


**22ND DECEMBER 2013 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
29TH DECEMBER 2013 – THE HOLY FAMILY**



Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the characters of Mary and Joseph, and hear of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child Jesus, and the reaction of Joseph. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the promise that the Messiah would come from that line. The link between the First Reading and the Gospel is quite explicit today, since Matthew actually quotes Isaiah. Joseph, descendant of King David, is invited to take his place in the great story of God's relationship with the Chosen people. There is great sense of a timeless mystery reaching its focal point, as that which was "promised long ago" (Second Reading) now takes flesh in the womb of Mary.

<b>Liturgy &amp; Activities This Week</b>		<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
<i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekdays of Advent/Christmastide; Divine Office Week 4</i> <b>Sunday Missal: page 119; Preface page 35</b>		
Sunday	9.15am (SJ) – with Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) – with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children's Liturgy <i>A Day of Special</i> 3pm Reconciliation Service (SC) <i>Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	We celebrate this great Feast on Wednesday, though it begins with our Masses on Tuesday evening. We have (hopefully) prepared throughout Advent and now our Feast is here.
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 6.30pm Churches in Harwood Carol Singing – Longsight Lodge & Bramdean estate	We welcome the new-born Jesus, the child of Bethlehem, the Son of God and the Son of David. He is the Light of the World and our Saviour. He is the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God-with-us.
Tuesday <i>Christmas Eve</i>	No morning Mass 5pm First Mass of Christmas (SC) 6.30pm First Mass of Christmas (SJ) 8.30pm First Mass of Christmas (SB)	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.
Wednesday <i>Christmas Day</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) 10.15am Mass (SC) 11.15am Mass (SB)	Let us make full use of the season, to pray about and reflect upon the mystery of the Incarnation.
Thursday <i>St Stephen</i>	12 noon Mass (SB)	
Friday <i>St John the Evangelist</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ)  <b><i>This is the Patronal Feast for St John's Parish</i></b>	
Saturday <i>Holy Innocents</i>	5pm Mass (SC) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday <i>The Holy Family</i>	9.15am (SJ) – with Children's Liturgy 10.15am (SC) – with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children's Liturgy	

**Parish Priest and Rural Dean: Rev Michael Cooke**  
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## Prayers Please

**Sick:** Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Jonathan Rimmer, Eunice Brierley, Bernard Callaghan, Kathleen Humphreys, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, Robin Tootill, Elzie Ball, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Bernard & Rita Holder, Michael, Baby Rose, Calum Russell, Eileen Murphy, Pauline Bowling, Emma Turner, Joan Rankin, Guy Ryan, Maria Stott, Fiona Preston, Kathleen Hopwood, John Barrett, Roy Smith, Isabelle Karzynski, Fiona Oldham (nee Clappison), Stephen Tootill, Maureen Kennedy, Vera Evans, Julie Smith, Ernie Little, Anthony Axford, Mary Marshall, Joan Pearce, Joshua Almond, Jacqueline Kay, Wynn Elliot, Tom Wardle, Joan Peake (nee Hooton), Bob Taylor, Noel Gannon, Sheila Derbyshire, David Walton, Dr Bernard Higgins, Winston Shanley, Vera Casey Shaw, Heather Goil, Anne Rule, Joni Horton and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness

**Lately Dead:** Bea Gilmore, Philip Rowan, Jean (McGarry) Stones, Patrick McGoven, Anna Boyle, Thomas Lowther, Mrs Pat Allen, Thomas Grimes, Catherine Boardman

**Anniversaries:** Roy Connolly, Eileen Mason, Annie & James McGrath, Anna Mikolajewski

**Mass Intentions:** John McCormick, Vera & Fred Boatfield, Deceased members of the O'Brien & Fitzgerald families, Roy Connolly, Eileen Noakes (successful operation), Eileen Mason, Philip Rowan, William & Elizabeth Jenkinson, In honour of St Jude, St Anthony & the Sacred Heart, Jean (McGarry) Stones, Cynthia Winstanley, Ralph Gubbins, Patrick McGoven, Stephen Kay, Vera Broughton (a Special Intention), Joni Horton (a Special Intention), A Special Intention for the Horton family, Deceased members of the Blackburn & Dunleavy families, Gerard Murphy (Christmas Remembrance), Annie & James McGrath, Patrick & Mary Healy (Christmas Remembrance), Joyce Knight, Mr & Mrs Ambrose Royle & deceased members of the Royle family, Mrs Pat Allen, Mr & Mrs John Howarth (a Special Intention), A Special Intention to the Holy Family, Anna Mikolajewski, Barbara Grimes (Christmas Remembrance), Thomas Grimes, Deceased members of the Cambridge & Carter families, Susan Talbot

**Gaelic Coffee Morning:** The SVP would like to say thankyou to all those who organised and attended the coffee morning at St John's last Sunday. A total of £75 was raised.

**St John's Christmas Draw:** The draw will take place this Sunday (22 December) after the 9.15am Mass.

**BRASS Collection:** Thankyou for the fantastic response so far! The joint food collection will continue during December at each of our three churches.

**Harbour Room Book Club:** Thank you to all members who attended the last Book Club. We had a wonderful Christmas time! Congratulations to all winners and thanks to all helpers and contributors over the year. A very Happy Christmas to you all! The next meeting will be on 29 January to discuss *Lone Wolf* by Jodi Picoult.

### Think Vocation

Mary visited Elizabeth when she knew she was to be the Mother of Our Lord. The spirit of Our Lady is the spirit of visitation. Let us think of the many people who are sick or housebound and unable to come to Mass on Sundays. Through the priest or minister of Holy Communion they are able to welcome Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament into their homes. May the Lord bless all those who are sick or infirm at this present time.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

### HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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## 29TH DECEMBER 2013 - THE HOLY FAMILY

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekdays of Christmastide; Divine Office Week 1* **Sunday Missal: page 143; Preface page 36**



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.

### Masses & Feasts This Week

Sunday - 9.15am (SJ); 10.15am (SC); 11.15am (SB)  
Monday - 9.30am Mass (SJ)  
Tuesday - 10am Requiem Mass for Catherine Boardman (SB)  
Wednesday - No Mass – *Holy Mary Mother of God*  
Thursday - 9.15am Mass (SB) – *St Basil & St Gregory*  
Friday – 9.30am Mass (SJ)  
Saturday – 5pm Mass (SC); 6.30pm Mass (SJ)  
Reconciliation: Saturday 5.30-6.00pm (SJ)

### 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.