

Mary, a young mother

What an amazing story. Mary - in so many ways an ordinary teenager from an ordinary background - begins to realise what she is getting herself into. She listened to the message of the Angel. She said "Yes" - And now? Stuck in the cold of an outdoor stable, she is greeted by strangers, shepherds from the fields speaking of a vision of angels, bringing gifts to her newborn Son. But for all the strangeness of the goings on, she will not back out. She ponders everything in her heart, hoping one day it will all make sense. And so she continues to fulfil what she knows to be the plan of God. The eighth day comes, and with her husband she takes the child to the Temple, and names him Jesus. There she is told even more amazing things about her son - and about future sufferings she must endure with him. But her "Yes" goes on. And so must our own. Let us pray for the grace to remain faithful ourselves to the plan of God, trusting when we do not understand that one day all things will be made clear.



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**BLESSINGS
TO YOU ALL
FOR
2012!**

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2011/12

Dates for 2012 are as follows:

(Please let Fr Martin or Denise know if you expect to have any problems getting here)

Wednesday 18th January

"We are people who celebrate God's Word" 6.30pm-7.30pm

Sunday 22nd January

Mass: 10.00am

Sunday 12th February

Special Family Mass: 10.00am

Wednesday 29th February

"We are people who follow Jesus" 6.30pm

Sunday 4th March

Mass: 10.00am

Wednesday 28th March

Lenten Reconciliation Service: 7.00pm with the people of the Parish
(subject to availability of other clergy)

Sunday 1st April,

Special Mass for Palm Sunday
10.00am

Wednesday 2nd May

"We are the Body of Christ" 6.30pm

Wednesday 9th May

Confirmation Service: 7.00pm

Sunday 13th May

Mass for the newly Confirmed:
10.00am

Wed 30th May

Preparing for First Communion:
6.30pm

Sundays 10th & 17th June

3.00pm

First Communion Masses

Wednesday 11th July

"We are people who live our Faith"
+ Children's Party: 6.30pm

Sunday 15th July

Mass with presentation of certificates:
10.00am

christmas & new year at holy family

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Thank you to everyone who has been involved in any way in our preparations and celebrations of Christmas here at Holy Family.

Flowers, so expertly arranged once again by Katie and Shirley, were donated this year by the Bradley, Keefe, O'Callaghan, Sharrocks and Shaw families.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

and to all those dear to you.

On a personal note from Fr Martin - Thank you for the cards, gifts and good wishes.

- * *New to Holy Family parish?*
- * *Know someone who is sick or in hospital (or the hospice)?*
- * *Like a visit from the priest?*
- * *Think the parish may be able to help you, or you us, in any way?*

Please speak to Fr Martin, after Mass or at any convenient time.

Mass times at Holy Family

Saturday (Vigil Mass): 6.30pm
Sunday Morning: 10.00am
with **Children's Liturgy**
(Tea and Coffee served after morning Mass)
Weekdays: See Calendar, below
Holydays: Eve 7.00pm
9.30am on the day

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday after Midday Mass, and 6.00-6.15pm,
or at any reasonable time on request.
(Rite II Reconciliation Services are celebrated in Advent and Lent)

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

by arrangement (6 months' notice required for weddings)

Weekday Calendar

Monday: No Service today

Tuesday - Morning Mass: 9.30am, Sacristy
Church cleaning afterwards

Wednesday - Mass: 8.10am Sacristy

Thursday - Evening Mass: 7.00pm, Sacristy

Friday (day of abstinence) - Lunchtime Mass: 12.30pm, Sacristy

Saturday - 12.30pm, Sacristy

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

New boxes of envelopes for those who have signed **Gift Aid** agreements are now available from Fr Martin. If you are a taxpayer and do not currently Gift Aid your contributions to the parish, do please be aware that it would not cost you anything - it simply means that the parish can reclaim tax on whatever amount you choose to give. Please speak to Peter or Fr Martin if you may be interested. **Non Gift Aid envelopes** are available in the Family Room after both Masses, for those who wish to use this method of "planned giving" in support of your parish. **Thank you** for all your support.

CHRISTMAS at HOLY FAMILY (2010) CDs

Those copies of the parish Christmas Music CD already requested (on the list in the Family Room) are available from Fr Martin. More of these can be produced if required - all we ask is for a small donation to Parish funds.

HOLY FAMILY RC CHURCH

Presbytery:
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Rochdale OL11 2DG

Parish Priest: Fr Martin A Collins GTCL
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WE PRAY THIS WEEK

... for the following, for whom Masses will be offered - **the sick:** Olga, Veronica and David, Dan, George, Kathleen, Christine, Mary, Teresa, Winnie, Bill, Julie, Peggy, Anne-Marie, John, Denis, Marjorie, Denis, Margaret, Marie, Jane, Christine, Ernest, Elva, Sister Alphonsus, Kathleen, Margaret, Mary and Bridie, Helene and Ann Marie, -----

----- and **those who have died:** Jack Bullock, Michael and Irene Conlon, Maureen and James Hagan, Bernard and Brenda Flynn, Marie Terese Anastasi, Clarisse Wrigley and Giovanni Natale. **We also pray** for our school communities as they return during the week, and for a number of Special Intentions. **DEANERY PRAYERS:** prayers are be offered every Sunday in each parish of our Deanery for the people of one of the parishes. This week, we pray for the priest and people of Our Lady of Grace, Prestwich.

OFFERTORY Thank you for last week's (record!) collection of £606.42.

RETIRING COLLECTION

No retiring collection this week.
Next week: SVP monthly collection.
Crib Offerings (placed in the basket in the corner of the crib) will be sent to CARITAS, Diocese of Salford, in support of Homeless Mothers.

SRC DT Registered Charity No 250037
www.salforddiocese.org.uk

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL
throughout this Christmas season and always