

HAPPY
New Year

NEWSLETTER
31ST DEC 2023

Fr Kevin writes...

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

AS WE CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS, WE CONSIDER THIS WEEK HOW ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT FAMILY LIFE WAS FOR THE BOY JESUS. FOR CHRISTIAN FAMILIES, THE LIFE OF THE HOLY FAMILY AT NAZARETH PROCLAIMS THE VERY STRUCTURE AND NATURE OF GOD'S PLAN FOR HUMAN SOCIETY. AS CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS, WE ARE AWARE THAT THE NATURAL FAMILY UNIT OF FATHER, MOTHER AND CHILDREN IS VITAL FOR THE WELLBEING OF SOCIETY. AS THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SAYS; '... THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY IS A COMMUNITY OF PERSONS, A SIGN AND IMAGE OF THE COMMUNION OF THE FATHER AND THE SON IN THE HOLY SPIRIT ... IT IS A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY'. EVERY FAMILY UNIT CAN BE, WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED, 'A DOMESTIC CHURCH' THAT CAN SHINE WITH THE LOVE OF THE GOSPEL. SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II SAID: "... RECONCILIATION AND PRAYER, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT ... AND A SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE, WORK AND SOLIDARITY ARE TYPICAL FEATURES THAT MAKE THE FAMILY AT NAZARETH A MODEL FOR EVERY HOME ..."

* THE OPENING PRAYER THANKS GOD OUR FATHER FOR GIVING US THE EXAMPLE OF THE HOLY FAMILY AND GOES ON TO PRAY: "... GRANT THAT WE MAY IMITATE THEM IN PRACTISING THE VIRTUES OF FAMILY LIFE ... AND SO ... DELIGHT ONE DAY IN ETERNAL REWARDS ..."

* OUR FIRST READING IS FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS. THE LORD PROMISES ABRAHAM THAT HIS WIFE SARAH WILL BEAR HIM A CHILD WHO WILL BE THE HEIR TO ALL HE POSSESSES: "... SARAH CONCEIVED AND BORE A SON TO ABRAHAM ... AT THE TIME GOD HAD PROMISED. ABRAHAM NAMED THE SON BORN TO HIM ISAAC ..."

* THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS. THE WRITER GIVES HIS READERS THE EXAMPLE OF ABRAHAM'S WIFE SARAH WHO: "... WAS MADE ABLE TO CONCEIVE, BECAUSE SHE BELIEVED THAT HE WHO MADE THE PROMISE WOULD BE FAITHFUL ..."

* OUR GOSPEL READING THIS WEEK TELLS OF THE DAY MARY AND JOSEPH TOOK THE INFANT CHRIST TO THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM TO DEDICATE HIM TO THE LORD. AFTER THIS: "... THEY WENT BACK TO GALILEE, TO THEIR OWN TOWN OF NAZARETH. MEANWHILE THE CHILD GREW TO MATURITY ... AND GOD'S FAVOUR WAS WITH HIM ..."

DEUS NOSTER IN TERRIS VISUS EST ...
OUR GOD HAS APPEARED ON THE EARTH ...

*Live stream: <https://www.youtube.com/@rp54996/streams>

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MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

✠ SATURDAY, 30TH DEC, AT 5.30PM: VIGIL: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

✠ SUNDAY, 31ST DEC, AT 8AM AND 10AM: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH, FEAST

✠ MONDAY, 1ST JAN TO THURSDAY, 4TH JAN:
NO MASS AT ST FRANCIS

✠ FRIDAY, 5TH JAN AT 7.30PM: MASS OF THE DAY
[FRIDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE BEFORE EPIPHANY]

✠ SATURDAY, 6TH JAN AT 10AM: ANNIVERSARY MASS
FOR EILEEN BERKELEY R.I.P

*CONFESSIONS AFTER MASS

*SEE MASS TIMES AT WINDSOR, ST EDWARD'S FOR THOSE DATES



WE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:

MARIA WILLIAMS, BRIAN LYNCH, PAT SASSI, SIMON SAINT, ERNESTO AND NAPOLEON MANNOIS, JANE THOMAS, DANIEL OFFER, MARIE HALL, NINA MULLINS, GEORGIA MACKINLEY, EILEEN HOARE, SR. JOSEPHINE COLLIER, PAULINE PAINTER & GERALD GRIFFITHS.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO ADD A NAME TO THIS LIST, WITH CONSENT, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE A NAME REMOVED, KINDLY EMAIL OR PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE. WHATSAPP: 07851 092431



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

- ✦ SAT, 30TH DEC AT 5.30 PM: SUE POWELL R.I.P
- ✦ SUN, 31ST DEC AT 8.30 AM: PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
- ✦ SUN, 31ST DEC AT 10 AM: ELSY GEORGE R.I.P
- ✦ FRI, 5TH JAN AT 7.30PM: GOD'S BLESSING ON THE NEW YEAR
- ✦ SAT, 6TH JAN AT 10 AM: EILEEN BERKELEY R.I.P
- ✦ SAT, 6TH JAN AT 5.30 PM: MARIA AND WILLIAM VONKOMER R.I.P
- ✦ SUN, 7TH JAN AT 8.30: MARIA R.I.P

TONY AND FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES OF LATE EILEEN

BERKELEY TO A REMEMBRANCE MASS ON

SATURDAY,

6TH JANUARY AT 10 AM.



TO LEAVE A VOICE OR TEXT MESSAGE FOR THE PARISH OFFICE, KINDLY WHATSAPP US ON 07851 092431. THANKS!



LITTLE FRANCISCAN TODDLER GROUP
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR TODDLERS AND FAMILIES! SEE YOU SOON IN JANUARY!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD
HAPPY NEW YEAR! SEE YOU SOON IN JAN-24!

WE ACCEPT CHILDREN FROM 3Y-0 TO YEAR 3. ENROLMENT FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. FOR FURTHER QUERIES, EMAIL **SUE ROCHE** ON: **SUE.ROCHE1@BTINTERNET.COM**



PRAYER GROUP: WALKING WITH GOD

EVERY **WED** AT **6.15PM** AT **ST FRANCIS CHURCH**, FOLLOWED BY MASS AND ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

ROSARY SAID EVERY SATURDAY AT 9.30 AM, BEFORE MASS, AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA.



LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE: WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE; WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON; WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH; WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE; WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT; WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.

O DIVINE MASTER, GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE, TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND, TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE. FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE, IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE PARDONED, AND IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE. AMEN.



FATHER KEVIN WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE PEOPLE OF ST FRANCIS FOR THEIR KIND WISHES, FOR THEIR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS AT THIS HOLY SEASON.

HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR FLOWER ARRANGERS, CLEANERS, ALTAR SERVERS, READERS, SACRISTANS AND ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED IN ANYWAY TO ENABLE US TO CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS FEAST WITH JOY AND THANKSGIVING.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MUSICIANS AND SINGERS WHO HAVE ENRICHED OUR LITURGIES THIS CHRISTMAS!

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD TO GRANT US A PEACEFUL AND FULFILLING NEW YEAR!

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR YOUR PARISH PRIEST ENVELOPES

THE ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE THIS WEEKEND AT THE PORCH OF THE CHURCH. GOD BLESS!



HELPING OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN

WE ARE IN GREAT NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME. IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN SPARE TIME ON A SUNDAY MORNING TO HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT PART OF OUR PARISH MISSION, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - THE PROGRAMME BEGINS IN MID-JANUARY 2024!

CAN YOU HELP?

A SINGLE MALE, REGULAR MASS-GOING PARISHIONER IS SEEKING RENTED ACCOMMODATION OR LODGINGS IN THE NEW YEAR. CAN YOU HELP? PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU CAN.



MESSAGE FROM
HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE 57TH
WORLD DAY OF PEACE
1 JANUARY 2024

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND PEACE

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR, A TIME OF GRACE WHICH THE LORD GIVES TO EACH ONE OF US, I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS GOD'S PEOPLE, THE VARIOUS NATIONS, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT, THE LEADERS OF THE DIFFERENT RELIGIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY, AND ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR TIME, IN ORDER TO OFFER MY FERVENT GOOD WISHES FOR PEACE.

SACRED SCRIPTURE ATTESTS THAT GOD BESTOWED HIS SPIRIT UPON HUMAN BEINGS SO THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE "SKILL AND UNDERSTANDING AND KNOWLEDGE IN EVERY CRAFT" (Ex 35:31). HUMAN INTELLIGENCE IS AN EXPRESSION OF THE DIGNITY WITH WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ENDOWED BY THE CREATOR, WHO MADE US IN HIS OWN IMAGE AND LIKENESS (CF. GEN 1:26), AND ENABLED US TO RESPOND CONSCIOUSLY AND FREELY TO HIS LOVE. IN A PARTICULAR WAY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MANIFEST THIS FUNDAMENTALLY RELATIONAL QUALITY OF HUMAN INTELLIGENCE; THEY ARE BRILLIANT PRODUCTS OF ITS CREATIVE POTENTIAL. [... READ THE WHOLE ARTICLE ON THE LINK BELOW...]

SOURCE:

[HTTPS://WWW.VATICAN.VA/CONTENT/FRANCESCO/EN/MESSAGES/PEACE/DOCUMENTS/20231208-MESSAGGIO-57GIORNATAMONDIALE-PACE2024.HTML](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20231208-messaggio-57GIORNATAMONDIALE-PACE2024.HTML)

ST FRANCIS
FATIMA DEVOTIONS
KSC HOME PRAYER GROUP
Monday - Friday at 1.30pm
30 Minutes of praying the Rosary
As requested by Our Lady
ZOOM ID & PASSWORD BELOW
MON 1st January - FRI 5th January 2024
ZOOM ID : 747 3136 9385
PASSWORD : rosary



Sponsored by the **KNIGHTS of ST COLUMBA - THAMES VALLEY**
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