

ST MARY & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

Sunday 28th Dec – Feast of the Holy Family, Year A
December Devotion: The Immaculate Conception



Parish of St Mary & St Paul
Celebrating 200 years
1825 to 2025

At Christmas, Jesus became a member of a family

That holy family of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus is an example and inspiration for all families. The qualities of mutual respect and understanding, affection and security which we see there are the qualities which provide the best conditions for children to grow and develop, emotionally and spiritually. The effects of a good, stable, and accepting life spread out into the whole of our society.

| Date | Celebration | Service Time & Location | Intention |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Sun 28 th Dec | The Holy Family (Feast) | Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:00am St Paul's Mass 10:30am St Mary's | Parishioners' Intention Parishioners' Intention John Storey (RIP) |
| Mon 29 th Dec | St Thomas Beckett | 6:15pm Eucharistic Adoration, St. Mary's; Mass 7:00pm | Holiday Makers |
| Tues 30 th Dec | 6 th Day of Christmas | St. Mary's; Mass 9:00am | Jennifer Morraies & prayer group |
| Wed 31 st Dec | 7 th Day of Christmas | St. Mary's; Mass 9:00am | Jennifer Morraies & prayer group |
| Thu 1 st Jan | Mary the Holy Mother of God | 9:30am Mass, St Mary's | New Year Family Blessing |
| Fri 2 nd Jan | Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen | Domestic Church Readings: 1Jn.2:22-28; Ps.97; Jn. 1:19-28 | Family intentions |
| Sat 3 rd Jan | The Holy Name of Jesus | Domestic Church Readings: Jn.1:29-34; Ps. 97. | Sick and housebound |
| Sun 4 th Jan | The Second Sunday of Christmas | Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:00am St Paul's Mass 10:30am St Mary's | Parishioners' Intention Mrs. Chris Thomson (RIP) BD Anniversary Parishioners' Intention |

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 9am to 9:50am St Mary's; 5pm to 5:50pm St Paul's; Sunday 8:30am to 8:50am St Paul's; by appointment. **Sacraments and other liturgies:** Please speak to the Priest after the weekend masses.

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Rosie Mary-Kay Collins was welcomed into the family of God last weekend. Please pray for her and her family

JOHN STOREY RIP: John Storey died suddenly on Christmas Day. He received the last rites from Fr Oliver. May his soul, and the soul of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen. Please pray for him and for the comfort of his family and friends.

MATTHEW 2:13-5,19-23: The obedience to God's commands within the Holy Family is absolute. Right from the start of Jesus' life on earth he is subject to the evils of the world and exposed to danger because of them. How easily could God's plan for our salvation have been thwarted almost before it began, without the wholehearted compliance of Joseph and Mary. We are never taken out of areas where God plans to work through us for good. He provides us with guidance, help, and strength, so long as we keep listening to him, and obey his will, even if we cannot immediately see the necessity for acting as he wishes. In time, it will be made plain. Meanwhile, we must allow ourselves to be led, or we may be thwarting God's purpose in some way.

FR ISIDORE VACATION: Father Isidore is going home to Nigeria for January, where he will enjoy a well-earned rest and some warmer weather. Please pray for his safe travel. Whilst he is away the weekend Masses, and Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated by visiting priests. Please make them welcome.

DOMESTIC CHURCH refers to the family home as the first place where faith is lived and passed on. Within daily routines of prayer, shared meals, acts of charity, and the rhythms of forgiveness and love, parents and children learn to recognise God's presence. The Domestic Church mirrors the wider Church by nurturing virtues, celebrating the liturgical seasons, and teaching the Gospel through example. It is here that faith takes root in ordinary life, forming a foundation for discipleship long before formal catechesis begins, and shaping a household where Christ is welcomed and made known.

ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER: Following the retirement of Cardinal Vincent Nichols from his role as Archbishop of Westminster, Pope Leo XIV has appointed Bishop Richard Moth as his successor. Cardinal Nichols has served as Archbishop of Westminster since 2009, guiding the Church through periods of social change, internal challenge, and renewed public engagement. The Archbishop of Westminster is the most senior position in the Catholic hierarchy in England and Wales and is traditionally regarded as the leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, serving as President of the Bishops' Conference and acting as the primary public voice of Catholicism in the region. The position also includes oversight of Westminster Cathedral, the mother church for Catholics in the country, and responsibility for guiding the largest Catholic diocese in Britain. Bishop Richard Moth, appointed by Pope Leo XIV on 19 December 2025, has served as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton since 2015 and previously as Bishop of the Forces. He will become the twelfth Archbishop of Westminster and is due to be installed at Westminster Cathedral on 14 February 2026. In public statements following his appointment, he expressed gratitude for the trust placed in him by the Pope and acknowledged the support offered by Cardinal Nichols during the transition. He also emphasised his desire to "advance the Church's mission and witness to the Gospel," signalling a pastoral approach rooted in continuity yet open to renewal. As Archbishop of Westminster, he will lead an estimated six million Catholics across England and Wales and represent the Church in national discussions on moral, social, and political issues. His background in canon law, criminal justice advocacy, and pastoral care suggests he will bring a thoughtful, grounded approach to the role. His appointment comes at a moment of renewed Catholic visibility in public life, with reports noting a rise in younger Catholic engagement and strengthened ecumenical relations.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS: All our Christmas Masses were well attended and joyful occasions. Thanks to all who helped make the churches look so beautiful, to the greeters, servers, readers, and Eucharistic Ministers, and to everyone who came to the services.

FR OLIVER has sent a message to wish everyone a Happy Christmas, and to say thanks for the Christmas Card from the Parish, which he was very pleased to receive. He continues to pray for the parish community every day through the Parish Prayer.

FR ISIDORE thanks everyone for their gifts, cards, and Christmas wishes and shares this blessing for the New Year. ***May the God of all time bless this coming year with His peace. May Christ, the Light of the world, guide your steps and keep you in His grace. May the Holy Spirit strengthen your faith, deepen your hope, and fill your heart with charity. And may Mary, Mother of the Church, watch over you and all whom you love.***

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Registration is open for older children who are not at St Mary's or St Paul's school, to make their First Holy Communion in June 2026. Please speak to Fr Isidore.

CONFIRMATION: Registration for Confirmation, for those in Year 8 and above, has begun. Please pick up a consent form from the back of our churches and speak to Fr Isidore.

TEA, COFFEE, AND A CHANCE TO CHAT: Every Sunday after Mass at St Mary's, there is an opportunity to have a tea or coffee and a chat with some of your fellow parishioners.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY: £520.01; Thank you for your generosity. An easy way to make your weekly offering is via standing order.



Scan the QR code to access the Online giving page for St Mary and St Paul, Dukinfield and Hyde

Reverend Father Isidore Madueke, 29 Zetland St, Dukinfield, Cheshire, SK16 4EJ

Tel: 0161 330 2424 **Website:** stmaryandstpaul.org

Email: stmaryandstpaulRC@gmail.com

Please consider remembering the parish in your will.

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