



THE CHRISTMAS CRIB:

MARY & JOSEPH: Mary & Joseph's intention was to have had their baby in Nazareth with all the family around them, and no doubt like today, Mary would probably have wanted her mother to be around at the time. However, the orders of their government made that impossible. They were forced to move right across the country separated from their home and all who could help in order to take part in the government census. As we know only too well when they arrived in Bethlehem all the accommodation was taken and they were dependant on begging for a roof over their heads. Across the world today, sometimes on our own streets, in refugee camps, in Bosnia and the Middle East and elsewhere in the world women are giving birth in similar circumstances., far away from help and support. God's choice of introducing his Son onto the world in such circumstances reminds us that he comes to be in solidarity with the poorest of us and reminds us that it is in the face of the poor that we are most likely to find Christ in our world.

OPENING OF CHURCH: There will be 12 noon Mass on the usual days during the week between Christmas & New Year including New Year's day (not Mondays). The opening of church for longer periods will depend on availability of stewards but we will be open as much as we can be. Please remember that the Bishop has said that if we could not make Mass over Christmas then the quieter Mass during the week might be a good opportunity. **Please remember the following the points – thank you:**

- You need to be wearing a mask or face covering of some sort.
- Please bring a pen to complete the contact slips, one per family.
- Families please sit at the sides and others in the centre.
- Please sit in the middle of the central benches if you arrive early to let others fill in from the edges.
- Collection plate is as you go in or out.

We will continue to Livestream the Sunday 10am Mass which you can watch by visiting the parish website www.kendalcatholicchurch.uk. Also on the parish website, you can follow the link to view the first of a series of short talks by Fr Hugh on Mark's Gospel. <https://youtu.be/T2dISXAQz04> (In the New Year there will be further talks)

**HOLY TRINITY & ST GEORGE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Serving Kendal and Sedbergh

THE HOLY FAMILY - 27th DECEMBER 2020

TODAY'S READINGS:

Reposing, infant-like, as though...

Young couples have to consider redefining their lifestyles when a baby comes. They want the baby to be brought up with the best they can offer, by being the best people they can be. The birth of a child can bring out the best in any parent. This is precisely what God has done for us through the birth of His Son. With Jesus' birth, our humanity is made sacred. He has called us from living self-centred lives to living lives of compassion, peace and joy. Jesus has transformed humanity, making humanity as He is: sacred. Jesus' birth 'turns the world upside down' it brings out the best in each of us when we accept and celebrate it in faith and love. The presence of a baby can reform the self-centred into the self-less. A baby calls his or her parents into a new holiness. On the feast of the Holy Family we pray that we all may hear the cries of the Infant Jesus, calling us to reverence His presence in our own and in others' humanity. And hear too His call to the holiness that is the heart of the Catholic family. Thus making the family the very building block of society.

...On Joseph's arms, on Mary's knee!

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A Happy New Year to you all.

Obviously we hope that 2021 will bring a little relief from the Coronavirus but however all this unfolds I hope you can enjoy this New Year and if you have not been able to see family and friends before now, that you get the chance to do so shortly. Many thanks again for all your help during this time and of course for all the very kind cards and gifts that you have sent. God bless. **Fr Hugh**

Helpers Party: As you know we would normally be taking names for our annual Helpers' Party for January but will not be doing so at the moment. A huge thanks to you all this year and we will try and get a party organised for some time in 2021!

PRESBYTERY CONTACT: (01539) 720063. E-mail: kendalcatholicchurch@gmail.com
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Lancaster R.C. Diocesan Trustees Registered – Registered Charity No. 234331

MASSES WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER 2020

Office Proper, Sundays Yr B.

Sun 26 th 27 th	THE HOLY FAMILY 6.00 pm Vigil: 10.00 am: Ted & Catherine McCarthy, Anne & Derek Wise RIP & Luke McGrath (102) streamed from Church 12.00 noon: People of the parish (at Sedbergh) 6.00 pm:
Mon 28 th	The Holy Innocents NO MASS
Tues 29 th	St Thomas Becket 12.00 noon:
Wed 30 th	Sixth Day of Christmas Octave 12.00 noon:
Thurs 31 st	Seventh Day of Christmas Octave 12.00 noon:
Fri 1 st January	Mary, Mother of God 12.00 noon:
Sat 2 nd	St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen
Sun 2 nd 3 rd	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 6.00 pm Vigil: Joan Baines RIP 10.00 am: streamed from Church 12.00 noon: People of the parish (at Sedbergh) 6.00 pm:

The funeral for Patricia Holmes will be on Wednesday 30th December which will be for family only, but please keep them in your prayers.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

SICK: Holly Howe, Will Flitcroft, Philip Barry, Pat Newton, Trish Hoad, Margaret West, Brian Chambers, Varlien Vyner-Brooks, Archie Scott, Jamie Banks Wallhead, Mary Brady, Bob Dickie, Ian Muir, Sylvia Duckworth, Winnie Edgar, Adrian Jennings, Christine Stoker, Barbara Banks, Netta Baxter, Eileen Halstead, Thomas Smith, Jane Johnson, Malcolm Nightingale, Flo Jamieson, Patrick Dolan, Mike Nicholson.

ANNIVERSARIES: Norman Almond, Ethelreda Fisher, Doris Konczynski, Marie Briggs, Edith Goodall, Trevor Thomas, Albert Woof, Margaret McCartney, Alan Gibson, Marian Vadas, Maria Tatt, John Dawson, Ada Hutton, Honora Tobin, Maureen Stackhouse, Winifred Duckworth, Mary Cragg, John Watson, Eileen O'Callaghan, Albert Caine, Pat Delaney, Edna Rocks, Baby Kyle Wilkinson, Leslie Garnett, Bernadette Line, Frank Rymell, Susan Jennings, Philomena McEwen, Ernest Mitchell, Barry Oldfield, Derek Line.

ADVERT FOR A FAITH AND JUSTICE WORKER: Lancaster Diocese is looking for a part-time Faith & Justice worker and co-ordinator to work throughout the Diocese to engage with parishes, schools and other institutions in order to advance the understanding of, and active engagement in, Catholic Social Teaching and issues arising from it. An informed, enthusiastic person is needed with good communication skills able to form positive relationships with groups at all levels and facilitate their growth. You will need to be able to manage your own time & have some administrative ability. Computer skills and the ability to drive are essential. Salary approx. £8300 pa.

VIRTUAL DEMENTIA HUB will be back in the New Year, the first meeting via Zoom will be Tuesday 12th January at 2pm. Contact KendalDAA@gmail.com for Zoom information.

PARISH MAGAZINE FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS is available to view on the parish website. If you would like a paper copy there are a few at the presbytery back door.

Here is an account of the Pope's Christmas message:

Pope Francis led the prayer of the Angelus in St. Peter's Square on the fourth and final Sunday of Advent. Reflecting on the day's Gospel of the Annunciation (Lk 1:26-38), the Pope said the invitation to become the Mother of the Messiah carried with it both pure joy and great trial. According to the Gospel, Mary was betrothed to Joseph, and faced the death penalty if found to be pregnant. "Certainly, the divine message would have filled Mary's heart with light and strength," said the Pope. "Nevertheless, she found herself faced with a crucial decision: to say 'yes' to God, risking everything, even her life, or to decline the invitation and to continue her ordinary life."

Pope Francis noted how Mary offered her assent to God's invitation with a wholehearted *fiat*. "Let it be done to me according to your word." He pointed out that, in the original Greek, the expression attributed to Mary "indicates a strong desire, the firm will that something happen." Hers was no simple, submissive "yes", said the Pope. Mary actively bound herself to God. "She is a woman in love prepared to serve her Lord completely and immediately." Mary, he added, does not hesitate or impose conditions on God.

The Pope reflected on how often we procrastinate in life, even in our spiritual life. He said we know it would be good to pray, but that we say we don't have time. "I know it is important to help someone, but today I can't. I will do it tomorrow." Yet, as we cross the threshold into the Christmas Season, Mary invites us to offer our quick and courageous "yes", no matter the cost. In spite of difficult conditions Pope Francis urged Christians to consider in what ways God is inviting us to say "yes", especially in the difficulties surrounding Christmas in 2020. "Instead of complaining in these difficult times about what the pandemic prevents us from doing, let us do something for someone who has less: not the umpteenth gift for ourselves and our friends, but for a person in need whom no-one thinks of!" The Pope then warned against letting gift-buying consume our heart ahead of the holidays. "Consumerism has stolen Christmas," he said, pointing out that the Holy Family filled the stable in Bethlehem with poverty and love, not consumerism. Pope Francis concluded by inviting everyone to prepare our hearts for Christmas through prayer, "like Mary's: free from evil, welcoming, ready to receive God."