

PARISH OF ST. FELIX
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

Sunday 28th November
2021

[Psalter Week 1]

ST. FELIX CHURCH, PRINCESS WAY, HAVERHILL, CB9 9BP
Presbytery - 3 Wentworth Terrace, Haverhill, CB9 9BP

Parish Priest: Fr. JOHN WARRINGTON: Tel: 01440 702156 (Parish Office)
Tel: 01440 704142 (Presbytery)
Email: john.warrington@rcdea.org.uk

Deacon: Rev. HUW WILLIAMS: Tel: 07399 163718
Email: huw.williams@rcdea.org.uk

Messages may be left via our website: www.stfelixchurch.org.uk

*If you wish to contact a priest in an emergency please call 07773 478835

Our School: St. Felix Catholic Primary School: Tel: 01440 703775
Head of School: Mrs. A. Dodds

WHEN ATTENDING MASS & SERVICES IN OUR CHURCH
*It is recommended that you continue to wear face coverings and
sanitise your hands. Thank you.*

CHURCH CLEANING TEAMS:

Saturday 4th December - Sherly, Dioni and Molly
Saturday 11th December - Michael, Alan, Helen and Ann

SUNDAY WELCOMERS/STEWARDS:

Sunday 28th November – Sue & Dave Arnold, Ron Hefford
Sunday 5th December – Buendia Family

The Season of Advent 2021



Today's Advent message is simple. "Be watchful and alert." God invites us to share his goodness and love. All we must do is be alert and watch and not miss it.

Unfortunately, our world is not watchful, or alert and we miss moments when God is present to us. Sometimes we miss the

call of God, we miss God at work in the poverty and struggles of the people of the world. As individuals or as a society, we wander away from God and God's values. The question is: "why?"

In these times and in this season of Advent we try to reflect and try to be watchful and alert so we can encounter God's love for each of us. Today, despite the many pressures and values which are around distracting us from being what God wants us to be, we are invited to hope, to rejoice in the spirit and love that Jesus gives freely to us to help us on our journey.

As Christians we are always called to be people of hope. We know that we always need, as Jesus says today, to be "watchful and alert." We are called to open our eyes to the needs of others especially in this season of Advent, the season of hope, expectation, love and joy.

Happy New Year and welcome to the Season of Advent, *Fr John*



BRIGID WILLIAMS, RIP

We pray for the repose of the soul of Brigid Williams,
Deacon Huw's mother, who died peacefully on
Tuesday 23rd November.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

We pray with and for Deacon Huw and Carol, Deacon Huw's sister
and brother, and all their wider family and friends, at this sad time
for them.

A MESSAGE FROM FR. JOHN

Prayer Intentions for November

During this month of November we remember especially all those who have gone before us to the Lord, we pray for them and remember them at Mass during this month.

Envelopes are available in the Narthex for any November Prayer Intentions for loved ones who have died you may wish to include as this special month of prayer draws to a close. All Intentions will be remembered at remaining Masses in November and can be left in the basket on the font. During Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses the basket will be brought forward to the altar as part of the Offertory Procession. For weekday Masses the basket containing your prayer intentions will be placed before the altar.

Weekday Masses this week

Weekday Mass will only be celebrated on Tuesday 30th November at 7.30 p.m. this week.

I am away for two funerals and then on pilgrimage to Walsingham with 'Across' from Thursday morning until Saturday.

I will remember the parish in my prayers at Walsingham as we begin our journey through the Season of Advent.

Please continue to keep everyone in our parish family, our wider communities, across our country and the troubled areas of the world, our families and friends, in your prayers; as I will also. Especially keep our NHS and its dedicated, hard-working staff in your prayers. Keep safe over the days and weeks to come and continue to keep an eye out for anyone who is struggling or needs help as we continue together through the changing challenges of this time.

If you need to speak with myself or Deacon Huw, please call me on 01440 704142 or Deacon Huw on 07399 163718. If you need to contact one of us, please do not hesitate to do so.

Wishing you and your families every blessing and prayers. Keep safe.

Fr John and Dcn Huw

Items for the newsletter should be sent to
stfelixnewsletter@gmail.com
by 12 noon on THURSDAY for inclusion in the next newsletter.

ICON of the HOLY FAMILY

This weekend, as we begin the New Year of the Church with the Season of Advent and we continue to celebrate the Year of St Joseph and the Year of the Family, we welcome, as part of its pilgrimage around our Diocese the Icon of the Holy Family. This beautiful icon was prayed and written by Fr Luke Goymour, Parish Priest of Brandon and Mildenhall and helps us to remember at this time, the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem as they prepared to welcome Jesus, and as we, too, prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus at Christmas.



*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ grew to maturity.*

*Blessed Joseph,
to us too, show yourself a father,
and guide us on the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and
courage,
and defend us from every evil.
Amen.*

Prayer from Pope Francis'
Apostolic Letter

The Icon of the Holy Family, which depicts St Joseph standing very slightly forward of Mary and Jesus. The image of St Joseph breaks out of the border and approaches us at the bottom of the Icon. This is to show that St Joseph is the protector of the family. In approaching us the Icon also shows us how, in this year of St Joseph, St Joseph now draws us into the Year of the Family.

He is also depicted offering the two pigeons/turtledoves referenced in Luke's gospel as the offering to be made by the poor for the Presentation of the Lord. This shows St Joseph as provider of the family, for out of his poverty he provides for his Holy Family. The theme of sacrifice is also present here.

As Joseph is offering the doves, Mary is offering the child Jesus, who sits at the heart of the Icon, to us. This reminds us that Christ is at the centre of the Holy Family, as he should be at the centre of our own family lives.

Both Mary's and Joseph's heads incline towards their divine Son, both protecting and looking to him at the same time. Again, through this icon, we are encouraged to look to Christ at the heart of family life, but also to protect his presence in our own families. Protecting the presence of Christ in our families includes protecting the vulnerable, the weak, the poor and marginalised in our families and in our wider communities. It also means protecting our faith, nurturing it, helping it to grow and being strong against all that threatens it.

LITURGY of the WORD

[Sunday readings – YEAR C, weekday readings – YEAR II]

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT [28.11.2021]

1st reading: *I will make a virtuous branch grow for David*
Jeremiah chapter 33 verses 14-16

Psalm: *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul*
Psalm 24 verses 4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

2nd reading: *May the Lord confirm your hearts in holiness when Christ comes.*
1Thessalonians chapter 3 verse 12 – chapter 4 verse 2

Gospel: *Your liberation is near at hand*
The Gospel according to Luke chapter 21 verses 25-28, 34-36.

Feast of St Andrew, Apostle & Patron of Scotland [30.11.2021]

1st reading: Romans chapter 10 verses 9-18

Psalm: *Their word goes forth through all the earth*
Psalm 18 verses 2-5

Gospel: The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 4 verses 18-22



HYMNS for the FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

92 – Hark a Herald Voice is Calling

941 – There is a Longing in Our Hearts

84 – Like a Sea Without a Shore

Some helpful reflections for the Season of Advent from CAFOD

An Advent prayer

Eternal God,
you will come when we do not expect you.
Help us to welcome you now in one another,
to reach out to our sisters and brothers
who are in need of care and support.
In this way may we be found ready,
when you come again in glory.
Amen

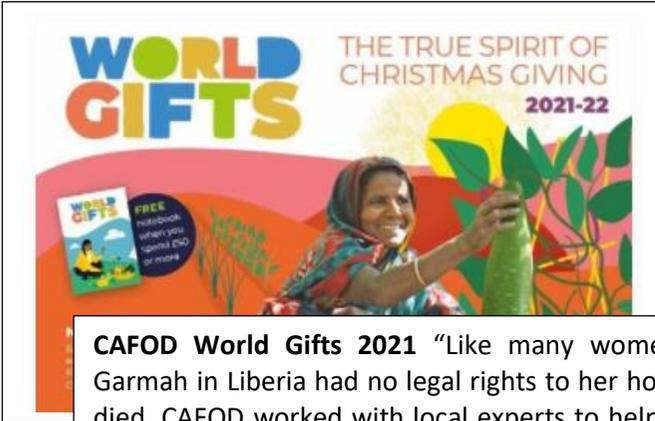
Reflection

Today is the beginning of Advent, the great season of expectant waiting. We wait in anticipation for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas and, as today's gospel reminds us, we are also waiting in hope for the day when Jesus comes again. The gospel today is disturbing. As we hear Jesus predicting destruction and suffering, we may find ourselves lamenting all that is not right in our world: poverty, injustice, the climate crisis, the global pandemic. The opportunity of Advent is not to ignore this reality but to "stay awake, praying at all times", as we yearn for and work for the coming of God's Kingdom. As we enter this season of waiting, we remember it is a season of active waiting. We join Saint Paul's prayer, asking God to increase our love for the whole human race, so that we can bring hope and healing to all creation.



Maranatha!
Open our eyes to the dignity of all people
And our ears to the cries of the earth.
Maranatha!
Let us walk in solidarity with the poor
And cleanse our world from oppression.
Maranatha!
Let us shout out for justice for all
And renew our hope for change.
Maranatha!
The Lord is coming
Let us share the Good News!
Amen.

[Sue Cooper/CAFOD]



CAFOD World Gifts 2021 “Like many women around the world, Garmah in Liberia had no legal rights to her home when her husband died. CAFOD worked with local experts to help her and now Garmah and her children live rightfully and happily together in their family home. “I feel safe, my children have a place to rest their heads and I can make a garden to feed them and myself. God sent redeemers to fight for my land rights. I am overfilled with joy.”

Thank you for your support which enables hundreds of women like Garmah to remain in their homes during times of struggle. Other examples of our work can be found in our World Gift catalogues which can be found on the table in the narthex or on the CAFOD World Gifts website worldgifts.cafod.org.uk *Have a wonderful Christmas.*

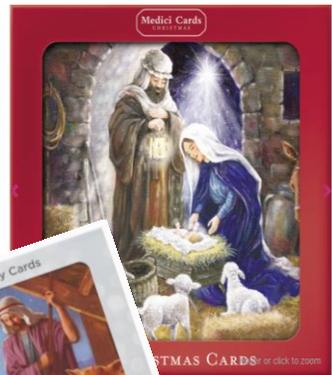
RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS CARDS for the prison.

Deacon Huw is again seeking donations of religious Christmas cards for prisoners to use for their families and friends.

For security reasons shop bought cards in sealed boxes and packs are preferred.

Please leave your donations in the box in the narthex. Remember the prisoners and their families in your prayers.

Thank you



PRAYER INTENTIONS

If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying. [Romans 12:12]

[Please send prayer intentions for newsletter to linda.pector@gmail.com

- Please remember **Jean Lansdown, Colin Broad, Derek Clarkson, Anne Blacklock and Alana Briony** for whom our prayers have been particularly requested this month.
- Pray for all who are sick in any way and for those people who care for them and for whom they care.
- Pray especially during November for all we know and love who have died, and for the consolation of those who grieve. Remember particularly people who have died as a result of war and conflicts. Pray also for people who have no-one else to pray for them.
- Pray that ways of peace and non-violence, love and compassion will prevail in all situations.
- Pray for pupils and staff in our schools, especially in St Felix School,
- Pray for Fr. John, Dcn, Huw and all the people of our parish.

*God our Father,
we pray for the many people who have asked for our prayers;
for their healing and their peace.
Hold them, shelter them and keep them in your tender care.
Comfort those who grieve and give courage to those who are fearful.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen*

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Horace Gorman, Mary McHugh, Garnet Conway, Joseph Brady,
John Guinivan,

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for:

Migrants and Refugees, and Expectant Mothers

In December, **Pope Francis** asks us to join him in praying for

Catechists:

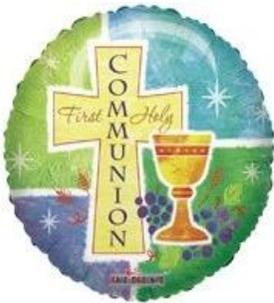
Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy sessions take place during Mass on Sunday. We encourage children who have already celebrated their First Holy Communion to remain in church with their parents and invite children up to the age of First Holy Communion preparation (usually Year 3) to attend the Children's Liturgy session. Although we are limited for space, we also warmly invite the under 4s, accompanied by a parent, to join us.

Best wishes and blessings

Angela Wilson (St Felix Children's Liturgy Group)



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022

Registration forms are available in church for children who are in Year 3 or above and wish to celebrate their First Holy Communion in 2022.

Please return completed registration forms to Fr John **THIS WEEK-END**.
Classes begin in January 2022.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION COURSE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

If you are in **year 9 or above** at school you may wish to think about being confirmed. You do not have to commit to being confirmed at this stage but can express an interest.

Confirmation is a sign that a person has reached maturity and is now able to take responsibility for their own faith. It also strengthens and deepens the connection to the Church that is established at baptism.

If you would like to take part in the preparation course please contact Deacon Huw or Fr John.



HAVERTHILL & DISTRICT CHURCHES TOGETHER

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

A new addition to the late-night shopping evening on:

Friday 3rd December 2021.

The idea is to fill the town with the joyful sound of Christian Carols, and share some Christmas spirit. We encourage members of all our churches to come along and join the concert as it moves through the town. Haverhill Silver Band has combined with the choirs of local churches and community choirs and they will play and sing in these locations in town:

6.00 – 6.15 p.m. outside the old NatWest bank

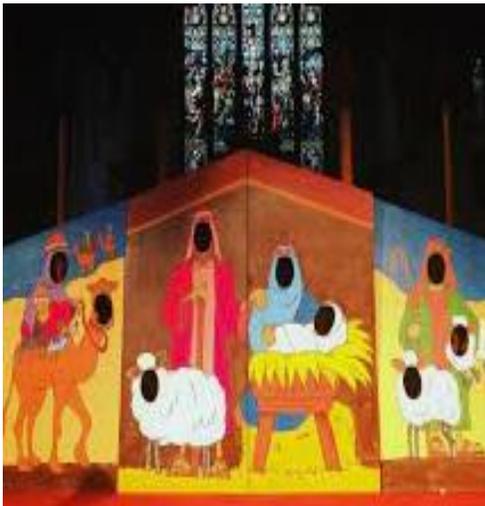
6.30 - 6.45 p.m. outside Saffron Insurance

7.00 - 7.15 p.m. from Queen's Square.

We need your help!

Please come to swell the numbers and to raise the volume and help to make this an inspirational highpoint to the night! Please tell your family, friends, and neighbours about this event! We also need volunteers to hand out carol sheets in town throughout the evening.

Please contact me by email if you are able and willing to help; charmainslade57@gmail.com . Volunteers will be needed at 5.45 p.m. in the Haverhill Methodist Church Car Park, where you will be given the carol sheets and then you can meet the crowds in town! We will lend you high-viz jackets for the evening. Thank you!



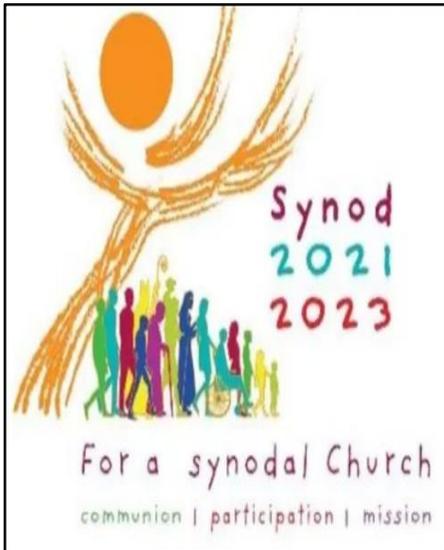
Outdoor Nativity and Carol Concert Trail

Saturday 4th December,

Starting at 12 midday
from the Methodist Church to go
to St Marys Church in Haverhill.

- *Kids Fancy Dress prizes,*
- *Carols sung on the route,*
- *VIP guest appearances from
donkeys and fake camel,*
- *Fun, modern Nativity staged in
between carols,*
- *Everyone welcome - especially
families.*

For information about how you can take part or for more details please contact Rev. Wendy Norris, co-ordinator for the event for Churches Together. Email: revwendy@gmx.com, or call 07497 349 345



THE SYNODAL PATH

Dear all,
Following previous communications from me in earlier St Felix Newsletters concerning how you can contribute to the issues outlined in the Ten Questions from our Diocese, I have been informed by the Diocese that the “survey” will go online on both our Diocesan and parish websites from this weekend - November 27/28, The First Sunday of Advent. When I have the link to the online survey address I will make it known to you.

The diocese has requested that people complete the survey electronically. For those without electronic devices you can provide written responses to me to upload to the website.

All communications will be confidential.

In case you have forgotten, The Ten Questions were emailed by Linda Pector to St. Felix newsletter recipients on October 30th. Hard copies of the Ten Questions are already available in the church Narthex.

After the Christmas break I will be engaging with various groups of individuals to encourage informal discussions about the issues covered by the Ten Questions.

In the meantime, Bishop Alan has suggested that, if you have the time in the coming weeks to prayerfully reflect upon the questions, that would be very valuable.

You can contact me either by:

email at davearnold@cambridge-solutions.co.uk

or call me on **07899 061963**,

or speak to me after Mass on Sundays

Thank you

Dave Arnold, (St Felix Parish Synodal Path Coordinator)

The logo for 'Livesimply award' features a stylized blue cross with a white center, followed by the text 'Livesimply award' in a blue, sans-serif font.

We are now at the beginning of the road to work towards the **Livesimply Award** and to demonstrate that as a Parish community, and within the families and individuals who make up our parish, that we are living:

- simply
- in solidarity with people in poverty and
- sustainably with creation.

Living in this way will include maintaining and developing many of the things we are already doing. One of the things that we already do is to support 'Reach' and the Haverhill Foodbank by donating food via church and/or local supermarkets...

The Season of Advent into Christmas is a time that inspires us to do a bit more. We have a suggestion for you - a kind of Advent calendar in reverse. Instead of opening a calendar to receive a gift we suggest opening it to give a gift. The calendar is in the form of a box [shoe-box size] which you; your family/household, can use to collect small packets of food such as ready cooked rice, tinned fruit, small tea and coffee, biscuits and/or personal care items like deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothpaste and a brush etc-things of use to individuals, who need the services of the Foodbank as well as families. As you pray and reflect each week during Advent also add something to your [shoe] box.

Your boxes of gifts will be brought to church after Christmas when we celebrate the Epiphany of Jesus and hear of the gifts brought by the Magi. More of that later - for now, please get your box and with thoughts and prayers for those who will receive them, add your gifts throughout Advent.

Thank you. Parish J&P Group



A few people have asked who made the tree-guard for Fr. Michael's memorial tree?

Our thanks are due to
Mick Jeffs
who was a pupil of
Fr. Michael's many years ago.
Mick designed, provided the
materials and made the
striking tree guard.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS 'Bits & Bobs' SALE

After Mass on:

**Saturday 27th November
& Sunday 28th November**

Handmade Christmas Cards
[new and recycled]

Christmas Tree Decorations
[string angels, bead stars/snowflakes,
peg trees, folded fabric stars]

Other greetings cards and 'bits & bobs'

***Proceeds to the Parish
'Live-streaming Fund'***

THIS WEEK-END

CALLING ALL RED BOX HOLDERS – A final call in 2021



Anyone who has a Red Box they would like emptied please bring it and leave at the back of church in the next 2 weeks. It will be ready for collection the following week.

As many of us do not have much loose change these days you may wish to consider these other ways of donating



Send a cheque:

Make it payable to **Missio-Mill Hill** and post it to **Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU**



Give online:

Scan the QR code above or go to missio.org.uk/redbox

You can use the camera on your phone to look at the QR code above



Give via text:

Text **REDBOX 5** (to donate £5) or **REDBOX 10** (to donate £10) to **70085**

This costs £5 or £10 plus your standard rate message



Give via phone:

Call us on **020 7821 9755** during office hours to donate with your credit or debit card



Bank transfer:

Account Name: **Missio**
Sort Code: **16-00-16**
Account Number: **10824230**

Reference: **RB+your postcode**

Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers overseas and all missionaries who share God's love – they tell us the love and encouragement they receive from us keeps them strong.

PARISH FINANCES – COLLECTIONS/WEEKLY OFFERING:

Collection for the Weekend of 20th / 21st November 2021:

Standing Orders	£280.00
Collection	£378.17
Total	£658.17

Donations; £395.00 (including £60 for our Live Streaming Fund)

Thank you for your generosity to our Parish Community

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

Saturday evening from 5.45 p.m. to 6.15 p.m.

... or by request,
with Fr John,
at another time

OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS BOOK

Please feel free to enter any intentions in this book, in the narthex, and these will be offered at all Masses.

*[Please put a note with your intention if you **DO NOT** wish for the intention to appear in the Parish Newsletter]*

Thank you.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

It is time to order the Gift Aid Envelopes for 2022/23. We need to ascertain how many envelopes are required, as we had quite a few unused last year. Please let me know if you have not been supplied with a set of envelopes but would like some for your weekly offerings
or if you have been supplied with envelopes but no longer require them.

If you are able to set up a weekly or monthly standing order and pay directly into the parish bank account, please do so. This is the easiest way for the parish to record gift aided offerings. Please make sure you put your name as the reference followed by GA eg. 'BagginsGA'

Thank you to all who have already chosen this option.

For the parish to claim Gift Aid on your offerings, you must have completed a Gift Aid Declaration Form. The forms are available in the narthex or you can download them from the parish website.

Please contact me via email annette.field@sky.com or leave a message with Fr John or Deacon Huw.

Thank you

Annette Field (Parish Gift Aid Officer)

ST FELIX 100 CLUB

If you would like to join the 100 Club, email me, or leave money in an envelope with your name, tel. number and address in the 100-club box at church, or you can speak to me at the church entrance after Saturday evening Mass.

'Subs' can be paid at the church door as you leave Mass. However, a box for 100 club money is still available on the table just inside church if you prefer to continue making your payments that way. Please leave payment, cheque or cash, in an envelope with your name and number and put it in the box.

Remember if you normally pay annually (due in June) you can pay £60.00 electronically to the church bank account: **Please email me if you pay electronically - joe@bullfarm.co.uk** so I can update the book.

Bank Details for electronic payments:

St Felix Catholic Parish,
National Westminster Bank,

Sort code: 60 10 21

Bank Account Number: 90032055

Reference: 100 club + your number [if known]

Thank you, Joe Staight

ST FELIX MASSES & MASS INTENTIONS

[Masses celebrated in church are also live-streamed]

The link for our Live-Streamed Masses via our YouTube channel is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeHq3Ww93rfGfMGzXS25A2w/>

First Sunday of Advent [28.11.2021]

SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER: Mass 6.30 p.m. *The People of the Parish*

SUNDAY 28th NOVEMBER: Mass 10.00 a.m. *Colin Lyons RIP*

First Week of Advent

Tuesday 30th November: Mass 7.30 p.m. *Stuart Beaumont RIP*

Wednesday 1st December: **NO MASS**

Thursday 2nd December: **NO MASS**

Friday 3rd December: **NO MASS**

Second Sunday of Advent [05.12.2021]

SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER: Mass 6.30 p.m. *The People of the Parish*

SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER: Mass 10.00 a.m. *Vincent Dooley RIP*

Our CHRISTMAS MASSES:



Christmas Eve, Friday 24th December 2021:

5.00 p.m. – CHILDREN'S MASS FOR CHRISTMAS

10.00 p.m. – NATIVITY of the LORD, MASS DURING THE NIGHT

Christmas Day, Saturday 25th December 2021:

10.00 a.m. – NATIVITY of the LORD, MASS DURING THE DAY

*[Please note: There will be **NO** 6.30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day]*

Sunday 26th December 2021:

10.00 a.m. – MASS for the FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY