

As an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more “dramatic” events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today’s Gospel reminds us (especially in the shorter version), there were also the so-called “hidden years” - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. The family is a basic unit of our Christian society, despite coming under threat nowadays. Our celebration of this feast, and the Word of God we proclaim, announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Marriage Matters: *Be kind and gentle when we are making decisions:* The readings today challenge us to listen sensitively to each other; to be prepared to let go of our own desires and to be deeply aware of each other’s thoughts and feelings as we make decisions together. For this we need to ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to the gifts of compassion and understanding, courage and hopefulness.

Think Vocation: Because of the permanence of the Sacrament of Marriage, we have the best setting for bringing children into the world. The marriage vows are lived out each day that the Lord sends to us. We pray for the people who are to be married in our parish this year. May the Holy Family bless all the families in our parish with a love for God, for his Church and for the sacred priesthood.

Masses / Services	St Luke’s	Ss Peter & Paul
Sunday - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	Sat 6.30pm Vigil Mass 9.30am Mass	8am Mass 11am Mass
Monday - Sixth Day of the Christmas Octave	No Mass	9am Mass & Adoration
Tuesday - Seventh Day of the Christmas Octave or St Sylvester I - <i>New Year’s Eve</i>	9am Mass	9am Mass & Adoration
Wednesday - Holy Mary, Mother of God - Solemnity - <i>New Year’s Day</i>	10:00am Mass	11:30am Mass
Thursday - St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen	9am Mass	7pm Novena & Mass
Friday - Christmas Weekday or The Most Holy Name of Jesus	9am Mass	9am Mass & Adoration
Saturday – Christmas Weekday	No Mass 6-6.20pm Confessions	11-11.20am Confessions 11.30am Mass
Sunday - The Epiphany of the Lord	Sat 6.30pm Vigil Mass 9.30am Mass	8am Mass 11am Mass

Sick: Robert Livesey, Alcie O’Malley, Nuala Corrigan, Michael Kelly, Tomas Cusack

Lately Dead: Sally Nally, Michael Noronha, Derek Grimshaw, Shirley Mansfield, Katherine Jackson

Anniversaries: John Warren, Edith & Bill Noakes, Francis Galvin

Masses Received: Katherine Jackson (Lately Dead), Sally Nally (Lately Dead), Gabriel Ward, Deceased members of the Burke and Cottam families, Alcie O’Malley (Sick), Nuala Corrigan (Sick), Fr Paul (for good health and strength), Cath & Terry McDermott, Sheelagh & Nick Byrne, Tom & Roy Ravenscroft, Tony Whitaker, Brian Hudson, Deceased members of the Warburton and O’Donnell families, Special Intention.

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: Let us pray for the people of the parish of St Mary, Horwich, for Mgr John Daly, their parish priest, and Fr Richard Howard. We pray for their parish primary school and St Joseph’s High School.

Collections (Sunday 22 December): Offertory Collection: £1,797.51
The total for the Christmas Day collection will be on next week’s newsletter

FATHERS MICHAEL, DAVID AND MARK
WISH ALL PARISHIONERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS A HAPPY AND HOLY NEW YEAR



Thank you: First of all, thank you to all those who helped prepare our churches for Christmas or who in any particular way made a special contribution to our Christmas Masses. Also, thanks from Fathers Michael, David and Mark for all your kind wishes, cards or gifts.

Gardening: After just over 28 years of looking after the gardens at St Luke's (and about a year or so at Ss Peter & Paul), Jimmy French and his wife Barbara have decided to retire. We thank them for this great period of service to our parish and hope that they will enjoy the well-earned rest. They have been presented with a token of our appreciation. Jimmy has advised that there will be nothing we need to do until about March, so if anyone has any ideas about how we might take the gardening forward beyond then, please do have a word with Fr Michael.



Catholic Newspapers: The Universe Media Group are changing the way in which they provide copies of *The Universe* and *The Catholic Times* to parishes. At present, an invoice is sent monthly and parishes can offset any unsold copies from the previous month against that amount. However, under the new system, a set number of copies will be charged for on an annual or quarterly basis, regardless of whether or not they sell. Since most of the copies that we receive here are either given away or put in the recycling bin, this new system will not suit our needs. Just as an example, after the Masses last weekend we still had all 11 copies of *The Catholic Times* and 24 out of the 25 copies of *The Universe*. After the Christmas Masses (when some 800 people must have been in and out of St Luke's church) there were still 9 copies of *The Catholic Times* and 23 copies of *The Universe*. Under the present system, we can offset them against the charges but under the new system we would be paying £102 for papers that nobody wants! Admittedly, these were double issues at £3 each but even if they had been single issues (as for most other weeks of the year) it would be £51 worth of unwanted papers. Over a year, that would add up to £2652. Consequently, I am asking the Universe Media Group to suspend deliveries to us until further notice. I will discuss the matter with our Parish Advisory and Coordinating Team but, at the moment, I can only see us resuming an order if we have some guaranteed weekly customers.

"Guess the Weight of The Cake"

Congratulations, the Winner of the cake was Peter McNamara.



The funds raised for the church were £80.00. Well done to all those involved, with an especially big thank you to Pat McGrath who made the cake.

Ss Peter & Paul – Children's Christmas Party.

Sunday 5 January. 2-4pm.

Entertainer, face painting, party games.

There is a list at the back of both churches for children to fill in if they would like to come.

Please add your children's names to the form

Mulled wine or Irish Coffee and mince pies for the adults.

Please see the poster for more information.



500 Club Ss Peter & Paul

If you feel that you want to be a part of the draw for next December, now is the time to join. Just telephone Ss Peter and Paul on 0161 789 4555 and leave a message for Pat with your contact number stating it's regarding the 500 club. Pat will return your call.



The Church gives us the various feasts of the Christmas Season (Christmas Day itself, The Holy Family, The Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord) to help us explore in different ways the significance of this historical event and the wonder of the gift that is given.

Let us make full use of the season, to pray about and reflect upon the mystery of the Incarnation.



British Red Cross Mobility Aids Volunteering – Salford M6 6AJ Area: Can you spare a few hours per week? Would you like to help the British Red Cross provide wheelchairs to people in your local community? A wheelchair allows somebody to remain independent, speed up their recovery time, improve mental health and wellbeing and stop them from being socially isolated. We are looking for *Customer Service Volunteers/Lead Volunteers/Drivers* for our Mobility Aids service in your local community. To find out more please email wheelchairvolunteer@redcross.org.uk or call 03000 040309

Next Week's Newsletter: Liz Connolly

Please send notices before Wednesday

Email: newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk