



4th Sunday of Advent - Year B

Holy Family – Year B

24-31 December 2023

*Psalm Response: 4th Advent - I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord
Holy Family – He the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever*

Sun:	9.00am Mass 11.00am Mass 4.30pm Vigil Mass 11.30pm Carols 12.00am Midnight Mass	Teresa & Seamus McCormack Int. Harriet & Albert Williamson RIP Peter Grant RIP Dominic Doherty RIP
Mon:	<u>Christmas Day</u> 9.00am Mass 11.00am Mass	Hilda & Joe Moore RIP Anne & Norman Annable Int.
Tues 26th	<u>Feast of St Stephen</u> 12 noon Mass	John, Edna & Brenda McCormick RIP
Fri 29th	<u>Feast of St Thomas Becket</u> 12 noon Mass	Kathleen Kinsey RIP
Sun 31st	<u>Holy Family - Year B</u> 9.00am Mass 11.00am Mass	Sick & Housebound SVP Int. Joe Fernando Int.
Mon 1 Jan	<u>Solemnity of the Mother of God</u> 12 noon Mass	Patrick Magee RIP
Sun 7 Jan	<u>Feast of the Epiphany</u> 9.00am Mass 11.00am Mass	Cecil & Anne Storer RIP Kathleen O'Rourke RIP

Christmas Eve Crib Services at St Peter's, 3.00pm and 5.00pm. The crib services are open to anyone, with the message of Jesus' coming as the best gift ever. The children are encouraged to dress up in costumes representing characters from the Christmas story and to form a Nativity tableau at the end.

Prayers for the Sick: Please always keep in your prayers the sick and housebound especially Simon Thompson, Christine and Michael Dreuit, Terry Bullock, Alan, Norman Annable, Giovanni Busato, Ian Robinson, Bart Makowski, Joe Migallo, Liam Blaney, Christopher Turner, Sean Connolly, Tracey Reeve, Kathleen Kinsey, Julie Connolly, Loretta Hewitt, Liz Simmons, Terry & Liz Spencer, Anu Chilka, Mick Connolly, Angela Skliarsky, Maria Latwiel, Anne Smith, Margaret Johnson and Sylvia Wilson.

Please Pray for the repose of the soul of Becca Emery RIP, 26, daughter of Matthew and Claire Emery (former Head at SJF), also Kathleen Kinsey RIP. Please also remember their families in your prayers.

Kathleen Kinsey's funeral will be on **Thursday 11 January** at 2.30pm at Markeaton Crematorium.

300 Club: The winners of the December draw are:

£100	111	M & V Wilson
£50	121	William Kwan
£20	57	Mick & Frances Connolly
£20	90	P Ratcliffe
£20	110	Stephen Butcher
£20	52	Ray Merrison
£20	10	Jean Haworth

Well done all!

Money Matters:

Collection: £541.27

For those who regularly contribute to the church via the Envelope Scheme, another option would be to set up a Direct Debit or

Standing Order –

Lloyds Bank: sort code 30-92-59;

Account number 01620555 – English Martyrs, Derby RCP.

Payments to the parish by cheque should be made payable to:
English Martyrs Derby RCP

Father M Brentnall VF [Parish Priest]

Email: englishmartyrsderby@outlook.com

Newsletter Admin: Anne Walsh – annew505@gmail.com 07980 568261

Contact: 01332 574474

www.englishmartyrsparish.org.uk

Hall Enquiries: Rita Merrison

St Stephen, the First Martyr (Feast) 26 Dec:

St Stephen (+ c.35) the Proto-martyr was one of the seven deacons who assisted the Twelve, 'filled with faith and with the Holy Spirit' and 'full of fortitude'. Denounced to the Jewish authorities as a blasphemer, he was stoned to death outside Jerusalem. He died praying for those who killed him; present at his martyrdom was Saul of Tarsus, soon to become the Apostle of the Gentiles.

St John, Apostle and Evangelist (Feast) 27 Dec:

St John (+ c.100) was the son of Zebedee and worked as a Galilean fisherman with his brother St James. He was called while mending his nets to follow Jesus and became 'the disciple whom Jesus loved'. Alone among the Twelve, he stood at the foot of the cross and was entrusted to the Blessed Virgin. He wrote the fourth Gospel, three Epistles and the Apocalypse, producing profound passages on such themes as the divinity of Christ and the centrality of love. Though tradition records his attempted martyrdom 'at the Latin Gate' in Rome, St John lived to a great age, spent many years in exile on Patmos and finally died in Ephesus.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Feast) 28 Dec:

The Holy Innocents were the young children of the neighbourhood of Bethlehem, all under the age of two, put to death by Herod in an attempt to kill the Infant Jesus. Some ancient texts number the victims in the thousands but in all probability there were no more than two dozen. On this Feast of Childermas', while still in the Christmas Octave, these innocent, nameless victims are honoured as the first to shed their blood for Christ.

St Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr, (Feast) 29 Dec:

St Thomas (1118-1170) was born in Cheapside, London and rose to become Henry II's Chancellor and (from 1162) Archbishop of Canterbury. His episcopal consecration sparked off a religious conversion; he changed from being 'a patron of play-actors and a follower of hounds to being a shepherd of souls'. His final years were dedicated to defending the rights of the Church, which led to disagreements with the King and resulted in six years of exile. Shortly after returning to Canterbury, he was murdered by agents of the king in his own cathedral on 29 Dec 1170. St Thomas was canonised three years later and is honoured as patron of the pastoral clergy in England.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God – 1 Jan:

The Octave of Christmas ends on the first day of the new year, which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, venerated as the Mother of God. The Gospel reminds us that she "kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk 2:19). So she did in Bethlehem, on Golgotha at the foot of the cross, and on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended in the Upper Room. And so she does today too. The Mother of God and of human beings keeps in her heart all of humanity's problems, great and difficult, and meditates upon them. The Alma Redemptoris Mater walks with us and guides us with motherly tenderness towards the future. Thus she helps humanity cross all the "thresholds" of the year, the centuries, the millenniums, by sustaining their hope in the One who is the Lord of history. (Pope St John Paul II)

The Epiphany of the Lord – 6 Jan (Transferred this year to 7 Jan):

Men and women of every generation need on their pilgrim journey to be directed: what star can we therefore follow? After coming to rest "over the place where the child was", the purpose of the star that guided the Magi ended, but its spiritual light is always present in the Word of the Gospel, which is still able today to guide every person to Jesus. This same Word, which is none other than the reflection of Christ, true man and true God, is authoritatively echoed by the Church for every well-disposed heart. The Church too, therefore, carries out the mission of the star for humanity. But something of the sort could be said of each Christian, called to illuminate the path of the brethren by word and example of life. (Pope Benedict XVI)