

THE LITURGY FOR THIS SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2011 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Sat. 5.30pm Sacred Heart Mass *Bill Smith & Winifrid Swift*
 Sun. 9.30am Sacred Heart Mass *Joe & Annie Hesketh*
 Sun. 11.30am Holy Family Mass *Wladyslaw Markiewicz*
 Sun. 1.00pm Sacred Heart **Celebration of Baptism**

MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2011

7.00pm Sacred Heart Mass *Intentions of Fr. Joe Weston*

TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2011 - SAINT NICHOLAS

9.15am Sacred Heart Mass *William & Elizabeth Gaskell*

PLEASE NOTE: NO MASS AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH TODAY

WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2011 - SAINT AMBROSE

10.00am Sacred Heart Mass *Alice Rosbottom*

THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2011 - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

9.15am Sacred Heart Mass *Patrick Hoare*

11.00am Holy Family **Funeral Mass for Wilfred Pugh**

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2011

7.00pm Sacred Heart Mass *Edward & Teresa Draper*

7.30pm Sacred Heart **Reconciliation (Confessions)**

SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2011

11.00am Holy Family Mass *Intentions of Cheryl Green*

11.30am Holy Family **Reconciliation (Confessions)**

SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2011 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Sat. 5.30pm Sacred Heart Mass *James Carney*

Sun. 9.30am Sacred Heart Mass *Eric Gaskell*

Sun. 11.30am Holy Family Mass *Veronica Rasburn*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS)

Friday at 7.30pm (Sacred Heart)
 Saturday at 11.30am (Holy Family)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Saturday from 11.30am to 12 noon (Holy Family)

SUNDAY MASS AT ST. BENEDICT'S HINDLEY

Saturday 7.00pm
 Sunday 11.00am

Parish Priest - Fr. Joe Weston
 Tel. 01942 255306

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

The Holy Family
Platt Bridge



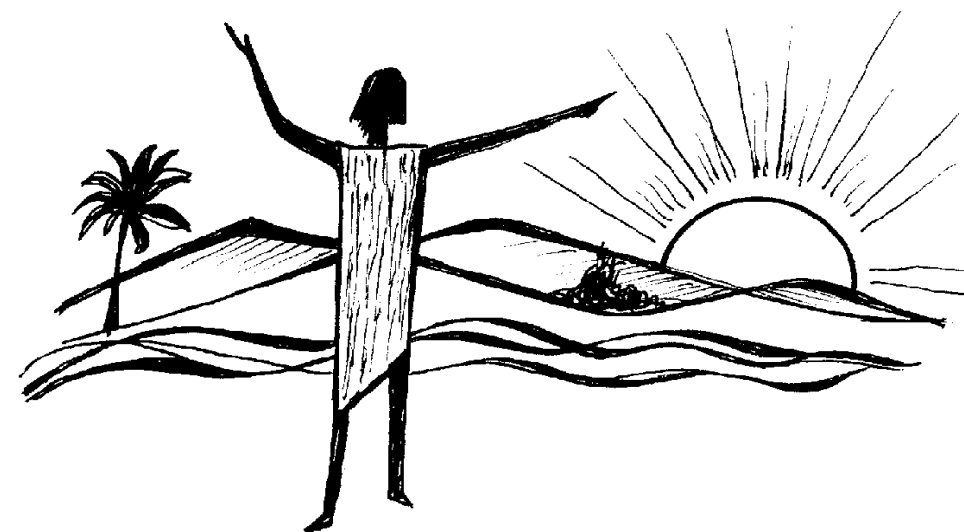
The Sacred Heart
Hindley Green

THE PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday 4th December 2011

Second Sunday of Advent (B)

PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 85



"Advent, like its cousin Lent, is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts. Since it comes at wintertime, fire is a fitting sign to help us celebrate Advent. If Christ is to come more fully into our lives this Christmas, if God is to become really incarnate for us, then fire will have to be present in our prayer. Our worship and devotion will have to stoke the kind of fire in our souls that can truly change our hearts. Ours is a great responsibility not to waste this Advent time."

(Edward Hays)

OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into the People of God and our Parish Family through the celebration of Baptism this weekend at Sacred Heart Church: Abbie Louise Hilton aged three years old from Crossfield Drive, Hindley Green.

During the 11.30am Mass at Holy Family today, Joanne Barber will be welcomed into Full Communion with the Catholic Church and will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and share in receiving the Eucharist with us for the first time. Joanne was baptised as an infant into the Church of England and after many long months of prayer and preparation has discerned that her home now lies in the Catholic Church. We welcome her into the Catholic Community and promise her the support of our prayers and our love.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with Dorothy and the family and friends of Wilfred Pugh from Carr Street, Platt Bridge who died last Monday aged 78 years. His funeral rites will be celebrated in Holy Family Church next Thursday at 11.00am prior to burial in Westwood Cemetery. May the Lord welcome him home.

FATHER WESTON PRESENTATION

Father Weston's Thanksgiving Mass will take place at Sacred Heart Church this Monday (5th of December) at 7.00pm with a Buffet Reception and a Presentation held afterwards in Sacred Heart Club. Why not come along and show your own personal appreciation to him for his twelve years as Parish Priest of Sacred Heart community? Everyone welcome!

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLOSED ON TUESDAYS

Please note that for the next two Tuesdays there will be no Mass celebrated in Holy Family Church. This is to allow for essential electrical repair work to be carried out in the church and presbytery without the danger of anyone being electrocuted! Mass on Saturday and Sunday mornings will be celebrated as usual. Apologies for the inconvenience.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

As in previous years we would welcome gifts of Poinsettia plants to decorate our churches throughout the Christmas season, perhaps given in memory of a loved one or from a family. Please bring your plants to church with you on the weekend before Christmas and leave them at the back of church.

SACRED HEART OVER 60'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

A Christmas Party for Sacred Heart Over 60's parishioners will take place in Sacred Heart Club on Monday the 19th of December. If you would like to go please collect a form from the back of church this weekend, and return it completed next weekend.

CAFOD CHRISTMAS 2011 FUN RUN

The 27th Annual Liverpool CAFOD Fun Run takes place at Wavertree Park, Liverpool on Tuesday the 27th of December starting at 1.00pm. Entry is £10 per family or £5 for individuals. Bookings and sponsorship forms are available from CAFOD Liverpool on 0151 228 4028. This year CAFOD hopes to raise £20,000 to provide support for sports clubs for young people in the slums of Kenya. Help make a difference this Christmas!

Sacred Heart

Holy Family

Saint Benedict

CHRISTMAS 2011 MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - Saturday 24th December 2011

6.00pm at Holy Family 9.00pm at Sacred Heart Midnight at Saint Benedict's

Christmas Day - Sunday 25th December 2011

9.30am at Saint Benedict's 10.00am at Sacred Heart
11.00am at Saint Benedict's 11.30am at Holy Family

THANK YOU

Holy Family Offertory £437.48

Sacred Heart Offertory £582.00

Our thanks for donations to Holy Family Church totalling £530 in memory of Agnes Calter from Family and Friends; and to all who organised and supported Holy Family Christmas Bingo Night which raised £240 for Holy Family Church funds, and Sacred Heart Christmas Fayre which raised £863 for church funds and £700 for school funds.

APPEAL AND RETIRING COLLECTION NEXT WEEK FOR H.C.P.T. THE PILGRIMAGE TRUST (HANDICAPPED CHILDREN TO LOURDES)

PRO-LIFE DAY AT LADYEWELL NEXT SATURDAY

A Pro-Life Day of Prayer is taking place next Saturday (10th of December) at the Shrine of Our Lady and the English Martyrs at Ladyewell near Preston beginning with the praying of the Rosary at 11.30am then the celebration of Mass at 12 noon followed by lunch break (bring a packed lunch!) then a Holy Hour. Coach transport will leave next Saturday from Holy Family Church at 10.30am and from Sacred Heart Church at 10.45am, returning from Ladyewell at 3.30pm. To book a place on the coach please sign the list on the notice board at the back of each church or contact Betty Foley on 861997 for more details.

