



Diocesan Year of Prayer and Vocation

Saints Philip and James: Bedford

Lead us to heaven, Father: lead us to heaven

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C

Psalter week 4

23rd December 2018

Parish Priest: Fr Wayne Coughlin

Deacons: Revv. Tony Quinlan, Crispin Walkling-Lea

Propers for the Fourth week of Advent

Mass Intentions and Services

PJ – Ss Philip and James HC – Holy Cross SJR – St John Rigby

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Responsorial Psalm

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Sat 22 Dec
6:00pm HC

Feria - O King

Peter McLoughlin

Sun 23 Dec
8:00am PJ
9:15am HC
11:00am PJ

Fourth Sunday of Advent - O Emmanuel

Patrick Reddin, RIP
Mass for the Parish (Missa pro Populo)
Benjamin Stephen Ostley, first birthday

Mon 24 Dec
9:30am PJ

Advent Feria

Clergy and Religious suffering with ill-health
after Mass - Adoration and Benediction

2:30pm IRC

Mass at Yarlswood

*****The Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ*****

Vigil Youth Mass for the Parish (Missa pro Populo)
Sacred Readings and Carols
Prayers in the petition box.

6:00pm HC
9:30pm PJ
10:00pm PJ

Tue 25 Dec
8:00am PJ
9:15am HC
11:00am PJ

The Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ

Stephen May, RIP
Ann and Jerry Maxwell
All Souls in Purgatory

Wed 26 Dec
9:30am PJ

St Stephen, Deacon and Protomartyr - feast
Dolcia in thanksgiving for third birthday

Thu 27 Dec
9:30am HC

St John, Apostle and Evangelist - feast
Holy souls

Fri 28 Dec
9:30am HC

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs - feast

Bernie Logue
after Mass - Adoration and Benediction

Sat 29 Dec
9:30am PJ
6:00pm HC

St Thomas Becket, Martyr and Bishop - feast

Holy Souls in Purgatory
Terrence Kerrigan, RIP

Sun 30 Dec
8:00am PJ
9:15am HC
11:00am PJ

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Eileen Barron, RIP
Mass for the Parish (Missa pro Populo)
Jimmy Sheil, Priest, RIP - *Jesu Mercy, Mary pray*

Morning Prayer: before the morning daily Mass or Liturgy; Monday to Saturday. There is **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Benediction** on Monday and Friday.

Parish Priests must offer one Mass per weekend for their parish.

The Funeral Liturgy for Patrick Joseph Harte, RIP, is on Wednesday, 2nd January in SsP&J at 1.30pm. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for all who grieve at this time.

The Funeral Mass for Anthony Byrne, RIP, is on Thursday, 3rd January in SsP&J at 12:30pm. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Tony.

Propers for the Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord: 6:00pm

Responsorial Psalm

Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

Propers for The Nativity of the Lord during the night: 10:00pm

Responsorial Psalm

Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

Propers for The Nativity of the Lord: 8:00am

Entrance Antiphon

Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and he will be called Wondrous God, Prince of Peace, Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end.

Responsorial Psalm

This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.

Communion Antiphon

Rejoice, O Daughter Sion; lift up praise, Daughter Jerusalem: Behold, your King will come, the Holy One and Saviour of the world.

Propers for The Nativity of the Lord: 9:15 and 11:00am

Responsorial Psalm

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Gospel Acclamation

A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Communion Antiphon

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

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Fr Wayne is the Diocesan Director of Missio. Missio is the Pope's official charity for overseas mission and is part of the worldwide network of Pontifical Mission Societies.

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Rev. Crispin Walkling-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; deaconcrispin@virginmedia.com

Any items for the Newsletter to the editor please. Tel: 07986 357320; charlie.stallard@gmail.com

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Diocesan Schools' Year of Missio

From January next year schools will receive a monthly mailing with resources from this papal charity and this will culminate in a Missio-themed Schools' Mass next October. Please pray for God's blessing on this endeavour.

Prayers of Focus

Please pray for the success of the charities we are collecting for this year; **Mission Together** and our **Parish Youth Project**.

The Jesse Giving Tree

The **Jesse Tree icon** at the back of the Church is for people to pray before.

Why is the Jesse Giving Tree a stylised olive tree?

The olive tree is mentioned throughout Sacred Scripture: The dove from the ark brought an olive-branch to Noah (Genesis 8:11). It is mentioned among the most notable trees of Palestine where it has long been cultivated (Deuteronomy 6:11 and 8:8). It is also mentioned in the first Old Testament parable (that of Jotham, Judges 9:9) and is named among the blessings of the "good land". It is an emblem of prosperity, beauty and religious privilege (Psalm 52:8, Jeremiah 11:16 and Hosea 14:6). The two "witnesses" mentioned in Apocalypse 11:4 are spoken of as "two olive trees" standing before God. It is also, today, the most characteristic tree of Palestine and the oldest olive trees are those enclosed in the Garden of Gethsemane. St Paul uses the metaphor of the shoot of the "olive tree, wild by nature" (Romans 11:17 onwards) which needs to be grafted into the good olive tree. Thus united, the tree will be greatly fruitful. For St Paul this referred to the Gentiles. However, perhaps we might see in this beautiful image our 'grafting' (through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism) into the Church, through which, of course, we frequently receive the sap of medicinal grace in the Sacraments (most particularly the Holy Eucharist and Confession) so that we too might bear much fruit in our Christian discipleship.



Donations for our two charitable causes can be left below the tree itself (before and after Mass) and also in the marked wall-safe in the narthex (whenever the Church is open). Linked with the Jesse Giving Tree, which takes the form of a stylised olive tree, and throughout Advent, the glass-topped display case (near the image of Our Lady[front right]) will contain the following items from the Holy Land: • rosary beads made from olive wood • holding crosses made from olive wood • rosary beads made from olive stones (pits) • Christmas Tree decorations made from olive wood • olive tree leaves • olive oil.

Donations offered at the Giving Tree and Christmas Tree at PJ will support our appeal (and our own youth project linked to the new Catholic Youth Minister); likewise, monies collected at the Christmas Crib in HC will support the work of the papal charity and our Catholic Youth Minister. A particular **Thank You** for all those who have donated to the charities with a particular thank you for the anonymous gift of £100.

Please see the display stand for more details. Every single contribution to the Jesse Giving Tree (large or small) will make a difference to the lives of young people in our community and across the world. Books about the ancient Catholic tradition of the Jesse Tree are available to loan from the narthex of the Church.

The following plaques will be added to the Jesse Giving Tree:

Fourth Sunday of Advent (violet - Our Lady):

- The Prayer Shawl - St Zachariah and St Elizabeth
- The Shell - St John the Baptist
- The Angel - Archangel Gabriel
- The Star and Town - Bethlehem
- The Hammer - St Joseph
- The Lily - Our Lady
- The Manger - Jesus Christ

Christmas Day (white - Nativity of Jesus Christ)

The white candle, which is added to the Advent Crown on Christmas Day, bears a wax image of a fruit-bearing olive tree and a dove holding an olive branch in its beak (taken from an old Paschal Candle). Thus the Christ-candle is the culmination of the olive tree imagery that has been used throughout Advent; it is a sign of the beginning of our renewal and restoration that comes about in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ and which reaches its zenith in His Resurrection.

Cards are still available in the narthex with the times of Christmas Masses.

Plenary indulgence

A Plenary Indulgence is the full remission of temporal punishment due for sins which have been forgiven in the Sacrament of Confession. The Indulgence draws on the merit of Christ's sacrifice on the Holy Cross and the virtues and penances of the Saints. To obtain the New Year's Plenary Indulgence (for oneself or for someone deceased) a person must: • Receive Holy Communion on 31st December or 1st January • Go to Confession (within eight days of the celebration) • Have no attachment to sin • Pray for the Intentions of the Pope (by saying one Our Father and one Hail Mary); Pray the Te Deum (on 31st December) or Veni Creator Spiritus (on 1st January).

Mass for Mary, the Mother of God on Tuesday, 1st January 2019 will be at 12:00noon in HC. At this Mass we shall pray for God's blessing upon our parish family and for the pastoral initiatives we shall undertake in the new year.

Bedford Foodbank

Thank you for your continued support. We desperately need: UHT Milk, UHT Fruit Juice, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit, Sugar, Tinned Meat, Deodorants and Washing-up liquid. Contributions to the Parish Room as usual please.

Old stamps for the Leprosy Mission Box

We're still collecting the stamps from the many envelopes we receive at this time of the year. Place these in the Leprosy Mission box in the narthex of the Church. This gesture will greatly help this charity. Details from Ann Cawley.

Church Repository

Our Repository is stocked with new items, particularly those related to this festive season. Why not take a look and see if there isn't something to buy for a loved one at the last minute. Profits from the Repository help support the **training of a seminarian in Kenya**. Keep **CHRIST** in **CHRISTmas**, use only religious cards and stamps. Our supply of religious stamps has proven very popular; only First-Class left. See Bernadette Skipper after 11:00am Mass. First class cost 67p and Second class cost 58p. Ridiculous prices, I know, but there you have it. *Editor*

SPUC Christmas Raffle

Be still your beating hearts; let not the pressures of Christmas pull you down. 'Tis the season for giving and Julia Scott (07773 079906) is still selling opportunities for not one, oh no!, but two gargantuan** Christmas Hampers. The draw will be after the 11:00am Mass on this Sunday. You have been warned!

**Gargantuan is almost certainly overstating their size *Editor*

Volunteer rotas are in folders in the narthex of the church.

Refreshments after the 11:00am Mass on Sunday

We still need more people to join the rota for coffee after 11am Mass on a Sunday. Tea, coffee and sugar provided; you just need to bring milk and biscuits.

Catholic Truth Society (CTS)

There are new resources in the CTS stand for you to buy. Many subjects are covered and they are all well worth a look. (Monies in the marked wall-safe)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:The rota for Jan-Mar 2019 is available for collection in the Rota Folder in the narthex. Ministers for the three Christmas Masses will be sorted out on the day.

Bedford Catholic Events: Website at www.catholicbedford.wordpress.com.

Confessions on Saturday:

Ss Philip & James: **10:00 - 10:30am**

Holy Cross: **5:15 - 5:45pm**

Confessions may also be heard by arrangement or in need at a reasonable time.

Baptisms: by arrangement. The next baptism preparation meeting is at Holy Cross at 7:30pm is on Wednesday, 16th January with Deacon Tony.

Weddings: at least six months' notice and with a Diocesan fee of £45.

How to ask for a Mass Intention: Email, telephone, write a letter, drop a note, beat a path to her door or send a carrier pigeon *Editor* to Maria Quinlan, Parish Secretary at SsP&J. An offering is fine, it is used for the mission of the parish, and should be placed in an envelope marked with your name and the intention previously booked.

Hospital Chaplain: Fr **Malcolm Bull** is back ministering at the hospital so people are asked to contact him in the first instance if they are admitted and are in need of sacramental care. His telephone number is 01234 350628.