

To See as Jesus Sees

The story of Samuel, from today's First Reading, as a familiar one. The boy, Samuel, in the service of Eli the High Priest, does not yet know the Lord, so when he hears a voice calling him to wake, he assumes it must be the voice of his master and comes running. But Eli has not called, and Samuel returns to rest. He cannot imagine a life different from his own experience; he cannot imagine that the voice could mean something new and great - so he must have dreamed it. But a second time, and a third, that same voice is heard, and it is Eli who recognises what is happening. Samuel must open his mind to possibilities beyond his understanding. "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

In the Gospel reading, John the Baptist is already attuned to the mind of God. He looks hard at the figure of another preacher walking by, and as he looks he sees a truth beyond all telling. This is the one who will take away the sins of the world. This is the one for whom he has been preparing the way. It is time for his own followers to leave, to face a new beginning with eager expectation. Jesus is the one they must follow from now on - but John is not sorry to see his friends and disciples go away. For this is God's plan, and God's plan is always good.

These first men to follow Jesus have listened well to the words of John, and they too are open to wondrous possibilities. They see Jesus for who he really is: the Messiah, and one of them, Andrew, gives the news to his brother Simon. Simon, the simple, rugged fisherman - who could imagine what greatness he could achieve in the time to come? Jesus could! Jesus looked hard at him, and saw beyond what met the eye. He saw the truth, the face of the rock on which his Church would one day stand firm - the face of Cephas, St Peter.

How dull might Samuel's life have been, had he not recognised what that call, "Samuel, Samuel" had meant? How dull might the lives of those two disciples of John the Baptist have been, if their master had not looked hard and recognised who Jesus was? And what of Simon, had Jesus not looked deeply into his heart and called him to greatness, or indeed, had he himself not opened his heart to receive and to embrace the mission that Jesus came to bring?

Our world is a remarkable place and, graced by the Glory of God, nothing is quite the way it seems. Each one of us is called by Jesus to wonders beyond our imagining. He looks deeply into the hearts of us all, and sees not our limitations but our full potential - the people we were meant to be, the people we can be if only we open the eyes of our mind to him, if only we could see past the mundaneness of what we expect, to the glory only he can offer. And we could - with just a little Faith in his Word. "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening. Here I am, I come to do your will."



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**JOURNEY
IN FAITH AND
SACRAMENTAL
PROGRAMME
WEDNESDAY**

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)

THIS WEDNESDAY (18th January)
"We are people who celebrate God's Word" 6.30pm-7.30pm

Next 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
Journey in Faith: 6.00 - 7.00pm, Presbytery
Sacramental Programme: 6.30 - 7.30pm at the Church

Thursday - Funeral Mass: 10.00am
for the late Veronica Earnshaw. *May she rest in peace*
No Evening Mass today

Friday (day of abstinence): No Service today

Saturday - 12.30pm, Sacristy

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 THIS WEDNESDAY at 6.00pm.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

The next meeting for children and parents takes place in Church on Wednesday, from 6.30 - 7.30pm. Please let Denise or Fr Martin know if you are unable to attend.

WEEKDAY MASSES

There will be no Thursday evening Mass this week because of the funeral Mass for Veronica Earnshaw in the morning. There will also be no Mass on Friday, as Fr Martin is conducting a funeral at Sacred Heart in the morning, and a second funeral at the Crematorium in the afternoon. Please pray for the bereaved families.

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:** Sharon, Olga, Veronica and David, Dan, Kathleen, Christine, Mary, Teresa, Winnie, Bill, Julie, Peggy, Anne-Marie, John, Denis, Marjorie, Denis, Margaret, Marie, Jane, Christine, Ernest, Elva, Sister Alphon-sus, Kathleen, Margaret, Mary and Bridie, Helene and Ann Marie, -----

----- and **those who**

have died: Veronica Earnshaw, George Kirkwood, George Shannon (Junior), Elizabeth Mary McDermott, Jimmy and John McDermott, Jim Smith, Elaine Grant, Michael Grant (Senior and Junior), Hughie Flynn and Maureen Walters. **We also pray** 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 Sacred Heart, Rochdale.

OFFERTORY Thank you for last week's collection of £261.23 plus £210.00 (400 Club).

RETIRING COLLECTION

No retiring collection this week or next.
NB: Advanced notice - our White Flower appeal, in support of the work of SPUC, will take place at Masses on the weekend of 4th/5th February.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL

throughout the coming week and always

SRC DT Registered Charity No 250037

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