

The Parish of St Dunstan and St Jude

Second Sunday after the Nativity

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Philip Harrop
Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr. John Waters
Deacon: Rev. Mr. David Fairbotham

Telephone: 0121 444 1386
Email: stdunstan.bham@rcaob.org.uk
Facebook: St Dunstan and St Jude's
Parish Twitter: stdunstanandstjude

Sunday 2nd January 2022
www.stdunstanandstjude.co.uk

Sat 1 st	SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD	11.00am	Holy Mass	Kevin and Baby Victoria Scott (RIP) Pro Populo
		11.30am-1.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		11.30am-12.30pm and 4.45pm-5.15pm	Confessions	
		5.30pm	Vigil Mass	Mrs Sheridan (RIP)
Sun 2 nd	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY	9.15am (<i>St Jude's</i>)	Holy Mass	Joe Regan (RIP)
		10.30am	Holy Mass	Brian McDaid (RIP Anni.)
		12noon	Holy Mass	Louise Doherty (RIP Anni.)
			<u>No Evening Mass</u>	
Mon 3 ^d	<i>Christmas Feria</i>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Peter Bartram (RIP Anni.)
Tues 4 th	<i>Christmas Feria</i>	10.00am (<i>St Jude's</i>)	Holy Mass	Michael Quinn (RIP 1 st Anni.)
		7.00pm	Holy Mass	Tom Beagan (RIP)
Wed 5 th	<i>Advent Feria</i>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Martha Noone (RIP)
Thurs 6 th	SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	9.30am	Holy Mass	Paddy McMahon (RIP)
		12noon (<i>St Jude's</i>)	Holy Mass	Joe McDonagh (RIP)
		7.00pm	Holy Mass	Paddy Foy
Fri 7 th	<i>Christmas Feria</i>	9.30pm	Holy Mass	Conway family (Ints.)
		7.00pm	Holy Mass	Ron Brookes (RIP)
Sat 8 th	<i>Christmas Feria</i>	11.00am	Holy Mass	Mary Masterson (RIP)
		11.30am-1.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		11.30am-12.30pm and 4.45pm-5.15pm	Confessions	
		5.30pm	Holy Mass	Sr Ursula Doherty (RIP)
Sun 9 th	FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	9.15am (<i>St Jude's</i>)	Holy Mass	Sheila Muddiman (Ints.)
		10.30am	Holy Mass	Edward and Monica Jenna (RIP)
		12 noon	Holy Mass	Thomas and Margaret McCarthy
		6.30pm	Holy Mass	McKenzie family

GUIDANCE FOR MASS

As the Covid virus is still circulating in our community the diocese is recommending continuing with **social distance, face coverings, and to sanitise our hands** as we enter and leave church.

Please consider other people and leave some space from the person next to you. Please also only sit on the pews with the green ticks on.

Receiving Holy Communion. There have been increasing occasions where people have walked away with the sacred host without consuming it. So:

- 1. It is very important for the respect we ought to give to the most Holy Sacrament, that if you do receive the holy eucharist in the hand, consume the host immediately before stepping away from the priest. Please also remove your face covering from your mouth immediately before so that you can receive.**
- 2. It is also respectful to leave a reasonable space before the person in front of you. There's no rush, and we won't run out of the Blessed Sacrament.**

A Message from the Bishops of England and Wales:

There is overwhelming evidence showing the effectiveness of vaccination in preventing serious illness, the further spread of the virus and ultimately death. The vaccination programme, therefore, serves the common good by protecting the population, especially the most vulnerable. Given that, at the present time, the numbers of people being infected is rising quickly, a collective effort is needed to combat this virus.

A very Happy New Year to you all. Let's hope that this year will be a little more happy and settled than the last! However good or bad we judge last year to be, there's an old Catholic tradition that each succeeding year is entitled 'the year of grace'. Therefore we are now living in *The Year of Grace 2022*.

Grace is an undeserved free gift of God. There is no greater gift than the gift of God's Son to be our Saviour that we celebrate with such great joy during the Christmas celebration. Such is this unique world, that how we count time itself is numbered from the year of the birth of Jesus Christ. The Year of Grace also reminds us that time itself is a gift. Our lives are a gift from God Himself. We pray that in the days to come, in this Year of Grace 2022, we may use the gift of our lives to give glory to the giver of all good gifts – Almighty God!

Thank you to all of those who gave so much in time and talent to enable the Christmas liturgies to be celebrated with great dignity. Of course, in the times in which we live, things once simple are no longer so. Therefore, thanks to all those stewards who gave of their time to sort out the tickets and seating for the Christmas Masses. Thanks also to those involved in the liturgies themselves – the altar servers and Godfrey and our musicians. The church looked beautiful for Christmas, so thanks to our dedicated cleaners, our artistic flower arrangers, and all involved with the erection and decoration of our Christmas trees and Crib.

Grateful thanks from Fr Philip and Fr John to you all for your very kind cards, gifts and Christmas offerings. Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions.

A message from the SVP. A huge and heartfelt thank you to the kind and giving members of St Dunstan's and St Jude's Parish who supported our venture to supply the makings of a Christmas dinner to families who are finding things difficult. Because of your wonderful generosity, we were able to make up around 100 hampers containing: turkey, potatoes, carrots, peas, stuffing, gravy, mince pies, tinned fruit, chocolate biscuits and chocolates.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

By the Epiphany, much of the colourful lights and trees of Christmas might have disappeared (especially those up since October), but for the Church the Christmas feast journeys on with the celebration of the visit of the Magi or Wise Men to the infant Jesus in Bethlehem on Thursday. St Matthew tells us that 'the sight of the star filled them with delight' for it awakened in them the gift of faith which led them, as it does us, to the Christ-Child.

Pope Benedict, reflecting on this feast, once said: *'men and women of every generation need on their pilgrim journey to be directed: what star can we follow? After coming to rest "over the place where the child was", the purpose of the star that guided the Magi ended, but its spiritual light is always present in the Word of the Gospel, which is still able today to guide every person to Jesus. This same Word, which is none other than the reflection of Christ, true man and true God, is authoritatively echoed by the Church for every well-disposed heart. The Church too, therefore, carries out the mission of the star for humanity. But something of the sort could be said of each Christian, called to illuminate the path of the brethren by word and example of life.'*

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF HOMES

*It has been one of the old traditions of the Church to bless chalk at the Masses of the Epiphany, and then to use the blessed chalk to invoke a prayer of blessing on your home for the New Year that has just begun. You use the blessed chalk to write above the doorway of your home **20+C+M+B+22** in the order below. As you do so, another says the prayer of blessing:*

The three Wise Men

(C) Caspar

(M) Melchior, and

(B) Balthasar, followed the Star to God's Son who became man

(20) Two Thousand and

(22) Twenty-two years ago,

+ May Christ

+ bless our home

+ and remain with us throughout the new year .

+Amen.

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. Bless this household with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your commandments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Crib Offerings will this year be going to 'Let the Children Live'. This charity, founded from Our Lady's Shrine at Walsingham, supports accommodation and education for street children in Columbia, and tries to draw them away from lives of drug trafficking and prostitution.

Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. If you, or someone you know, is sick or can't leave the house and would like Holy Communion, would you let one of the priests know, or email or call the presbytery.

We pray for those who have died recently: Martin Slevin, Bridie Heffernan, and Daniel Kelleher

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting is on Tuesday 1st February after evening Mass at 7.45pm in St Dunstan's Church. If you would like to come to this meeting, please contact the Parish office and leave your name and phone number.

St Jude's Tombola. Thank you to everybody who supported the tombola by donating prizes and buying tickets. £190 was raised for church. Thank you also to everybody who helped to organise this.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

FIRST READING

Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12

Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself. She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One;

'Then the creator of all things instructed me, and he who created me fixed a place for my tent. He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob, make Israel your inheritance." From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall remain. I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle, and thus was I established on Zion. In the beloved city he has given me rest, and in Jerusalem I wield my authority. I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R: The Word was made flesh,
and lived among us.**

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
he has blessed the children within you. **R.**

He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command. **R.**

He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees. **R.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is

revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans.

Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-45

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.