

# Holy Family News

## Christ for All People

Throughout Advent, we read the prophecies of the Old Testament - Jewish writers foretelling the coming of *their* Messiah. Then, on Christmas Day we celebrated a great birthday - Jesus, the Saviour and King of the Jews, that long-awaited Saviour, born some 2000 years ago. The ancient promises delivered by the prophets to the Jews of old were now fulfilled. The Son of God had come into the world, and we read of Jewish shepherds rushing from their fields to pay homage. And then, eight days later, we came to the "naming" ceremony, with the new-born child presented in the Jewish Temple, and formally given the name "Jesus," (Saviour). An old and wise Jew took him in his arms that day, and spoke of glory, through him, to the people of Israel - his people, the Jewish people. But he hinted, too, at more. Simeon's great prayer to God spoke too of a "light to enlighten the Gentiles" (Lk 2:32) and, true to this, from distant eastern lands, Gentile wise men were already travelling to see a "prophecy" they had witnessed in the stars above. And today we celebrate their arrival, and for us who are not, for the most part, of Jewish descent, the story becomes personal and our reason for celebrating these past few weeks makes sense.

The wisdom of those "wise men from the east" was greater than even they could comprehend. They were a part of God's plan. God of Israel? Yes, but the one true God of all creation too. A God who cares for *all* the world and *all* its people. A God who, through promises made to Abraham and to his descendants, sent his Son to save us all, Jews and Gentiles alike.

Today is the revelation of that wondrous Truth - God's "Epiphany" as he reveals his plan for all time to those first Gentile visitors. They came with gifts - but took away a gift greater than any of them. They, like Simeon, now beheld the "light to enlighten the Gentiles", and as they offered gold to *their* King, incense to *their* God, and myrrh to the one who would die for *their* salvation. They believed in the truth of their quest, and went home again filled with the love of a God they had never known until now. Their lives could never be the same again - and nor can ours.

And so, all the rejoicing of these past weeks is our own. All the carolling, the festivities and the gifts to share - they are ours, because Jesus is ours and we are God's own children.

Standing with the Magi, marvelling at the revelation, what can we bring in return for the Life we receive? Just our heart - to love and to care in His name.



+  
**JOURNEY  
IN FAITH  
STARTS  
NEXT  
WEEK**

### **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

\* *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

Those new boxes of envelopes for people who have signed **Gift Aid** agreements, which have not yet been collected, are still 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" to your parish. **Thank you** for all your support.

## JOURNEY IN FAITH

Our fortnightly meetings, in the Presbytery, for those wishing to explore the Catholic Faith either as existing Church members or as people who may be interested (without any obligation) in being formally received into the Church family, will begin on Wednesday week at 6.00pm.

## HOLY FAMILY RC CHURCH

Presbytery:  
28 Mornington Road, Kirkholt  
Rochdale OL11 2DG

**Parish Priest:** Fr Martin A Collins GTCL  
**Telephone / Fax:** (01706) 649230  
**E-mail:** office@holyfamily-rochdale.co.uk  
**Web site:** www.holyfamily-rochdale.co.uk

## 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:** George Shannon (Junior), Edna Burns, Sarah Ashurst, Annie and James Gee, Tracy Clayton and Desmond O'Neill, **We also pray** for peace and for a number of Special Intentions. **DEANERY PRAYERS:** prayers are offered every Sunday in each parish of our Deanery for the people of one of these parishes. This week, we pray for the priest and people of Our Lady of the Assumption, Langley and St John Fisher, Boarshaw.

**OFFERTORY** Thank you for last week's collection of £237.42.

## RETIRING COLLECTION

This week: SVP monthly collection.  
No retiring collection next week.  
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.

## MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL

throughout the coming week and always

SRC DT Registered Charity No 250037

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