and

everyone who decorated our Churches, the Bell Ringers (*apparently I am the only Catholic Parish Priest in England with two working towers!*); everyone who works in the house, and the grounds; Eileen in the Office; those who look after the buildings (*a 'Forth Bridge' job*); the refreshment people (*on Sundays and First Fridays*); and those who Fr. Peter gets to whip up refreshments at various points (*usually at the last minute - you know who you are!*); St. Peter's SVP and St. Joseph's Care and all those who help with outreach to those in need not least who bring along food and those who distribute it for us; our social event and fund raiser organisers; all those who work with the children - the Catechists, Children's Liturgists, the Teachers, everyone at St. Peter's School, the Parents, and all the children; anyone who should be on this list but isn't (*forgive me!*); and everyone who comes along to our Parishes and makes them living signs of the Body of Christ in the world today. May the coming year bring us many blessings. Blessings and thanks to you all.

Further Personal Thanks from Fr. Peter for all the kind cards, offerings and gifts over the festive season, and from Tobias for the treats and toys. God bless you all.

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 to 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.

First Holy Communion 2024: application forms for the Sacramental Course which will be beginning in February, for children in year 4 and above, are available from Fr. Peter before/after Sunday Masses. Forms *must* be returned by Sunday February 18th.

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.**

**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.**

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 Auntie Shirley are welcome (unworn)! (I won't tell Auntie Shirley.) Incidentally, I used to have a few jokes about pairs of matching socks, but I've lost one. I'll get my coat... and the leftover Christmas crackers...

'Thank You'

Collection Sunday 24th December:- **£406.80.**
South Sudan Appeal:- **£306.40** (Running total **£616.60**).
Crib Offerings:- **£22.70.**
Donation for Christmas Flowers:- **£50.00.**
Thank you for your generosity.

**Sanctuary Lamp Bookings -
Red Lamp: "Andy - B"**

Our Lady's Lamp:

"For a healthy and happy New Year"

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* - *Audrey McSherry* and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

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 Aston), 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**

2024 Diocesan Directories are available priced £6.

**Responsorial Psalm for
Feast of the Holy Family
and the response is:**

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

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