

ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH

Maidstone Road, Rochester, ME1 3EN

Newsletter

18th December 2016 – Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Readings: Isaiah 7: 10–14; Romans : 1: 1 - 7

Responsorial Psalm: *Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.*

Gospel acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!*

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18–24

Gift Aid: Our parish received £ 5,895.94 from your Gift Aid donations. Thank you very much for your generosity. Thanks to Helen Devitt who is our Gift Aid organiser.

We Thank Fr Garry and Fr Etienne for their visit last week. Our parishioners offered them a gift of £1083.97. They are most welcome always to our parish.

The Catenian Rosaries

Abroad Appeal are asking for any Rosaries that are not being used to be sent to them for use in the missions abroad. They would like to make their target of 500,000 this year.

The Christmas card Box in on a table in the porch. Please place cards for other parishioners there, and collect those left for you.

Christmas Mass times:

Saturday 24th December 2016

Carols at 5.30pm followed by Mass at 6pm

Carols at 11pm followed by Midnight Mass

Sunday 25th December 2016

9am and 11am. NO 6pm Mass.

Bible verse to remember:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us' [Mt 1:23].



May this Christmas bring God's **Peace** and **Joy** to you and your family.

History of St John Fisher of Rochester – 9

William Rastell, a student of Oxford University, who became M.P. for Hindon in October 1553, Ripon in April 1554 and for Canterbury in 1555, recorded the opinion of a young contemporary on Bishop John Fisher:

“He was in holiness, learning and diligence in his cure and in fulfilling his office of bishop such that of many hundred years England had not any bishop worthy to be compared unto him. And if all countries of Christendom were searched, there could not lightly among all other nations be found one that hath been in all things like unto him, so well used and fulfilled the office of bishop as he did. He was of such high perfection in holy life and strait and austere living as few were, I suppose, in all Christendom in his time, religious or other.”

Our new website: <http://stjohnfisher.me.uk>

HOLY MASSES THIS WEEK.

Sunday 18 th December	9am 11am 6pm	Belinda – wellbeing. Len Murphy - R.I.P. People of the Parish.	4 TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers
Monday	10am	Catherine and Patrick Lyons - R.I.P.	
Tuesday	10am	Elizabeth, Nicholas & Family intentions	
Wednesday	10am	James McDonell – R.I.P.	
Thursday		No Mass.	
Friday	10am	James O'Brien - R.I.P.	
Saturday	10am 5.30pm 11pm	Brian Colwell – R.I.P. Madeleine Lineham (Maddie) - R.I.P. People of the Parish	CHRISTMAS EVE.
Sunday 25 th December	9am 11am 6pm	People of the Parish Crotty and Fredericks Families. No Mass.	NATIVITY OF THE LORD.

Sunday 11th December

Collections: Loose - £212.36; Envelopes - £349.60= £561.96

Father Gary & Father Etienne - £ 1083.97

Attendance: 9am - 108; 11am - 80 ; 6pm – 61 = 249

100 Club: £20 – M. Smith N° 42; £10 – M. Naughton N° 120

Christmas: On this day, Jesus, the Saviour is born of the Virgin Mary. The Crib makes us see the “sign” which God has given us: “a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” (Lk 2:12). Like the shepherds of Bethlehem, may we too set out to see this sign, this event which is renewed yearly in the Church. Christmas is an event which is renewed in every family, parish and community which receives the love of God made incarnate in Jesus Christ. Like Mary, the Church shows to everyone the “sign” of God: the Child whom she bore in her womb and to whom she gave birth, yet who is the Son of the Most High, since he “is of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 1:20). He is truly the Saviour, for he is the Lamb of God who takes upon himself the sin of the world (cf. Jn 1:29). With the shepherds, let us bow down before the Lamb, let us worship God’s goodness made flesh, and let us allow tears of repentance to fill our eyes and cleanse our hearts. - **Pope Francis** [2015].

There are raffle tickets available at £1 per strip for the Christmas Hamper and 2 other boxed raffle prizes, courtesy of Sheila Gallagher and Josephine, Béné O’Connell’s daughter. There is also a Repository Nativity Scene raffle, again for £1 a strip. Both raffles are on sale in the Porch. The proceeds are for the Building Fund.



Clergy: Fr Antony Megalan Sellam, tel. 845430

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Website: <http://stjohnfisher.me.uk>

Deacon Malcolm Turner, tel. 255558

Deacon Felim McCarthy, tel. 830145

Voluntary Secretary: Gill Hanson, tel. 312171

School: St. William of Perth, tel. 404267

Every Friday after 10am Mass we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
Each Saturday Mass is followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation.

Find this Newsletter in
<http://stjohnfisher.me.uk>

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