

ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH

Maidstone Road, Rochester, ME1 3EN

E-mail: rochester@rcaos.org.uk; Website: <http://stjohnfisher.me.uk>;

Phone: 01634-845430

Newsletter – 23rd December. Fourth Sunday in Advent C.

Readings: Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Responsorial Psalm. *God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

Gospel acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia. I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia.*

Next week's Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6, Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2: 1-12

*Wishing you a Happy and Holy Christmas
and a great New Year 2019.*

I feel Christmas has come already for me. As a priest one is delighted when people gather to pray and love our Lord. And so, I was rather spoilt in the way a good number gathered to adore the Lord and be with him for a while, singing carols. Thanks also to the folk choir who helped with the music. There was a peace light from Bethlehem which was carried with reverence by our scouts. Then there was the little celebration afterwards where people helped out. I was overjoyed to see a couple who said that their son was just ordained a priest. Isn't it wonderful that our parish has been blessed in so many ways? Yesterday morning, I was able to hear confessions for



about an hour. Thanks for all who came, as a priest I am delighted to see people making their peace with God. It makes what I am and do really worthwhile,

Notable Dates for our Parish

Monday 24th December 6 pm
Children's Christmas Mass

11.30 pm Midnight Mass
preceded by Carols

Christmas Day Masses
9am & 11am No evening Mass

Saturday 12th January
Eucharistic Minister's Retreat
After 10 am Mass

Bethlehem Peace Light: In our church is taken from the eternal flame at the grotto at Bethlehem. In its 32nd year the charity works for peace and relief mission for children in need. For more information see <http://www.peacelight.org.uk/>

Rotas for Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Counters for 2019 are ready for collection in the Christmas Card Box.

Crib Collection: Will be to support the homeless in Medway.

Repository: please check out the Repository for presents, cards, (which are on the windowsill), calendars, diaries and candles etc.

Why are there only 25 letters in the alphabet at Christmas?
Because the angel said "Noel!"

What carol is the favourite with parents?
Silent night!

Fr Neil Vincent, tel. 01634-845430
Deacon Malcolm Turner 255558
Deacon Felim McCarthy 830145
Secretary: Gill Hanson 312171
School: St. William of Perth
404267
Newsletter: John Endicott 408105
To receive newsletter by email:
johnsods@blueyonder.co.uk
Folk Group:
<http://stjohnfisherfolkband.uk>

thanks be to God. I also thank all the people who have got the church ready by erecting the crib and Christmas trees. The flower arrangers, those who helped with liturgical items, the altar servers, thanks for all who have helped in big ways or small. Lastly, thanks for your Christmas cards and gifts, yes, I am really spoilt. Thank you. Have a really blessed Christmas.

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

	23 rd December	Feast Days
23 rd Sunday 9am 11am 6pm	Eddie Perry RIP Michael Maher RIP People of the Parish	Fourth Sunday of Advent
24 th Mon 10:00am 6pm 11.30 pm Midnight	John Joseph McNeill RIP John Meehan RIP Carols & Midnight Mass John Naughton RIP	feria
25 th Tues 9:00am 11:00am	Madeline Linehan RIP People of the parish	Christmas Day
Wednesday 10am	Frederick & Crotty Families RIP	Feast of St Stephen
Thursday 10am	Michael Maher RIP	Feast of St John the Evangelist
Friday 10am And Adoration.	Jerry Tooney RIP	Feast of the Holy Innocents
Saturday 10am	Holy Souls	Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury

Sunday 16th December:

Collection: Loose – £207.03; Gift Aid –£180.10 = £387.13

Attendance: 9am –98; 11am –64, 6pm –38 = 212

100 Club: £20 – D. Jones N^o 55; £10 – R. Dean N^o 132

Today is the last day of Advent and is swiftly followed by Christmas Eve and the first Mass of Christmas at 6pm. This Mass is especially for children and fulfils your Holy Day of Obligation. Midnight Mass will be preceded by Carols at 11.30 pm.

Christmas Day Masses will be at 9am & 11am, with no evening Mass.

Eddie Perry RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eddie who entered eternal rest on the 5th of December. His funeral will be on the 7th of January at 10:00am followed by burial at Rochester Cemetery. May he rest in the peace of Christ. Please remember Eddie’s family in your prayers, that the Lord may bless them all and comfort them.

Maria Pipes RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maria Pipes whose funeral will take place at the Medway Crematorium on the 27th of December at 11:30am.

Nora Mills RIP: please pray for the repose of the soul of Nora who passed away on the 14th of December. Her funeral will be celebrated on Thursday the 17th of January with burial at Rochester Cemetery.

Advent Raffles: There is a lovely Hamper as always, donated by Sheila, and a Nativity scene from the Repository, both at £1 per strip. Please support our fund-raising activities.

Extra Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist retreat: We thank God for the wonderful number of ministers who take communion to the sick. We also need to spend some time to think about what we are doing and to have some time adoring our Lord who has given this call to serve. So, I would like to remind you all to please put the retreat day in the diary which is on **Saturday the 12th of January from 10:30 – 3:30pm**, with a ‘Bring & share lunch’. Fr Sean O’Connor parish priest of Gillingham will give the talk in the morning session.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: The collection taken during all Christmas Masses is traditionally your personal gift to the parish priest. A priest’s income is normally whatever he receives from the parish (mainly Mass offerings). The collection at Christmas forms an important part of his income for the year and enables him to meet personal expenses. If you can gift aid your offering, the parish can benefit from the tax refund. To do so, indicate your gift aid number on the envelopes available in the church foyer. Gift aided offerings made by cheque must be made payable to “St. John Fisher Catholic Church”. Please indicate on the envelopes “Christmas Donations”. If you are away at Christmas, you can always hand in your offering before you go. Thank you.