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# Parish of Saint Anthony of Padua

Our Parish Newsletter

31st December 2023



**God is love: he who dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him. In Jesus Christ we see how God loves us.**  
A warm welcome to everyone from  
Fr. Maximillian McKeown, OFM Conv, Parish Priest  
Rev. Simon South, Deacon

## Times of Mass This Week

31 Dec. Sunday	The Holy Family	8:00 AM
31 Dec. Sunday		10:45 AM
01 Jan. Monday	<i>Mary the Holy Mother of God</i>	9:00 AM
02 Jan. Tuesday		9:00 AM
03 Jan. Wed	<i>The Most Holy name of Jesus</i>	9.00 AM
04 Jan. Thurs		9.00 AM
05 Jan. Friday		9:00 AM
06 Jan. Saturday		9:00 AM
06 Jan. Saturday	<b>(SUNDAY VIGIL The Epiphany)</b>	<b>6.00 PM</b>



**Thank you for your generous donations last week, towards to running of our Parish .**



**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED, ESPECIALLY**, Ron Peters, Guy Horton, Mary Byrne, Catherine Bowles, Richard Carey, John Kilroy, Ann Hamilton, Marcella Duckworth, Penny Setterfield, Dominique Chapious, Roy Godwin, Dorothy and Peter Van Heuven. Patricia Swain, Veronica Pragnell, Elsie Palmer, Peter McKenzie-Smith, Tom Healey, John Russell, Timothy O'Sullivan, Tim Hodge and members of our parish, families, friends, and acquaintances.

**PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY:** Sheila Miller, Audrey Hatter, Kathleen Sherwood, Monica Flint, Richard Horner, Coleen, Louis Carnell, Isabella Rose, Judith (Angela's sister), Michael, Sr Loretta Dooley and all those confined to their homes or care homes along with Mass intentions this week.

## The Holy Family

This Sunday we honour the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In honouring them, we also honour all families, big or small. And in honouring all families, we honour the family of God, that is the Church (successive Popes have referred to the Parish as "a family made of families").

With the ever-growing pressures on family life that our consumerist 24-hour, society brings it's often difficult to be a family -everyone is so busy rushing from one thing to another we can easily forget to check in on mum, dad, granny or grandad. We may hold back from contacting the children "because they have such a busy life".

Family life for Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, equally, they would have had to do daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table and attend gatherings of family and friends, Mary and Joseph even had to find Jesus when He wandered off. They would have lived normal family life in every way, and it is with this in mind that we can turn to them in our prayers seeking intercession, for guidance, consolation, help and above all—hope.

Some families are strong in virtue, some struggle with basic communication. Some are faith filled day in and day out, some are struggling to be together. And in all this reality of the "messiness" of family life, God wants to enter more deeply into your family life just as it is right now. He desires to give you strength and virtue to live as the Holy Family. Let us offer ourselves and our families, on this day, and invite God to form our family in the likeness of the Holy family.



## Just a thought ....

Being Christian we believe our life is a journey towards embracing God in all we do, and to become more Christ-like as we travel to our eternal home in faith.

The reality is however, that we make mistakes, and yet this is the glory of our dearest advocate—Jesus Christ, who understands all the challenges that we face and who helps us to get back up when we trip, He holds us in His hands and encourages us to take the next step on our journey.

The new year is a wonderful time to reflect on the years behind us and to think about what we have learnt and what we will try to do differently for the year ahead and to bring us that little bit closer to Jesus, our brother, our friend and our saviour.

## What is going to be different in 2024 for your journey ahead ?

### Prayer to the Holy Family for the year ahead

Eternal Father, we ask You to make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by Your grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass.

May we always have You at the centre of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with You.

Through Christ our Lord Your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit god for ever and ever.

Amen.



### Holydays of Obligation 2024 for your diary

From the 1st Sunday of Advent 2017 the Holydays of Obligations for England and Wales changed. They are:

- All Sundays
- Epiphany of the Lord (6 January).
- Ascension of the Lord (Thursday after 6th Sunday of Easter).
- St Peter & St Paul (29 June).
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15 August).
- All Saints (1 November).
- Nativity of the Lord (25 December).

### AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Bishop Richard has written a new Pastoral Plan for the Diocese which will be released in the New Year: 'The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission'. The new Plan highlights how our community of faith can embrace this important time of renewal, forging diocesan parishes into communities of saints and strong, lively, and welcoming schools of discipleship. The Pastoral Plan will be released on the diocesan website on Tuesday 2 January: [www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan)

To understand what this means for our faith journey and the impact on our Parish here in Rye, we will be holding a meeting on Saturday 6th January at St Mary's Hall 10.30a.m.– 1.00p.m. (by the Kino). **Do come along to hear the plans and to share your thoughts and ideas for our community.**

**OUR SCRITURE GROUP IS NOT MEETING AGAIN UNTIL 8th JANUARY**