PARISH PRIEST - FR. ANTHONY MANGNALL

Holy Family Presbytery, Lily Lane, Platt Bridge, Wigan, WN2 5LL

Tel. 01942 866102 Fax 01942 865901

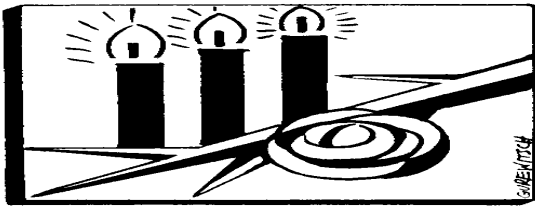
Mobile 07899 958478 Email AMangnall@aol.com

Deacons

Rev. Ken Holding Tel. 01942 255834

Rev. Terry Rose Tel. 01942 515932

Visit our Parish Website at www.hindleycatholic.org.uk
or follow us on Facebook at "Hindley Catholic"



THE LITURGY FOR THIS THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2011 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Sat. 5.30pm Sacred Heart Mass *James Carney*
 Sun. 9.30am Sacred Heart Mass *Eric Gaskell*
 Sun. 11.30am Holy Family Mass *Veronica Rasburn*

MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2011

10.30am Holy Family **Funeral Service for Martha Greenwood**
 7.00pm Sacred Heart Mass *Waldron Family*

TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2011 - SAINT LUCY

9.15am Sacred Heart Mass *Pat McGowan*
NO MASS AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH TODAY

WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2011 - SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS

10.00am Sacred Heart Mass *Paul Barton*

THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2011

9.15am Sacred Heart Mass *Eileen McCormack*
 1.30pm Holy Family **Funeral Service for Anthony Bannister**
NO MASS AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH TODAY

FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2011

7.00pm Sacred Heart Mass *Peter Harrison*
 7.30pm Sacred Heart **Reconciliation (Confessions)**

SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2011

NO MASS OR CONFESSIONS AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH TODAY

SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2011 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Sat. 5.30pm Sacred Heart Mass *Brian Delaney*
 Sun. 9.30am Sacred Heart Mass *Dorothy & Ron Hickman*
 Sun. 11.30am Holy Family Mass *Caine & Massey Families*
 Sun. 12.45pm Holy Family **Celebration of Baptism**
 Sun. 1.00pm Sacred Heart **Celebration of Baptism**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS)

Friday at 7.30pm at Sacred Heart, Hindley Green
 Saturday at 11.00am at St. Benedict's, Hindley
 Saturday at 6.30pm at St. Benedict's, Hindley

(No Confessions at Holy Family next Saturday)

SUNDAY MASS AT ST. BENEDICT'S HINDLEY

Saturday 7.00pm
 Sunday 11.00am

Parish Priest - Fr. Joe Weston
 Tel. 01942 255306

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

The Holy Family
Platt Bridge



The Sacred Heart
Hindley Green

THE PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday 11th December 2011

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 87



"A father and his small son were strolling down the street past a place where a skyscraper was being built. Glancing up, they saw men at work on the high-storey building. "They look so tiny up there" said the boy. "I suppose when they reach heaven there won't be anything left of them!" The nearer we come to Christ, the less others see of us and the more they see of Him. Like John the Baptist, let's point others towards Jesus."

(Monica McCallion)

APPEAL AND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND
FOR H.C.P.T. (CHILDREN TO LOURDES)

**HOLY FAMILY CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TAKES PLACE TODAY
AT THE BACK OF CHURCH AFTER THE 11.30AM MASS**

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with the families and friends of the following who have died recently and whose funeral rites we will celebrate at Holy Family Church during the coming week. May the Lord welcome them into eternal life with him.

Martha Greenwood, late of Simpkin Street, Abram who died on the 28th of November aged 98 years. Her funeral rites will be celebrated at Holy Family Church next Monday (12th December) at 10.30am prior to cremation at Wigan Crematorium.

Anthony Bannister from Medlock Way, Platt Bridge who died on the 2nd of December aged 44 years. His funeral rites are provisionally arranged for next Thursday at Holy Family Church at 1.30pm prior to burial at Westwood Cemetery.

PENSIONERS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Saint Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School in Ashton are holding their Annual Pensioners' Christmas Lunch and Party this coming Friday (16th of December). Those who signed-up for a place a few weeks ago, please note that the coach will leave from outside church at around 1.00pm on Friday returning at around 4.30pm.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT

A Christmas Quiz Night is taking place in Holy Family Catholic Club, Tram Street, Platt Bridge next Saturday (17th of December) beginning at around 9.00pm. Cash prizes and buffet refreshments provided. Bring your friends and join in the Christmas fun!

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

As in previous years we would welcome gifts of Poinsettia plants to decorate our churches throughout the Christmas season, perhaps given in memory of a loved one or from a family. Please bring your plants to church with you next weekend and leave them at the back of church.

CELEBRATING GRANDPARENTS

To thank grandparents for the hugely important role they play, especially in the faith upbringing of their grandchildren, there will be a Mass to celebrate grandparents in the Metropolitan Cathedral next Sunday (18th of December) at 11.00am. Joint celebrants will be Archbishop Patrick and Bishop Brian Noble of Shrewsbury. Refreshments will be served after the Mass in the Gibberd Room. All grandparents are welcome and are invited to bring along their children and grandchildren if they so wish.

THANK YOU

Holy Family Offertory £373.54

Sacred Heart Offertory £564.10

Our thanks for a donation to Holy Family Church of £30 in Memory of the Deceased Members of the Calter Family, and to all who organised and supported the Chocolate Tombola at Holy Family last Sunday which raised £100 for Holy Family Church.

WEEKDAY MASS AT HOLY FAMILY

Due to the on-going problem of a lack of heating, please note that there will be no mid-week Masses celebrated in Holy Family Church during this week. The work on the electrical installation is due to be completed this week after which, once it is certified as being safe, the new boiler can be installed and commissioned in time for Christmas. Apologies for the inconvenience caused by this situation, especially to those families using Holy Family Church for the funerals of their loved ones at this time.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL TOUR

Prospective parents of pupils at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School are invited to visit the school to meet the headteacher and tour the classrooms this coming Wednesday (14th of December) at either 10.00am or 1.30pm. But please book a place on one of the tours by phoning the school office in advance on 01942 767768.

**HOLY FAMILY BONUS BALL
NOVEMBER WINNERS**

November 2nd – No. 03
November 9th – No. 44
November 16th – No. 20
November 23rd – No. 06
November 30th – No. 04

JOINT SCHOOLS CAROL SERVICE

Due to the lack of any heating in church, the local schools' Joint Carol Service which was originally planned for next Tuesday at Holy Family Church, will now take place next Wednesday (14th December) in Abram Parish Church at 7.00pm. Everyone welcome.

**RETIRING COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND
FOR CHRISTMAS CHURCH FLOWERS**

Sacred Heart Club
(Behind the Church)
Tel 01942 255192

**PLEASE SUPPORT
YOUR**

Holy Family Club
Tram Street, Platt Bridge
Tel. 01942 866167

Bingo
Tuesday & Sunday at 9pm
Concerts every Saturday
Function Room Available for Hire

PARISH CLUB

Bingo
Monday & Wednesday at 7.45pm
Sunday at 9pm
Available for Saturday Hire

PARISH PRIEST - FR. ANTHONY MANGNALL

Holy Family Presbytery, Lily Lane, Platt Bridge, Wigan, WN2 5LL
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THE LITURGY FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2011 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Sat. 5.30pm	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Brian Delaney</i>
Sun. 9.30am	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Dorothy & Ron Hickman</i>
Sun. 11.30am	Holy Family	Mass	<i>Caine & Massey Families</i>
Sun. 12.45pm	Holy Family	Celebration of Baptism	
Sun. 1.00pm	Sacred Heart	Celebration of Baptism	

MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2011

10.00am	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Ken Bates</i>
6.30pm	Sacred Heart	Sacred Heart School Carol Service	

TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2011

9.15am	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Albert & Winifred Knowles</i>
10.00am	Holy Family	Mass	<i>Christina Hatton</i>

WEDNESDAY 21st DECEMBER 2011

10.00am	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Teresa Blakeley</i>
7.00pm	St. Benedict's	Mass of Reconciliation	

THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2011

9.15am	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Gorton Family</i>
10.00am	Holy Family	Mass	<i>Ints. of Kath Robinson</i>

FRIDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2011

7.00pm	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Kathleen Murphy</i>
7.30pm	Sacred Heart	Reconciliation (Confessions)	

SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2011

11.00am	Holy Family	Mass	<i>Trevor Roberts</i>
11.30am	Holy Family	Reconciliation (Confessions) and Exposition	



SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER 2011 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Mass on Christmas Eve

Sat. 6.00pm	Holy Family	<i>Parishioners</i>	
Sat. 9.00pm	Sacred Heart	<i>Gordon & Michael Halliwell</i>	
Sat. Midnight	Saint Benedict's	<i>Mass Intention as announced</i>	

Mass on Christmas Day

Sun. 9.30am	Saint Benedict's	<i>Mass Intention as announced</i>	
Sun. 10.00am	Sacred Heart	<i>John, Dorothy & Marjorie Meakin</i>	
Sun. 11.00am	Saint Benedict's	<i>Mass Intention as announced</i>	
Sun. 11.30am	Holy Family	<i>Ann Eccleston</i>	

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

The Holy Family
Platt Bridge



The Sacred Heart
Hindley Green

THE PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday 18th December 2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 90



"The Incarnation broke down the wall between time and eternity, between temple and market, between church and shop, between sacred and secular. The God who assumed our flesh sought the redemption and salvation of the whole of man and woman, in all our circumstances and conditions. If we forget this then we cease to be the Church of the Incarnate Christ."

(K. Haselden)

RETIRING COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND
FOR CHRISTMAS CHURCH FLOWERS

OUR PARISH FAMILY

This weekend we welcome into the People of God and our Parish Communities through the celebration of Baptism at Holy Family Church, Owen Westley Griffin aged fifteen months from Abingdon Drive, Platt Bridge, and through the celebration of Baptism at Sacred Heart Church, Cody May Morgan aged three months from Crossfield Drive, Hindley Green.

Congratulations to Deacon Ken Holding who was invested into the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem at a ceremony held in London on the 8th of December. This award was given at the command of Her Majesty the Queen "in recognition of services over and above the call of duty" as a member of the Saint John Ambulance Brigade. Well done, Ken!

And a message from Father Joe Weston: *"It was quite touching to be with you once more for the Mass and Reception held for me on the 5th of December. Many thanks for your continued kindness. May I wish you a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year."*

SACRED HEART CAROL SERVICE

The Junior Children of Sacred Heart Primary School will lead a Carol Service in Sacred Heart Church this coming Monday evening (19th December) at 6.30pm. Come along and bring the family – everyone welcome! (Please note that Mass on Monday this week at Sacred Heart will be celebrated at 10.00am)

MASS OF RECONCILIATION

If you haven't yet made a celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation part of your preparation for Christmas then you may wish to go along to the Mass of Reconciliation which is being celebrated next Wednesday (21st December) at Saint Benedict's Church, Hindley at 7.00pm. All sinners welcome!

THANK YOU

Holy Family

Offertory £322.37
HCPT Appeal £265.64

Thank you for recent donations to Holy Family Church in Christmas Remembrance of Father John Kennedy (£50 from Anon) and of Maurice McCarthy (£50 from Louise and Family) and of Trevor Roberts (£100 from his wife Ann-Marie) and of Bill Mangnall (£20 from his daughter Vicky).

Sincere thanks to Dave and Chris who organised it, and to all who supported Holy Family Church Christmas Draw which raised £400 for Holy Family parish funds. A list of winners has been placed on the notice board at the back of Holy Family Church.

Thank you for an anonymous donation to Sacred Heart Church of £400 out of which the cost of repainting the statue of Our Lady at the back of the church has been met. And to those who have donated to CAFOD during the year via the wall box in Sacred Heart Church, as a result of which the sum of £2,365 has recently been sent to CAFOD.

Sacred Heart

Offertory £533.20
HCPT Appeal £620

Sacred Heart

Holy Family

Saint Benedict

CHRISTMAS 2011 MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - Saturday 24th December 2011

6.00pm at Holy Family 9.00pm at Sacred Heart Midnight at Saint Benedict's

Christmas Day - Sunday 25th December 2011

9.30am at Saint Benedict's 10.00am at Sacred Heart
11.00am at Saint Benedict's 11.30am at Holy Family

FLAME 2012 CONGRESS FOR YOUNG CATHOLICS

Flame Congress for young people will see thousands of young Catholics (5000 tickets have already been sold!) coming together to participate in an event which will offer the best of Catholic Youth Ministry with speakers who will set hearts on fire with messages of hope, faith, challenge and justice, and music which can be used back in schools and parishes to bring fresh life into our liturgy.

It takes place at Wembley Arena on Saturday the 24th of March 2012 and several coaches will depart at 6.30am from various locations around the Archdiocese, returning at around 11.30pm. Open to young Catholics in Year Ten up to young adults. The cost is £40 for ticket and transport. More details about Flame Congress at www.animateyouth.org or at www.cymfed.org/congress/flame/2012

END OF TERM MASS

The children of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School will mark the End of Term by joining us for the 10.00am Mass in Sacred Heart Church next Wednesday. Why not come and join with them? Parents and grandparents of the children are especially welcome.

SPONSOR OUR RUNNERS

Deacon Ken and some members of Sacred Heart Parish will be entering the CAFOD Christmas Fun Run in Liverpool on the 27th of December. Please support them by through your sponsorship. Sponsor forms are available for you to sign and pledge your donations after Mass this weekend at Sacred Heart Church.

PARISH PRIEST - FR. ANTHONY MANGNALL

Holy Family Presbytery, Lily Lane, Platt Bridge, Wigan, WN2 5LL

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THE LITURGY THIS CHRISTMAS WEEK



SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER 2011

CHRISTMAS - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Mass on Saturday (Christmas Eve)

6.00pm	Holy Family	Mass	<i>Parishioners</i>
9.00pm	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Gordon & Michael Halliwell</i>
Midnight	St. Benedict	Mass	<i>Eric Hill</i>

Mass on Sunday (Christmas Day)

9.30am	St. Benedict	Mass	<i>Bernard Killeen</i>
10.00am	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>John, Dorothy & Marjorie Meakin</i>
11.00am	St. Benedict	Mass	<i>Jean Gaskell</i>
11.30am	Holy Family	Mass	<i>Ann Eccleston</i>

MONDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2011 – SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

10.00am	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Geraldine Clarkson</i>
12 noon	St. Benedict	Mass	<i>Intention as announced</i>

TUESDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2011 – SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE

10.00am	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Ints. of Mary Williams</i>
12 noon	Holy Family	Mass	<i>Agnes Calter</i>

WEDNESDAY 28TH DECEMBER 2011 – THE HOLY INNOCENTS

10.00am	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Ints. of Mary Gaskell</i>
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THURSDAY 29TH DECEMBER 2011 – SAINT THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

9.15am	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Margaret Rigby</i>
12 noon	Holy Family	Funeral Mass for John McMahon	

FRIDAY 30TH DECEMBER 2011 – FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

7.00pm	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Parishioners</i>
7.30pm	Sacred Heart	Reconciliation (Confessions)	

SATURDAY 31ST DECEMBER 2011

11.00am	Holy Family	Mass	<i>Ints. of D.G.H.F.</i>
11.30am	Holy Family	Reconciliation (Confessions) and Exposition	

SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY 2012

FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEAR'S DAY)

Sat. 5.30pm	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>Kevin McLoughlin</i>
Sun. 9.30am	Sacred Heart	Mass	<i>William & Winifred Denton</i>
Sun. 11.30am	Holy Family	Mass	<i>Eileen O'Dwyer</i>

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

The Holy Family
Platt Bridge

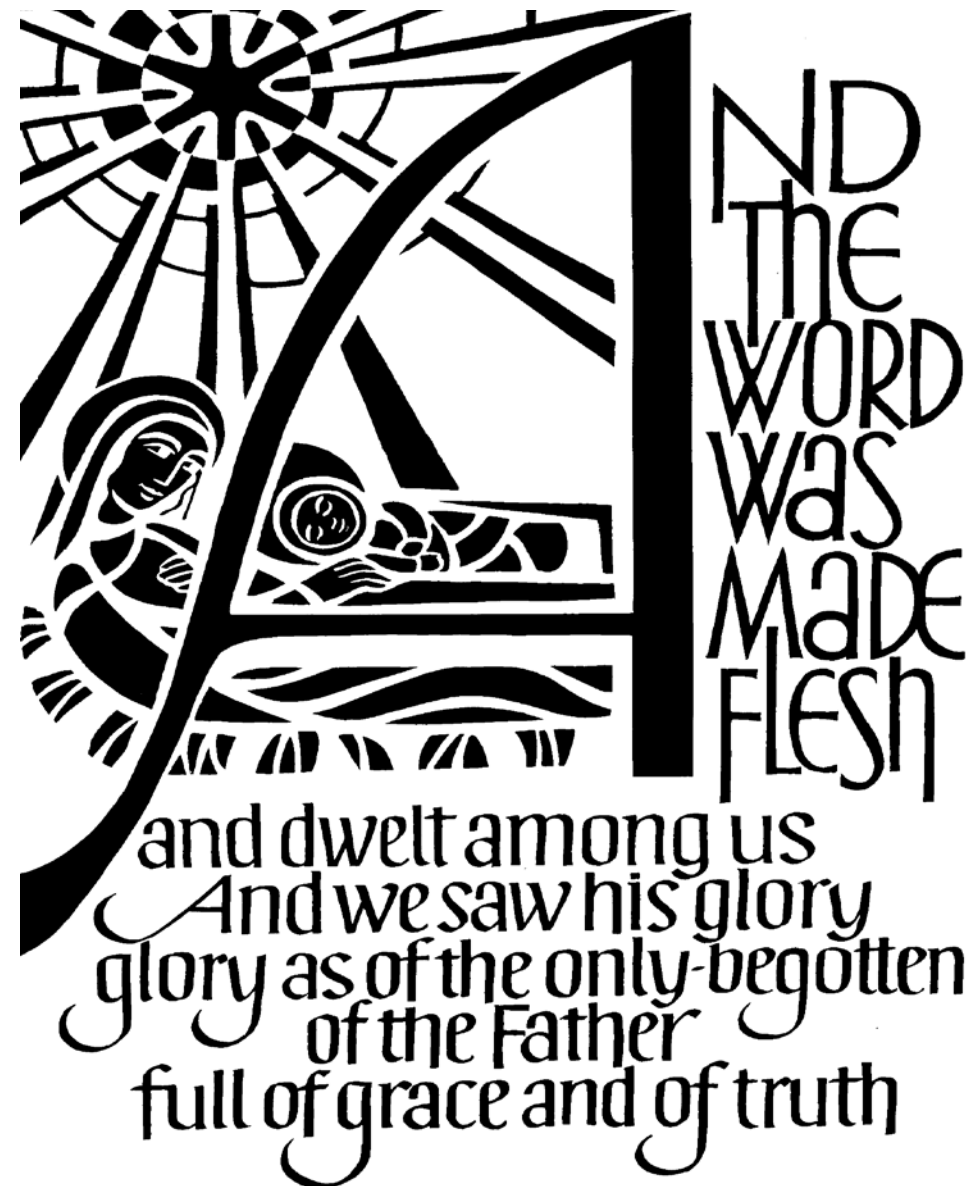


The Sacred Heart
Hindley Green

THE PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday 25th December 2011

The Nativity of the Lord



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

"Let's not think of Christmas simply as the birthday of a baby, but as the occasion when God once more shows his hunger for human companionship. And in our worship let us not use the crib to hide behind in a saccharine display of carols and chant. For Christmas trumpets out loud the breaking of the reign of God into our world and we cannot exclude these kingdom values from our liturgy and preaching under the pretence of child-like sensitivity or the guise of nostalgia.

Gift-giving may be for children but Christmas is for grown-ups, since it is an adult Christ who has spoken to us throughout Advent and who speaks to us at Christmas, calling us to awake from our slumber, to take up his offer of new life, to be worthy of his Church, and to proclaim that Jesus who was once in a manger is now Lord of the universe."

(Oliver Todd)

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Our deepest sympathy to Colette and all the family and friends of John McMahon, late of Maple Drive, Abram who died on the 17th of December aged 78 years. His funeral rites will be celebrated in Holy Family Church next Thursday (29th December) at 12 noon prior to cremation at Wigan Crematorium. May the Lord welcome him into eternal life.

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS

The Catholic Newspapers on sale at the back of church this weekend are double issues covering two weeks and the price reflects this: Both the Universe and the Catholic Times cost £2.60 for this double issue. The weekly editions and prices will return as normal from the 8th of January.

BANK HOLIDAY MASS

Please note the times and places for the celebration of Mass on the two Bank Holidays this week: Mass on Monday will be celebrated at 10.00am in Sacred Heart Church and at 12 noon in Saint Benedict's Church, Hindley; Mass on Tuesday will be celebrated at 10.00am in Sacred Heart Church and at 12 noon in Holy Family Church.

THANK YOU
FOR LAST WEEK

Holy Family

Offertory £380.54
Church Flowers £82.33

Sacred Heart

Offertory £520.60
Church Flowers £65.00

Wishing you and your families
every joy and many blessings.

May you have a wonderful
and wonder-filled Christmas.



Father Tony, your priest
and your deacons Ken and Terry

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

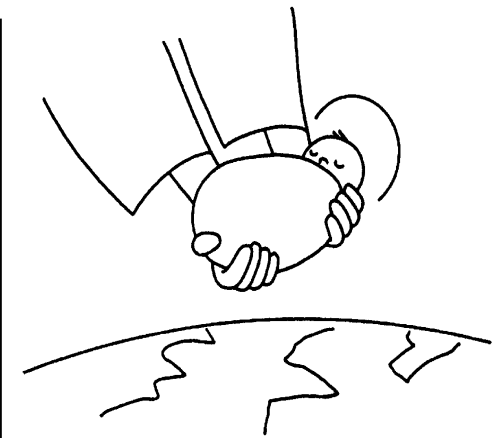
Saturday Vigil Mass

5.30pm at Sacred Heart, Hindley Green
7.00pm at Saint Benedict's, Hindley

Mass on Sunday

9.30am at Sacred Heart, Hindley Green
11.00am at Saint Benedict's, Hindley
11.30am at Holy Family, Platt Bridge

*Come and join us each week to celebrate
God's gift of Jesus, present among us in
the Eucharist we celebrate and receive.*



SOME CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Christmas or Xmas? The word "Christmas" means "Mass of Christ" which was later shortened to "Christ-Mass". Many people don't like the even shorter version of "Xmas" seeing it as a means of removing the religious aspect of the occasion – but they're wrong! Xmas was first used in Europe in the 16th Century and is derived from the Greek alphabet in which X is the first letter of Christ's name: *Xristos* therefore Xmas.

The Date Jesus was not born on the 25th of December! Scholars reckon the actual date of his birth was more likely to have been around April. The date of December the 25th was chosen to coincide with the pagan Roman celebrations honouring Saturnus (the harvest god) and Mithras (the ancient god of light). By taking over these pagan celebrations and giving them fresh meaning, the Church proclaims that the coming of Jesus into the world is its true light, giving hope and life to all.

Holly and Mistletoe Mistletoe, once regarded with superstitious awe by both the Romans and the druids, was seen as a symbol of peace and happiness. Again, adopted by the Church to proclaim that the birth of Jesus brings true peace and happiness to the world. The prickles and blood-red berries of the holly plant remind us that the Christ Child is the Saviour of the World who, wearing a crown of thorns, will shed his blood on the Cross for the salvation of all.

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