HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE
www.holyspiritmarple.com
Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427:4922
27th December 2020
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

First Reading: (Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14)
Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.
Second Reading : (Colossians 3:12-21)
Family life in the Lord.
Gospel: (Luke 2:22-40)
The child grew, filled with wisdom.

Pope Francis's prayer intention for January: May thee Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Sunday **4pm** **6pm** **9.30am**	**27th December** **Edward Grieves** **Murielle Sadler** **Parishioners**	**Thursday**	**31st December** **NO MASS**
Monday	**28th December** **NO MASS**	**Friday** **11.30am**	**1st January 2021** **Mary, Mother of God** **Cornelius &** **Margaret Lane**
Tuesday	**29th December** **NO MASS**	**Saturday** **Sunday Vigil 4pm** **Sunday Vigil 6pm**	**2nd January** **Bill Bowker 90th** **John Kirrane**
Wednesday	**30th December** **NO MASS**	**Sunday** **Mass 9am**	**3rd January** **Parishioners**

One decade of the Rosary	**Suspended**
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Adoration and Rosary	**Suspended**
Baptism/Marriage	By appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation	As announced or by appointment.
Collection	Standing Orders (November £1085.37p) Development Account Donations £130.

Those who are sick:

Please pray for Bill Davies, Christopher Brown, Stuart Madden, Christopher Clifford, James Tanner, Annie Shufflebotham, Marie Sidebottom, Malcolm Garrett, Libby Webb, Nina Noworyta, Marie Hayes, George Williams, Ruth Grace Crosby, Jarek Tomaszewski, Emily Small, Fr.John Cairns, Ann Crossley, Kathryn Smith, Steven Platts, Fr.Kevin Gradwell, Pauline Magrath, Kathleen Jones, Father Pat Munroe, Renata Broda, Cyril Nield, Neil Timperley

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A warm welcome to everyone. If you are new to the parish, please fill in a card and give it to Fr Bill. We shall be glad to visit you and make you as welcome as possible.

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A/C details:Account Name: "The Holy Spirit Development Account" Account No. 58710368 Sort Code 30 15 52

SOCIAL

I hope that by the time you get to read this newsletter, you have had a safe Christmas in the company of your family. I know that many families will not have been able to share it with extended family as in past years, but keeping ourselves and others safe has been a priority this festive season. For the remainder of this “Holy Season of Christmas” we are invited to endeavour to try and live out in our lives, at this very challenging time, the “Joy of Jesus Birth.” We have been reminded by the challenge of this year 2020 that there are few permanent and lasting things, but the joy and the hope brought to us by Jesus, are constant and ever with us, fulfilling the promises given by the Father in the words of the Old Testament Prophets, “A Saviour will be born to you who will come and live among his people.” It is important to remember that we are that people that Jesus came to live among. It was great to see so many people in Church to celebrate “Jesus Birth”; with the three “Vigil Masses and the Family Mass” on Christmas Morning it was possible to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend Mass for Christmas. We are most thankful to our Stewards, and to Robert Moss for organising the Rota, and decor in Church with Margaret. Likewise at St. Bernadette’s in Brinnington, Tina Cain and her team took care of everything for a wonderful celebration, despite the many restrictions of Covid 19. I would also like to thank Fr. Ian Dalgleish, for his Ministry, it helped in no small way to lighten the load, on what was a busy period, wishing him well for the new year 2021. As we prepare to enter a new year, we must try to be optimistic, to ensure that we can defeat this worldwide pandemic, to be ready individually to receive the “Vaccine” as soon as we are invited to do so. The “Vaccine” realistically is our only hope of victory against a virus that has blighted all our lives over the past ten months,and taken the lives of over sixty seven thousand people,of varying ages and cultures. The new year 2021 is an opportunity for us as individuals and community to make a fresh start, in all aspects of our daily lives, and to be confident in so, as many past generations have had to do in overcoming adversities, such as World Wars. Fr. Bill would like wish everyone in our Parish Community, every prosperity for the New Year 2021, and to thank you for your continued support across 2020 in what has been a extremely challenging Year.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: “FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY – JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH”

It is only fitting that we should celebrate the lovely feast of the “Holy Family” of Jesus, Mary and Joseph so close to the “Nativity of Jesus” thus reminding ourselves of our own birth into our particular family. All of us have been born into some type of family as “Jesus” himself was when he was born as man. The importance of “Family” has been highlighted very much during this “Current Pandemic” we have heard heart wrenching stories of family members not being able to visit or comfort one of their own about to die, mental scars that will remain unhealed in some cases for ever. The Old Testament Reading for this weekends feast, reminds us that “Family was a very important reality for the people of Israel.” The Clan or Tribe, extended family, the “People of God” all in some way a form of family, in a “Covenant Relationship” with “Yahweh” (God) A Covenant Relationship requires great respect and care for one another. There was no life outside the Community, which was indeed the “Family of God” In the New Testament Readings we have recounted for us the beginnings of God's promise of “Family” to Abraham and to all who descend from him, Yahweh (God) saying to Abraham, go and multiply, similar in a way to the blessing that Adam and Eve received at the beginning of “Creation.” This will set the scene for St. Paul who will extol the virtues of Physical and Spiritual Families several times in his letters to the various communities he visited on his Missionary trips. St.Luke in this weekend's Gospel, is keen to remind us who Jesus is, he uses “Simeon” by way of a vehicle, announcing Jesus” as the fulfilment of God's promise to the very ancient Prophets, and at the same time announcing “Jesus as First Born” of the new covenant which God is now bringing to fruition. We pray for all our families, as we end the “Journey of this current year” and begin again the “A New Journey” into a new time which our Calendar s will name “New Year 2021”

A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR