

## St. Joseph's Newsletter – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023

### **Sanctuary Lamp**

All Our Loved Ones Who Have  
Died During 2022

### **Marian Candle**

John Traynor (RIP)

### **Lately Dead**

Brendan Galvin, Mary Rimmer, Eva Furlong, Lilian Leigh, Kathleen Edge

**St. Joseph's Bonus Ball** - No : 30 - Winner : Donated to Cafod

### **Highway to Heaven'**

Introducing a new feature to our Newsletter called 'Highway to Heaven'. Each week we will publish a different street/road name from our local area and ask you to pray for the residents in that location. This week's location is:

**ROEBURN WAY.**

**St. Joseph's 'Over 60's Club'** meets every Thursday in the Parish Centre from 1.30pm-3.30pm for a chat and game of Bingo. New members are always welcome.

### ***Gospel Reflection for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God - A Fresh Start***



Mary's destiny had been revealed to her by the Angel Gabriel. Joseph too had been foretold in a dream of the virgin birth. But just in case there were any malingering doubts, to have a gang of excited shepherds gate-crash the stable re-telling the news that the angels had brought to them out on the hills must have been wonderfully reassuring for the new parents. Mary certainly had plenty to ponder. For Mary there was a

fast unravelling realisation that she was part of God's plan. The birth of the new baby represented a new and exciting beginning, not only for Mary, but for us all. The first day of the year is the day the Church sets aside for honouring Mary. Mary represents true discipleship. Mary exhibits a life of hearing, seeing, and telling of God's marvellous deeds. Mary inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events in our own lives. How much in our lives is valuable and how

much is not? Do we journey through life oblivious to the world around us, or do we resolve to make some kind of impact? If to date we have moved blinkered through life, wasting the opportunities that God has scattered in our path, now is the time to make a fresh start. Now is the time to make a fresh start based not on the values of our celebrity driven society, but on the model of Mary's selfless love.

If Mary had made a new year's resolution in that stable all those years ago, it probably would have been to make herself an instrument for God's will. As for our own resolutions, we could live another year of frustration and disappointment, or we could resolve to make Mary our model, and look harder for God's direction in our lives.

### **New Year's Resolution**

Saint Paul in his letter to the Philippians writes, "Forgetting what lies behind, and straining forward to what lies ahead..... I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

#### **New Year's Resolutions :-**

- Declutter for Charity
- Campaign for a cause
- Fundraise for those in need
- Pray for Peace and Justice

### ***Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for January 2023***



#### **For Educators**

The best schools are not necessarily those that come out at the top of the league tables. The best students are not necessarily those who come out with the best grades and go on to the best universities. The best schools are schools that develop the 'whole child'. The best students are those who go out into the world caring not just about their own success but the world around them. This month Pope Francis asks us to join in his prayer that **".....educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all."**

### **Peace Actions for January 2023**



- **World Day of Peace is on January 1<sup>st</sup>, but transferred in many parishes to Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup> which is celebrated as Peace Sunday.** The Holy Father's 2023 Message for World Peace

Day is: "No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace."

- Make this year's Christian Unity Week (18th-25th January) an opportunity to start exploring initiatives on Christian websites other than our own. This year's theme is Do Good; Seek Justice (cf. Isaiah 1:17). In its introduction to the theme, the organisers write: "Today, separation and oppression continue to be manifest when any single group or class is given privileges above others."
- Take time to learn about someone else's religion on 'World Religion Day' (17th January)
- Mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January.

## **Most Holy Name of Jesus**

### **3rd January**

The name of Jesus means 'saviour'. 'We read in the Bible how the Angel Gabriel revealed the name to Mary. "You shall call His name Jesus." And to Joseph the angel not only revealed the name but explained its meaning "You shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." So on this day we are reminded that Jesus' very name tells us of the greatest gift we are ever to receive ..... 'salvation'!

## **Declutter for Charity**

The new year is an excellent time of year to declutter, and our charity shops are always on the lookout for quality items. It's something we can all easily do, we might not have any money to donate so soon after Christmas, but we are all able to declutter for our favourite charity.

## **Epiphany (Friday 6<sup>th</sup>)**



### ***A Beginner's Guide to Guiding Stars***

God reaches out far and wide to announce the birth of his Son. He reaches out to simple shepherds in the fields around Bethlehem, and to great intellects from the East. He reaches out to those of different religions, to politicians and to scientists. The revelation that a saviour has been born is bigger than anybody. The story of the Magi, who followed the star and sidestepped the evil Herod, is tempting in its appeal to romanticise, but if we are to learn anything we have to focus on the nature of God's revelation.

It mightn't feel much as though God is reaching out to us. The stable with its shepherds and kings might seem very far away as we take down our Christmas decorations and recycle our Christmas cards. There's a sense of 'back to

normal', and for most of us that means a hum drum cycle of boring jobs and making ends meet. Today's story tells us that it doesn't have to be that way. To follow the star is to make a conscious decision to cut out everything that is unimportant. The rules are simple. We have to make the right choices on a daily basis no matter what the consequences. In the light of poor decisions, we must learn to ask forgiveness and move away from regret. We must find time in a world full of distractions to listen to our inner voice. Most importantly we have to ask God to guide us as he guided the Magi.

Most of us get through life relying on the knowledge we already have. Today's challenge is to look for something new. Knowing where to look for our own guiding star is up to us, but one thing is for sure, if we are not looking for revelation, we will never find it.

### **Bitesize**

We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives... not looking for flaws, but for potential.

*Ellen Goodman*

### **Mass Intentions**

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	<b>8.30am 4.00pm</b>	<b>Simon Weedon John Traynor</b>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan</b>	<b>12 Noon</b>	<b>George Guy</b>
<b>Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan</b>		
<b>Weds 4<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Rose Price</b>
<b>Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Funeral Service for Ann Christian</b>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>9.30am 7.30pm</b>	<b>Joe Webster Ian Fitzsimmons</b>
<b>Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>		
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>8.30am 4.00pm</b>	<b>Lilian Leigh and Kathleen Edge Eric and Lou Priestley</b>

Please visit the new St. Joseph's website for all the news, Mass times, newsletter and much more! [www.stjosephpenketh.co.uk](http://www.stjosephpenketh.co.uk)

Exposition at St. Joseph's 10am until 12 Noon every Monday and Friday.

**Margaret Taylor** and family would like to thank everyone for their messages of sympathy and Mass cards following the sad loss of **Leo**. A Mass will be offered for your intentions.

### **FUNERALS**

There will be a Funeral Service for **Anne Christian** at 10.00am at St. Joseph's Church on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January**.

There will be a Requiem Mass for **Mary Rimmer** at 9.45am at St. Joseph's Church on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January**.

**Christine Hope** and family would like to thank all their friends and parishioners for the lovely Mass and Sympathy cards and messages of condolence received following the sad loss of **Brian**. A Mass will be offered for your intentions.