



St. Patrick's R.C. Church

Glenfield Road, Fairfield,
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Parish Priest : Canon John Cooper
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Sunday 20th December 2020

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. Mary was needed by God so that he might carry out his plan for the world and send Jesus among us. Mary was asked to co-operate with God and be the mother of Jesus. The moment she agreed, the gates of heaven opened for all of us.



Christmas is upon us and Mary is more special to us than ever. She shows us the importance of keeping our ears open to what God wants us to do, and of being ready to answer God's call. We can ask her to help us to have her attitude of listening and responding to God so that we, too, can be ready to bring Jesus into the world by acting as He would wish us to act, doing what He would want us to do.

Gracious God, who chose Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour, fill us with your grace, that like Mary we might rejoice in your salvation; send us out to finish our Advent journey filled with love and joy and peace ready to receive that promise afresh into our lives. Amen.

We pray Lord that you who have given us life and intended it for ever, enlighten our minds to awareness and renewed conviction that all human life is sacred because it is created in your image and likeness.

Please help all countries, rich and poor, across the globe to have access to the medicines they need, and especially to the Colvid19 Vaccine, We pray for a successful end to the pandemic in the near future.

We ask your help for families everywhere at Christmastime, especially this year when so many families are apart and many are finding this a worrying and testing time. We hope that families get a chance to be together in a safe way and we ask you to keep our loved ones, who cannot be with us, in your loving care wherever they may be in the world.

As we look forward to the joys of Christmas, our hearts are with all families who have recently lost loved ones. We pray that Christ's promise that they are in the loving care of the Father who created them is a consolation to them at this time.

We pray in the name of Our Lord who was born in Bethlehem



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
20	Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish
21	Monday	9.15am	Joan Barker
22	Tuesday		
23	Wednesday		
24	Thursday Vigil Mass	7.00pm	Roy Crallan and Eddie Southgate
25	Friday The Nativity of the Lord		
26	Saturday Vigil Mass St Stephen	4.00pm	Special Intention Confessions after Mass
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH			
27	Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish
Anniversaries:		Winifred Heal, Audrey Gooding, Eddie Southgate, Maureen Binks, Roy Crallan,	
		Riska Okninski Billy McGuinness, Pat Jackson, Margaret Devlin, Pauline Morton, Mike Rutland, Margaret Kenning, Christopher Brown, Fr. Pat McKenna, Rosie Owens, Andrew Brydon, Mary Talbot, Veronica Connors, Betty Griffiths, Sadie Todd, Rose Marie Bruno, Teresa Carrick	



Loving God, we thank you for the gift of love. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by loving others as Christ loves us. Amen.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 88:2-5, 27, 29**
- **Second Reading ~ Romans 16:25-27**
- **Gospel ~ Luke 1:26-38**



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Linda Russell, mother of Fr David Russell, who died recently. Please also keep Fr David in your prayers at this time. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December: For a life of prayer
We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Pope Francis Proclaims 'YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH'

With the Apostolic Letter 'Patric corde' ('With a Father's Heart;'), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a 'Year of Saint Joseph' from the 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021. The Holy Father wrote 'Patric corde' against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of 'ordinary' people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds a prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage and defend us from every evil. Amen.

You can watch a video on You Tube proclaiming the Year of Saint Joseph by copying and pasting the following link into your search engine:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=YSN8PFtZclg>

FEAST OF ST STEPHEN (26th December) . . . St. Stephen is the Patron Saint of Deacons. He lived an exemplary life as one of the seven deacons appointed by the Apostles to perform charitable acts to the poor and give pastoral care to those in need. These deacons were therefore important not just for the pastoral care they provided to the impoverished but because they helped the apostles focus on teaching. St. Stephen was considered the first Christian martyr, he was dragged away by an angry mob while preaching the Gospel in the streets and stoned to death.



PRAYER FOR DEACONS ~ *Through your Spirit, Heavenly Father, give your Deacons grace and power to fulfil their ministry. Make them faithful to serve and constant in advancing Your gospel in the world. May they follow the example of Jesus Christ your Son, who washed the feet of his disciples, and set the needs of others before his own. Amen*

SPUC CLUB DRAW RESULT ~ 13th DECEMBER 2020

1st Prize	No. 39	Val Railton
2nd Prize	No. 23	Teresa Fawcett
3rd Prize	No. 60	Barry Halliday

Many thanks to all who support the Club Draw, your generosity is greatly appreciated. **Stockton Branch members wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.**



SEA SUNDAY . . . Every year churches around the world celebrate Sea Sunday. It is a day for people to come together to pray for seafarers and thank them for the vital role they play in all of our lives. Sea Sunday had to be cancelled in July and this Sunday has been chosen for the new date to remember seafarers. Seafarers are among the heroes of this pandemic, ensuring that food, medicine and other vital equipment continues to be delivered to us. This year seafarers will be facing their hardest Christmas ever because of Covid-19. Contracts have been extended, flights have been cancelled and many seafarers have not seen their families in over a year. Please keep them in your prayers. Visit www.stellamaris.org.uk to find out more

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Mother of God and our Mother, you know all the dangers that threaten seafarers. Protect your sons and daughters who work and travel on the waters of the world, and protect also their families that await their return. Star of the Sea, Mother of the Church, give light and strength to those chaplains and lay ministers who bring the love of your Divine Son among mariners. Be a guide to those who sail amid the storms and dangers of life. Enlighten the hearts of ardent disciples and bring us all to the safety of heaven's port. Amen.



CAROLS AT HOME . . . Leeds Diocese are streaming Carols at Home, this is the seasonal version of this summer's popular Hymns at Home. **Sunday 20th December at 3pm.** Visit www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk. Scroll down page and select 'News and Events'.

THANK YOU to all St. Patrick's parishioners who are delivering bulletins, providing treats and for all other acts of kindness during these difficult times.

Please forward any prayers, thoughts, poems, news, anniversaries or any item that you would like to share and I will include them on the bulletin. Thank you.

Please could you pass this newsletter round the parish by forwarding to your parish contacts. If you do not wish to receive future newsletters please email stockton.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk or stpatricks.fairfield@btinternet.com to be removed from the mailing list. If you know of any parishioner who would like to start receiving the bulletin please ask them to e-mail the above. This bulletin, and also English Martyr's & St Peter & Paul's, can be accessed through the Parish Family Stockton website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk.