

Parishes of St Bede, Clayton Green and St Chad, South Hill

Parish Christmas Newsletter



Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Beattie

Telephone: 01257 460154

St Bede's Parish office is now closed until Tuesday 5th January.

For all parish enquiries please telephone 01257 460154

Parish Websites www.stbedesclaytongreen.co.uk

www.stchads-southhill.org.uk

Facebook page Look for "Parishes of St Chad and St Bede"

and request to join the group.

E-mail: stbedesclaytongreen@rcaol.org.uk OR stchad.chorley@rcaol.org.uk



Dear Friends,

For many of us this is going to be a Christmas like no other. As we all play our part in preventing the spread of the virus hard sacrifices are being asked of us. There is the experience of separation from those we love and anxiety about what is coming next. It is an act of love to do what we can to protect those who are most vulnerable in our families and in our community.

It was in a dark situation too that the first Christmas took place. The people of Israel were experiencing military occupation and political unrest. The future was gloomy and uncertain. Yet quietly, God was at work. His loving mercy was shown in an astonishing way. He came to make his home among us. He came to let us know that we are precious to him and that we do not need to be afraid. The baby laid in the manger is a bright light shining in these gloomy days.

There was no room for the Holy Family that first Christmas. There was no one to make them welcome. This fact, repeated every Christmas in the proclamation of the Gospel, is an invitation to each of us to make sure we welcome our infant King into our hearts and into our lives.

I find hope each Christmas in the shepherds. They would have often been treated as a bit of a joke; the smelly, uncivilised gang who live out on the hills. Uneducated, scruffy and a bit odd, they were a people of the edge of things. Yet who does God choose to be the first to know the deep joy of the Christmas message? This unpromising gang are serenaded by angels. They rush to discover in a humble outbuilding that God has seen them and come to be with them. We can know that however unworthy we might feel ourselves to be the angels are singing for us too. We are invited to behold, laid in a manger, the merciful love God has for us, and we welcome that love as a healing presence in our hearts. This is the quiet blessing, the hope and the joy of Christmas. My prayer for all of us is that this gift will stay with us through the challenges we all have to face and that we will know God's peace in our hearts.

It is a pleasure at this time of year to be able to thank the many people who make the running our parishes possible. Without the generous sharing of time and talents of our parish volunteers we would not be able to minister to our community in the way that we do. Readers and special ministers of Holy Communion, cleaners, flower people, those who take care of our grounds and buildings, stewards, catechists, funeral volunteers, bereavement support, money people, musicians, parish council members, Little Church helpers, all who serve so generously in our parish schools, altar servers, and many more: the list goes on and on. There are many others who aren't able to take on a specific job but who support our efforts with their prayers at home or with their quiet, faithful presence in church. I am delighted to be part of such a great team. Thank you to you all. A Mass will be offered in both our parishes in the coming weeks for all those who help to make our worship and service possible.

I promise my prayers for you and all the members of your family.

May God bless you now and through the year to come.

May you have a peaceful and blessed celebration of the birth of our Saviour.

Fr. Mark

Masses this week

Thursday 24 th Dec	5.00pm	Christmas Eve St. Bede's	Florence & William Nickson
	6.30pm	Christmas Eve St. Chad's	Frank & Cicely Billington
	8.00pm	Christmas Eve St. Bede's	Elizabeth & Robert Gardner

Friday 25 th Dec	9.15am	Christmas Day St. Chad's	Parishioners
	11.00am	Christmas Day St. Bede's	Parishioners

Saturday 26 th Dec	Midday	St. Chad's	Parish Volunteers
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Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday 27 th Dec	6.00pm	Vigil St. Bede's	Brian Torevell (RIP)
	9.15am	St. Chad's	Suzanne Leigh (RIP)
	11.00am	St. Bede's	Parishioners
Monday 28 th Dec	11.00am	St. Chad's	Elizabeth Monk

Tuesday 29 th Dec		NO MASS	
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Wednesday 30 th Dec		NO MASS	
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Thursday 31 st Dec	9.15am	St. Chad's	Rosemary & Rita Carty
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New Year Day

Friday 1 st Jan	10.30am	St. Chad's	Maureen Hughes (In Memory)
	12 noon	St. Bede's	Tony Morris
Saturday 2 nd Jan	6.00pm	St. Bede's	Private Intention
Sunday 3 rd Jan	9.15am	St. Chad's	Parishioners
	11.00am	St. Bede's	Private Intention

Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners:

Syd Newton, George Morris, Peter Deacon, Amy Greenhalgh, Vincent Cahill, Margaret Gray, Thomas Hesse, Ray Briant, Eileen Farnworth, Pat Johnson, Robert Rainford, Brenda Wrightson, Maria Reynolds, Eileen

Ainscough, Tony Morris, Marie Barnish, Helen Witte, Connie Foy, Katherine Yates, Marie Rose Sanderson, Mark Smith, Clare Yarwood and the residents of Highcliffe, Greenways, Brookside, Meadow Bank Nursing Homes and Brookhaven.

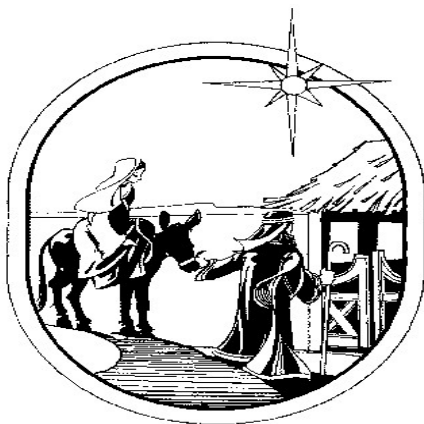
Please keep in your prayers those who have died recently and for their families.

Barry Hiccox, Josie Noblet and Therese Roe. ***Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.***

COVID-19 Regulations: Holy Communion may not be taken to people in their homes at the present time. Please ring Fr. Mark on 01257 460154 if you would like to keep more in touch with the parish. It would be great to hear from you even if just for a chat on the phone.

If you would like to receive our newsletter and the readings for Sunday Mass each week by email, please send an email to your parish and we can add you to our mailing list.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: At present due to Covid 19 restrictions we are not permitted to celebrate this sacrament in the confessional. If anyone would like to make their confession, please telephone Fr Mark on 01257 460154 and we can arrange to meet outside one of our churches.



Christmas Offerings

Many people will have experienced financial hardship this year. Our parish too has taken a drop in income. If you are able to, please support your parish in the collection this Christmas. The collection baskets are at the back of church. Any money received at Christmas goes to the support of your parish.

If you would like to support your parish by a Standing Order with your bank or if you would like to make a donation on-line please let us know after Christmas and we can give you the information you need.

Thank you.

Live streaming of our Masses

Mass from our parishes is being streamed on our Facebook page. Go to Facebook and look for "Parishes of St Chad and St Bede" and request to join the group. **Mass will be streamed on this page at the Mass times shown above.**

You can use this site <https://www.churchservices.tv/county/lancashire/> to find lots of other Masses being streamed. Follow the link to see Mass streamed from St Joseph's, Chorley, St Gregory's, Leyland St Mary's, and Brownedge St Mary's.

Helping us pray: At www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk you will see other churches in our diocese which are streaming their services. Each week the Archdiocese provides good resources to help us to pray with the readings used at weekend Masses. Go to www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/ and click on 'Prayer and Other Resources'.

Please note that St Bede's parish office is now closed until Tuesday 5th January. For all enquiries please telephone Fr Mark on 01257 460154. Thank you. We thank Clare, the St Bede's parish administrator, for all her hard work this year.

Sunday 27 th December. Feast of the Holy Family. Readings at Mass.

A reading from the book of Genesis

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside

he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

Responsorial Psalm

R/ O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. R/

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;

your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. R/

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! R/

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord,— observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord — and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeon. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected — and a sword will pierce your own soul too — so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.