



**St. David's Parish
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell. CH8 8PE**



**PARISH NEWSLETTER
CHRISTMAS SUNDAY**

December 25, 2022

“Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been ‘in planted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels.” (St. John Chrysostom)

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMES

December 24, Saturday

Carol songs by Parish Choir 5.30 pm

Christmas Vigil Mass 6.00 pm

December 25, Sunday

Christmas Holy Mass 10.00 am

READINGS

SATURDAY Vigil Mass	SUNDAY Christmas Mass
1 st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5	Isaiah 52:7-10
2 nd Reading: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25	Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel: Mathew 1:1-25	John 1:1-5, 9-14

Scripture Reflections

Vigil Mass: In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies how the God of Israel will honour the desolate and forsaken Jerusalem and the land of Israel by espousing her, as a man marries a virgin and makes her a mother. Yahweh does this by sending His long-awaited Messiah into Israel to possess it and rule over it. The Messiah will vindicate Israel and save her. Through His prophet Isaiah, the Lord God wished to inspire the hopeless Israelites, returned from the Babylonian exile, to plant crops and make their desolate land fertile and prosperous so that she might be able to hold up her head again among the other nations. **In the second reading,** St. Paul recounts the history of God's mercy to Israel, His chosen people. God showed His mercy to Israel, fulfilling the prophecies of His long-awaited Messiah, by sending His Son as the descendant of David, and their Saviour. **The Gospel** reviews the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17), tracing his descent from Abraham through David as foretold by the prophet, then describing his birth as our Saviour at Bethlehem (1:18-25), through the working of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel also shows how God resolved the doubts of Joseph by sending His angel, first to reassure Joseph, then to instruct him to name the child Jesus. The name Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name *Yehoshua*, which means "Yahweh is salvation." Just as the first Joshua (the successor of Moses), saved the Israelites from their enemies, the second Joshua (Jesus) would save them from their sins.

Life messages: 1) We need to *allow* the Savior to be reborn in our lives. Let us humbly admit the truth with the German mystic *Angelus Silesius* **“Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem – but all in vain until He is born in me.”** So, let us *allow* Him to be reborn in our lives during Christmas 2022 and every day of the New Year 2023. Let us also show our gratitude and good will by generously sharing Jesus, our Saviour, reborn in our hearts, with

others as love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and humble service. 2) We need to have a Christmas gift for the Child Jesus, because we are celebrating his birthday. Hence, instead of focusing our full attention on giving Christmas gifts to family members, let us give our hearts to Jesus today, filled with sacrificial love, overflowing mercy, selfless caring, and unconditional forgiveness of, and prayer for, others.

Sunday- Mass during the Day: In the first reading Prophet Isaiah extols and praises the one who preaches good news and brings peace and happiness on Zion, the Mountain of the Lord. Jesus fulfilled this prophesy as we read in Lk. 4:18-21- He came to preach good news to the poor and declare the Year of favour which brings peace and joy. **In the second reading** the author reminds that in OT times God spoke through prophets and angels, but in the end times He spoke through His own Son Jesus Christ who is the perfect copy of the Father, and is the radiant light of God's glory. **In the Gospel** John presents Jesus as the Incarnate Word of God who came to enlighten the hearts of men who were living in darkness. But his own people rejected him. Those who accepted him are given the right of children of God. During this Christmas day let us welcome Jesus the Incarnate Word who can lead us to glory of children of God.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

December 18, 2022

Gift Aid collection	245.00
Loose cash	86.22
Total	331.22

CHRISTMAS FRIEND GIFTS

All those who are participating in the Christmas Friend programme please bring your gifts with the name of your Christmas friend and

either hang it on the Christmas tree or place it on the table near by the tree. Thank you very much for praying and caring for your friend.

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	By	Intentions
24	Carmel Jones	Christopher and Mary Glynn
25		For Parishioners
26	Stella Griffiths	Josephine Nykabi RIP
27	Joan Oates	Mary Llewellyn
29	Gerard Rhodes	Edwin and Patricia Goldstraw RIP
30	Louis Parry	Anthony Parry, for healing

Please Pray for our Sick
Eliza Brizzi, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

ANNIVERSARIES
John Doyle, Colin Roberts, Fr. Frank Hickman, Jenny Rutt,
Richard Ward, Joan Roberts, Chris Jones, Maude French, Sr
Theresa Fleming, Enid McArdle, Fr. Godfrey Walsh, Mary Ward,
Sr. Immaculata Melia, Phillip Reed

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