

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
27th December 2009



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NEW YEAR'S EVE

There will be Mass in the Church at 10.30pm on New Year's Eve.

We need to know if people want a Parish Party to "see in" the New Year, which would enable families with younger children to celebrate together. For the past few years it has taken place in Eleanor Hall. The Hall was open in the evening, and people were free to come at whatever time suited. They brought some music, something to eat, something to drink, and the kettle was on the boil! The Hall can stay open on New Years Eve Night until about 1.00am.

If you wish the New Year's Eve Party to happen, please speak to Father John so that he can put the heating on in time.



CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (WESTMINSTER) CRIB APPEAL 2009

At Christmas time, it is common practice to give friends and family members presents as tokens of love and friendship, but rarely to alleviate real need. However, the true essence of a Christmas gift is to make a real and profound difference in the lives of others, whilst leaving them with their dignity.

Every year the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) encounters thousands of cases of children and families throughout the Diocese who encounter difficulties – families such as Julie's and Marie's. Staff at our Family Centres help parents to find and apply for suitable training courses and by helping them to fill out application forms.

Julie had very low self esteem as a result of enduring years of emotional abuse from her partner. Family Centre staff worked with her on improving her parenting skills and building her self esteem. We encouraged her to train as a counsellor and she now works with teenagers, having successfully completed her course.

The Family Centre also helped Marie, a single mother of two children aged 2 and 4, who was deep in debt, to understand budgeting. Helping her to manage her money gave her confidence in her own abilities. This increased her self confidence so much that she went on to train as a beauty therapist. Marie is now in full time work but has returned to the Family Centre to share her new skills with other parents.

With encouragement and support, both Julie and Marie are both taking positive action to support their families. Their children have benefited too, through attending playgroups and taking advantage of day trips and outings. Against the odds, with our support, they have emerged from this situation closer and more united as families.

These are just two examples of how we are able to help families, without undermining their self-respect. But we truly cannot do this work alone.

This Christmas, by using the Society as your intermediary, you have an opportunity to capture the spirit of the season by making a Crib Offering to help children and families of the Diocese who need your help. Please be as generous as you can because your support changes lives.

CHRISTMAS CREED

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem. I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose Spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small. I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today. I believe in the one whom the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from those with hungry hearts. I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible. I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God. I confess my everlasting need of God: the need for forgiveness for selfishness and greed, for the Spirit's new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold. I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the Son of the Living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

How lovely is your dwelling place,
 Lord, God of hosts.
 My soul is longing and yearning,
 is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
 My heart and my soul ring out their joy
 to God, the living God.

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
 for ever singing your praise.
 They are happy, whose strength is in you;
 they walk with ever growing strength.

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
 give ear, O God of Jacob.
 Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
 look on the face of your anointed.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia
 Open our heart, O Lord,
 to accept the words of your Son.
 Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:20-22.24-28
 Psalm 83
 1 John 3:1-2.21-24
 Luke 2:41-52

NEXT WEEKS' READINGS: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2.8-12
 Psalm 147
 Ephesians 1:3-6.15-18
 John 1:1-18

Mass Times

SUNDAY	HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	8.30am 11.00am 12.30pm & 6.30pm
Monday	Holy Innocents, Martyrs	10.00am
Tuesday	Thomas Becket	10.00am
Wednesday		10.00am
Thursday	Sylvester	10.00am
Friday	Mary, Mother of God	12.00 noon
Saturday	Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	6.30pm
SUNDAY	EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD	8.30am 11.00am 12.30pm & 6.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation –
 Saturday 10.30 – 11.00am & 5.45 – 6.15pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church each Friday morning from 9.15 to 9.45.

Offertory Last Week: £1,501.27
Christmas Offerings: £3,797.68
plus the regular Standing Orders. Thank You!

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your very generous Christmas Offerings, and for your many gifts and cards.

Fr John

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary meets in the Sacristy at 10.45 on Tuesday morning

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK

The Westminster Year Book 2010 is now available from the shop priced at £4.

LINE DANCING

Line dancing classes restart on Tuesday 12th January 2010 at 7.30pm in Eleanor Hall. Thank you all for your support in raising to date £595 in only ten weeks, towards the new hall building costs.

ST JOSEPHS FITNESS CLUB

Could this be your chance to lose the extra pounds gained over Christmas!! Anybody interested in joining please ring Stewart 01992 634445 or email stewartbrodiesykes@yahoo.co.uk. Times and dates have still to be arranged.

BROXBOURNE STREET PASTORS

A team of Broxbourne Street Pastors will be walking the streets of Hoddesdon, Broxbourne, Cheshunt and Waltham Cross on Thursday 31st December.

CALLING ALL APF RED BOX HOLDERS!

If you have not already collected your APF box holders, please go to the back of the church where there is a box containing envelopes with the names and addresses of all the APF box holders in the parish. Please take home the APF envelope with your name and address on, fill it with the contents of your APF box, and return it to the Parish Office.

The APF is the charity that helps Catholic missionaries to continue to work in countries across the world. We thank you for all the money you give to this important work. If you have any questions please contact Terry O'Sullivan on Tel No: 01992 444 642.

WEDDING THIS WEEK

29th December 2009 at 1pm
 Martin Conway and Tanith Prior

BAPTISM THIS WEEK

29th December 2009 at 3pm
 Lydon Syms

100+ CLUB DECEMBER WINNERS

£100 Chris Field
 £50 Jackie Burke
 £40 Tara Duane
 £25 Jackie Lau Yu Kan
 £15 John Ball

Application Forms for 2010 are available at the Church entrances. Subscription unchanged at £12 per number. The first draw will be on Sunday 31st January 2010.

ST PAULS' SUNDAY MISSAL

St Paul's 2010 Sunday Missal is now on sale in the shop, priced £4.50. Please note that the Missals are free to those who are on Readers' Rota.

