

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

I wish everyone a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

Let us not forget all who will be spending Christmas alone, and also those who are recently bereaved.

I would also like to say a big **thank you** for all the cards and gifts received for Christmas.

Each and every one is greatly appreciated.

At this challenging and difficult time I urge you all to take care and stay safe. God bless you all.

Father Stephen Woolley

EXTRA MASS

Due to the Covid situation, Father Stephen is offering an **extra Christmas Mass at 9.00pm at St. Joseph's on Christmas Eve.**

Hopefully, this will ease the pressure for seats at all the other Masses.

HOLLY & FLOWERS AT CHRISTMAS

Once again this year, Father Stephen is asking for your generosity in donating a poinsettia plant, preferably in red or gold pots. They can be dropped off at the presbytery at any time leading up to Christmas. The church will be cleaned and decorated immediately after the 9.30am Mass on Christmas Eve. If you are able to come along to help clean and decorate the church Father Stephen would greatly appreciate all help offered. Mince pies and a cup of tea will be served. Thanking you in anticipation.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

O mother of all tenderness,

During this holy season we pray
In thanksgiving for family and friends,
May we never take them for granted.

We pray for all whom Christmas brings

Little joy but added worry:

Comfort them and grace them with your peace.

Give courage to all who suffer oppression,
And make plain the way of help.

Grant to all of us to spread the Spirit
Of your Son, whose birthday we keep,
Through acts of kindness
And words of goodwill,
This day and forever more.
Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome to the Church and Parish Community **Rocko William Wild** and **Kayla Marie Gorgees** who were baptised at St. Joseph's last weekend. We welcome Rocko and Kayla into the Church and commend their parents for passing on to them the Faith of the Apostles.

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers **Susan Carroll, Clare Kirrane, Bridget Hudson** and **Brian Lilley** who have died recently. May they rest in peace.

We extend to their family and friends our deepest sympathy at this sad and extremely difficult time.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP

The Holy Family Cafod Group would like to thank everyone who was able to stay behind after Mass last Sunday for mince pies and mulled wine. £86.40 was raised for Cafod.

The group would also like to thank all parishioners for their continuing generosity. We have been able to send Cafod £400 this year to help in the vital work which is being done throughout the world.

VACANCY

We are advertising for a vacancy for the Headteacher at St. Joseph's Primary School for Easter 2022.

If you are interested please see the advert on the school website.

MUMS-TO-BE

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we are asked to pray for all who are waiting for the birth of a child, may they be given patience and strength. We are asked to pray for all who work in maternity units and with parents. May they always recognise and cherish the gift of life. We also pray for those who are trying for a child, that they are given courage and that their hope is rewarded. Father Stephen will bless all mums to be at the end of each Mass.

ADVENT ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Next Thursday Father Stephen will celebrate the last Holy Hour of Adoration & Confessions between 6.00pm and 7.00pm. Father Stephen will be sat in front of Our Lady's altar to hear confessions during the Holy Hour.

This will give us an opportunity for quiet reflective prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

BLESSING OF CRIBS

Today Sunday 19th December Father Stephen is inviting families to bring their family cribs for a blessing. The Parish Centre will be open before 11.00am Mass to set your cribs up. Father Stephen will bless the cribs after 11.00am Mass, when there will be tea & coffee, mince pies and Christmas music.

MONDAYS CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

Tomorrow Monday 20th December 12.30pm – 2.00pm
Why not come along, meet friends and fellow parishioners in the week before Christmas.

SERVICE OF CAROLS AND NINE READINGS

Tomorrow Monday 20th December at 7.00pm. Come and hear once again the beautiful story of Christmas. After the service, join Father Stephen in the Parish Centre for Christmas drinks and mince pies.

CRIB SERVICE

For many years, a highlight of people's Christmas has been the crib service. Unfortunately, due to the Covid Pandemic, once again this year we are unable to gather in the normal way. However, Father Stephen invites families to come along from 3.00pm until 3.45pm on Christmas Eve to make a visit and to pray at the crib, thanking God for His goodness this Advent, for all families in need at Christmas time and to recognise the creation God declared to be good.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the one time we will all go to church and celebrate something that happened a long time ago..... but that something that 'happened a very long time ago' is with us every day.

We go to church to celebrate the wonderful Christmas message that God loves us so much that he sent his Son to be with us, to support us, to endure with us, to share life's struggles and to guide us. Our challenge is to move forward through life's joys and sorrows confident in God's love. Our challenge is to make it to next Christmas better and stronger than we are today.

CAFOD 38th CHRISTMAS FUN RUN/WALK

(3km & 5km) on Monday 27th December at "The Mystery", Wavertree, Liverpool at 11.00am – If interested please contact Kieron 07785 344102 – lifts can be provided.

In addition Fr Stephen will be walking the same distance at Sale Water Park on that Monday 27th at 11.00am. All walkers/runners welcome. Sponsorship will be collected weekend 18/19 December and money/donations collected after Christmas.

Help CAFOD help the poorest in communities around the world.