

**HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE**  
 Holyspiritmarple.com  
**Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427 4922**  
**29th January 2023**  
**4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



Online Donations

**First Reading: (Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13)**

In your midst I will have a humble and a lowly people

**Second Reading: (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)**

God chose what is foolish by human reckoning

**Gospel: (Mathew 5:1-12)**

How happy are the poor in spirit

**Pope Francis's prayer intention for January: That educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.**

Sunday 4pm Vigil 9am	29th January 4 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Special intention (Abbott) Margaret Halliwell (B'day Rem) Parishioners	Thursday 10am	2nd February - FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION Keith & Kathleen Rowson
Monday	30th January NO MASS	Friday	3rd February NO MASS
Tuesday 9:30am	31st January FUNERAL SERVICE: Maureen Mary Lees	Saturday 4pm Vigil	4th February Mandi Rees
Wednesday 10am	1st February Peter & Audrey Turner	Sunday 9am	5th February Parishioners

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	Last Saturday of the month 10.30am-11.30am or by arrangement
Baptism/Marriage	By appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation	As above

**THOSE WHO ARE SICK**

Please pray for Bill Davies, Christopher Brown, Stuart Madden, Christopher Clifford, James Tanner, Annie Shufflebotham, Marie Sidebottom, Nina Noworyta, Kathleen Williams, Ruth Grace Crosby, Jarek Tomaszewski, Emily Small, Ann Crossley, Kathryn Smith, Steven Platts, Fr.Kevin Gradwell, Kathleen Jones, Father Pat Munroe, Cyril Nield, Neil Timperley, Isaac Iqba, David Froggatt, Pat Owen, Jonathan Davison.

**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: Name "Holy Spirit Development Account" Account No.58710368 Sort Code 30 15 52

## **SOCIAL**

As Fr. Bill returns from his Christmas vacation, weather conditions have improved somewhat here at home making the return from the Sun that bit easier. Thank you very much to the "Parish Team" here at Holy Spirit who kept everything up and running during Fr. Bill's time away, your support and help is appreciated and valued. A sincere thanks to Fr. Maher for supplying the Weekend and Daily Masses, it was good to know that you were all so encouraged by his enthusiasm & ministry.

It is a return now to much work for Fr. Bill, and this begun on Tuesday last, there are funerals waiting to be celebrated here at Holy Spirit, Renata Broda, her Requiem will be on Friday February 10 at 12:15 pm. followed by Committal at the Rowan Chapel, Stockport Crematorium, and Maureen Mary Lees, her Funeral Service will be here on Tuesday 31 January (this coming Tuesday) at 9:30am at Holy Spirit, followed afterwards by burial at Highfield Cemetery, Bredbury. Condolences to both families, May their loved ones rest in Peace.

This weekend we will have an introduction to our "Week of Guided Prayer" which will take place here in March, so we welcome this "Weekend's Speaker." We often hear it said I did not get to do anything for Lent, well here is a lovely opportunity this coming Lent 2023, to do something that will be very beneficial for your prayer life, in the future.

The "First Sacrament Programme" for Holy Spirit Children" YEAR 3s and above who are attending Catholic or other Primary Schools, will begin later in February. Step 1 Children should be regular Mass Attenders. Step 2 Registration Forms available at both of next weekends Masses. Step 3 Family's and Candidates, to take and fill in a Registration Form and return it in person to Fr.Bill.

The cost of "Fuel Crisis" became very real for some Parishes and Businesses and even Households when they received their December "Fuel Bills" in some cases the cost of Gas and Electricity has gone up by 300% which makes the cost of heating for families, businesses, and places of Worship; School, Hospitals, Public Buildings, simply almost impossible. British Gas, as one example have not as yet been able to apply all the promised Government Assistance to their charges, as they are still in negotiations with the Government Agencies, responsible for giving assistance with fuel bills. With regard to the Church and Presbytery, Fr. Bill, will be making major "Cut Backs" in the use of Presbytery Heating, and somewhat less with regard to the Church Heating. Hopefully the weather going forward will be kind to us, as this Winter in general has been, but we cannot rule out another "Cold Snap" between now and Easter.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

In today's first reading from the prophet Zephaniah, those who have remained faithful are reassured that they have nothing to fear, God will be their protector. Uprightness and integrity are the pillars that will support them. Having just left the Christmas season we have had the same assurance given to us, A Saviour has been born for us, the way we are to follow has been pointed out for us.

Today's second reading is from St. Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians, where Paul says that it is in our brokenness and time of weakness that God's Glory comes to fruition within us. Why is this the case?? It is because we recognise our own limitations, God is our only refuge, Paul invites us to consider our situation, without God we are nobodies, it is the Grace of God, that gives us our identities.

Today's Gospel is the beginning of the "Sermon on the Mount" Jesus preaches how happy you are if you recognise the beatitudes and live by them. They are God's Gift of happiness to us, but they require us to live and act in a "Certain Way" which Matthew recounts for us, outlining each step with the prefix, "Happy Are You" this happiness is only possible if we have prepared our lives to receive it.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - A WEEK OF ACCOMPANIED PRAYER** - Saturday March 18th to Saturday 26th March with Prayer Guides available to you in the mornings, afternoons or evenings. Full information will be given at all Masses on January 28th-29th.