

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Corpus Christi • Our Lady of Lourdes • St Joseph's

THIS WEEK
Christmas Week 1

SUNDAY 26th December 2021

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.

Collect

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards.

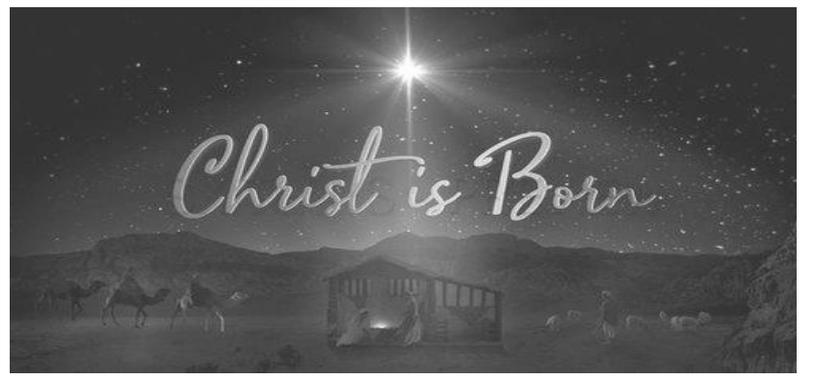
1st Reading Samuel 1:20-22.24.28

Psalm They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

2nd Reading 1 St John 3:1-2.21-24

Gospel Verse Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son.

Gospel Luke 2:41-52



HOLY FAMILY

Canon Tom

Was St Luke showing us an adolescent Jesus who worried his parents in the Gospel passage we have today? Certainly, Jesus appears very confident in his ability to speak with the doctors of the Law. He is growing in his understanding of his relationship with his Father. This appears to be at the expense of his step-father and his mother, Mary. They do not understand what Jesus is talking about when he says: "Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?" (Lk 2:49) In these words Jesus is revealing that he has a vocation from the Father. He has come to do the Father's will and this puts him into conflict with Mary and Joseph.

However, Jesus returns to Nazareth and lives under the authority of Mary and Joseph. The finding in the Temple, with all its upset for Mary and Joseph, is a sign of Jesus' identity. It shows that Jesus will leave his home one day to fulfill his mission of preaching the Kingdom of God. He will only be recognised as the Son of God after his Death and Resurrection.

Jesus' presence in the Holy Family sanctifies all family life. Today we pray for our families that God may bless them and dwell within them as we treat each other as Christ. May we grow in the understanding of Jesus and of one another.



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diocesan news and events

Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St Joseph's parishes are all part of Clifton Diocese. We pray for Bishop Declan Lang, and all the priests, deacons, parishes, and people of our diocese.

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PARISH PRIEST: **CANON TOM GUNNING**

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CORPUS CHRISTI (CC)

Ellenborough Park South, BS23 1XW
wsm.corpuschristi@cliftondiocese.com
01934 621929

Assistant Priest: Fr. Michael Fan  y  
Administrator: Tracey Nelson
Opening hours: 9.15am-1.15pm. Tues-Fri

OUR LADY OF LOURDES (LOL)

Baytree Road, Milton, BS22 8HQ
wsm.ourladyoflourdes@cliftondiocese.com
01934 627137

Administrator: Maricris Magbanua
Opening hours: 9-1pm. Tues and Thurs

ST JOSEPH'S (ST J's)

Camp Road, BS23 2EN
wsm.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com
01934 629865

Administrator: Deacon Tom Moffatt
Polish Priest – Fr. Wieslaw Garbacz
01934 627329 or 07714 675188

NOTICE BOARD

PLEASE PRAY FOR - Fr. Louis Beasley Suffolk, the Parish Priest of Wincanton who died last Friday and Pamela McFadden who died last Sunday. *'May they see the light of heaven'* Also for George Hancock who is in Southmead Hospital and Sinead Kimber.

THE DIVINE MERCY CANDLE is being kept alight at Our Lady of Lourdes. This week we pray for the wellbeing of Charlie Urdos (in Australia)

PRAYER - ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC - Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith or becoming a Catholic? Do you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic? If so please talk to Canon Tom.

29TH DECEMBER - ST. THOMAS BECKET - 1118-70. Thomas was born in London and became archdeacon of Canterbury and Chancellor of Henry II, a close friend who obtained his election as Archbishop of Canterbury. As Archbishop, Thomas adopted an austere way of life and resigned the chancellorship. Conflict ensued with the King over Church-State relations and finally Thomas went into exile in France. On his return to England, his reconciliation with the King proved superficial. In a rage the King asked who would rid him of this turbulent priest and four barons slaughtered Thomas in Canterbury Cathedral.

1ST JANUARY - MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - St Athanasius wrote *'This was no mere fiction, as some have thought. Far from it! Our Saviour really did become man and this brought about the salvation of the whole man. Our salvation is no illusion, nor is it salvation of the body only; the salvation of the whole man, body and soul, was really brought about in the Word Himself. What was born of Mary was by nature human, the Lord's body was a real one - real, because Mary was our sister, since we are all descended from Adam'* The Council of Ephesus decreed in 431, that Mary is *'Theotokos'* - God-bearer - as her son Jesus is one person who is both God and man, human and divine.

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS- The great prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given"(Is 9:6). We often hear it said that the greatest joy in life is the birth of a child. It is something extraordinary and it changes everything. It brings an excitement that makes us think nothing of weariness, discomfort and sleepless nights, for it fills us with a great incomparable happiness. This is what Christmas is: the birth of Jesus is the "newness" that enables us to be reborn each year and find, in him, the strength needed to face every trial. Why? Because his birth is for us-for me, for you, for all of us, for everyone."For us a child is born" Isaiah prophesied. "For us is born this day a Saviour" we repeated in the Psalm. Jesus "gave himself for us (Tit 2:14), Saint Paul tells us, and in the Gospel the angel proclaims: "For to you is born this day a Saviour" (Lk 2:11) For me, for you".

By Pope Francis

SYNOD: LISTENING WITH THE HEART- Pope Francis invites everyone to participate in the 2023 Synod Process. All are asked to respond. In prayer we are asked to listen to each other's hopes, dreams and concerns for the Church in the future. Are you a good listener? Are you willing to lead a group? If so please let **Sonia Briffitt or Canon Tom** know. Groups will gather in January and a parish response will be sent to Bishop Declan by the end of February.

THANK YOU FROM OLOL PARISH – On behalf of Canon Tom and PPC, we would like to extend our appreciations to all who have cleaned the church, mowed the lawn, welcomed/stewards, readers, altar servers, arranged flowers, washing linens, the choir and to all who decorated the church and many more. Thank you for all your help throughout the year even in difficult times.

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB - Will reconvene on Monday the 10th January in the Parish Hall.

THANK YOU - The clergy of the parish thank you for your Christmas offerings to them.

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR THE CHURCH

- **HAND SANITISER** is available to those attending the Church.
- **FACE COVERINGS** must be worn by those attending public acts of worship unless there is a genuine exemption/those leading worship/ a role that requires masks to be removed for a period of time.
- **GOOD VENTILATION** and air throughout the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, **please wrap up well!**
 - There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of this variant's viral transmission is through aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. As such, the strict regimes of **church cleaning are no longer** necessary. General church cleaning is sufficient
 - Those engaged in a form of pastoral ministry (e.g ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable) should **take regular lateral flow tests** to ensure they are safe to do so.

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the **Afghanistan Crisis Appeal**. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

CRIB OFFERINGS - this will go to the Clifton Children Society that offers adoption services that includes recruiting, assessing and preparing adoptive families for some of the most vulnerable children in the UK, supporting children and family throughout the adoption process and beyond. Please give generously

CAFOD ARE HIRING -. Could you inspire Catholics to participate in the Church's mission, working to overcome poverty and injustice? Do you want to work for CAFOD and encourage support and partnership within the Church? We are looking for a Community Participation Coordinator to work in the Diocese of Clifton. Follow the link for more details and please pass on to any friends or relatives who might be interested. Closing date 9 January 2022. <https://isw.changeworknow.co.uk/cafod/vms/e/careers/positions/cJAl47Y0nebARldQy7yJZt>

OLOL - PARISH TREASURER - After 14 years, Peter Mason is standing down as Parish Treasurer in January, following the completion of the end of year Annual Return. If you feel that you are able to take over this responsible position in the Parish, please speak with either Canon Tom or Peter, who will let you know what is involved. This will normally only involve 2/3 hours per week. We use a Diocesan online account package (OPAS) and the Diocesan Finance Office will be asked to give training on its use. We would like to thank Peter for all his hard work and contribution to the parish over the last 14 years.

OFFERTORY AND DONATIONS TO CC - Firstly Thank you to everyone who makes regular offertory donations to the Parish - by either Standing Orders, Envelopes, Cash or Online donations, and a 25% bigger thank you to you if are able to Gift Aid this. If you do not Gift Aid your donations and you would like to do so, please see Peter Ottley or email: WSMCC@Cliftondiocese.com for more information. Starting in January 2022 we will be adding a new way for you make an offertory donation to the Parish, and this can also be Gift Aided if you wish. We will be setting up a Contactless Card Payment terminal where you can select a donation and use your contactless card to make a donation - this will be in addition to the 3 current methods. More details will follow.

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY online edition. The subscription is £20 for 3 months. Phone Michelle Jones on 0743 661 7650 or go to the website: universecatholicweekly.co.uk

**CANON TOM, FATHER MICHAEL,
DEACONS AND STAFF WOULD
LIKE TO WISH ALL PARISHIONERS,
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR. GOD BLESS.**

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK...

CC - CORPUS CHRISTI

OLOL - OUR LADY OF LOURDES

ST. J'S - ST. JOSEPH'S

	PARISH MASSES & INTENTIONS			OTHER GROUPS & EVENTS		
SUNDAY <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>	6.00pm Sat CC 9.15am OLOL 11.00am CC	No evening Mass Mass Joyce Deakin R.I.P Mass People of the Parish	9.00am CC 6.00pm St. J's 10.15am OLOL 12.00noon CC	Mass in Polish Mass Deceased members of the Peck Family No Coffee Morning Coffee/Tea after Mass		
MONDAY <i>Feast of St John, Apostle, Evangelist</i>	9.30am CC	Mass Arthur Swift R.I.P				
TUESDAY <i>Feast of The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>	9.30am OLOL	Mass Walter Henry Benny R.I.P				
WEDNESDAY <i>Feast of St Thomas Becket, Bisho, Martyr, Patron of Pastoral Clergy in England and Wales</i>	10.00am CC	Mass Kathleen and Peter Berry R.I.P	10.30am CC 7.00pm St. J's	Coffee Morning followed by Prayer Group Mass in Polish		
THURSDAY <i>Sixth day in the Octave of Christmas</i>	7.00pm OLOL	Mass John and Jennie Mulan R.I.P	10.00am St. J's	Mass in Polish		
FRIDAY <i>Seventh day in the Octave of Christmas</i>	10.00am CC	Mass John Northover R.I.P	7.00pm St. J's	Mass in Polish		
SATURDAY <i>Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>	12.00noon OLOL	Mass People of the Parish	9.30am St. J's	Morning Prayer with Exposition Liturgy of the Word followed by Holy Communion (except the first Saturday of the month when there will be a Mass)		
NEXT SUNDAY <i>Second Sunday of Christmas</i>	6.00pm Sat CC 9.15am OLOL 11.00am CC	Vigil Mass Bob and Wyn Channing R.I.P Mass Aidan Reynolds R.I.P Mass People of the Parish	9.00am CC 6.00pm St. J's	Mass in Polish Mass Deceased members of the Moffatt Family		

CONFESSIONS

Canon Tom is always happy to hear confessions on request or by appointment but regular slots in the week are:

Saturday 12.30pm OLOL and 5pm CC. Sunday 5.40pm CC
Thursday 7.30pm OLOL

Please note that the obligation to attend Mass is still suspended.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION – 12th December

2021

CC £340.09
 OLOL £215.98
 St. J's £17.50

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www.catholicweston.org