**Newsletter for the week commencing 31st December 2023**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (B)**

**Entrance antiphon: The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in a manger**

First Reading: Genesis 15: 1-6: 21; 1-3

Psalm 104 Response: He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.

Second Reading:  The letter to the Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

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

Communion antiphon:  Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

**Father Behr writes:**

**Dear Parishioners**

**This weekend is the feast of the Holy Family and we have a pastoral letter from Archbishop John Wilson.**

**In the letter Archbishop John reminds us of the importance of family life:**

**“I have been privileged over the past year to witness so many inspiring examples of husbands and wives, with their children and extended families, living and celebrating their Catholic faith, passing it on, and making it central to their day-to-day life. We know that every family has its difficulties. Sometimes, sadly, we also know there is breakdown, both in marriage and in family life. To anyone who is wounded by damaged or broken relationships, please know that the Church is your home, a compassionate ‘hospital’ of healing and mercy. I want to say a very sincere ‘thank you’ to every family which forms part of our Archdiocese. Thank you for your commitment to your faith and for making your homes holy places where the values and virtues of the Holy Family of Nazareth are put into practice.”**

**Thank you for all your kind Christmas gifts, cards and the Christmas offering which came to £2,165.81**

**I am very grateful. I wish you a blessed and peaceful New Year.**

**Monday is the Solemnity of the Mother of God. What a great way to begin the New Year. We have Mass at 10am followed by the Holy Rosary praying for our parish.**

**Fr Behr**

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:  Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maureen Davidson RIP who died on Christmas Day. Please pray for her husband Peter (they were married for over 70 years) and her family. Details of funeral Mass will follow.**

**Those ill or infirm:**Paul Lane**,** Peter Crinnion, Mara McDermot, June Munton, Ailish Cantwell (Jones), Sylwia Dorosz, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Patricia Hook, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those who are unwell and in need of our prayers.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time**: Mary Bly, Brian Leo Barrett, Moya Crofton, Anthony Whately, Joseph Davis, Martin Vickers, Gloria Woods (Mrs. Cox’s daughter), Helen Miller, Violet Braden and Margaret Thornton.

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| **This week’s services (30th Dec – 7th Jan), Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.** |
| **Saturday 30th December****Sixth day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord** | No public Mass am                                                                                                                                              10.30 -11am Confession                                                                                                                                       6pm Vigil Mass*People of the Parish***Reader: James** |
| **Sunday 31st December****THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH (B)** | 10am Mass *Elizabeth & John Spencer RIP* **Reader:Frances**12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Monday 1st January** | 10am Mass *James Leeper Intentions* |
| **Tuesday 2nd January** | 10am Mass  *T Macauley*  |
| **Wednesday 3rd January** | 10am Service of the Word and Holy Communion |
| **Thursday 4th January** | No Mass |
| **Friday 5th January** | 10am Mass *Natalie Sarkis Wellbeing* 10.30 – 11.30am Adoration |
| **Saturday 6th January** | No public Mass am10.30 -11am Confession6pm Vigil Mass*People of the Parish***Reader: L**iz |
| **Sunday 7th January** | 10am Mass  *Joe Venables RIP*                             **Reader: Kathy**12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Flowers: for 7th January - Kathy** |
| **Cleaners: for 6th/7th January – Martin & Rachel** |

**Confession**

Fr Behr is available for Confession every Saturday from 10.30am - 11am. He is also happy to visit those who are not able to come to church.

**Children’sLiturgy**Children’s Liturgy at the 10am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. All children who have not made their First Holy Communion are welcome to attend.  The next lesson with Lorraine is on Sunday, January 7th, 2024.

**Churches Together in Tenterden:**

**Sunday 31st December 2023** **at 4pm**

**Vespers**

**St Andrew’s Roman Catholic Church,** **Ashford Road, Tenterden**

**Service led by:** **Father Behruz Raf’at**, **Deacon Jolyon Vickers and Organist: Tracey Laws.**

Dear All,

Please **“Save this Date”, Sunday 28 January 2024.**It is the date for **Racial Justice Sunday 2024**.

On that day, **Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate a Mass at St Georges Cathedral; Time 10.00am** followed by a light refreshment at the upper deck of the Amigo Hall.

**All Parishes, Schools, Chaplaincies, Institutions in the Archdiocese are kindly invited to be part of this colourful celebration** led by Archbishop John as he invites everyone to prayers and actions that will harness the richness in our diversities and route out any form of exclusion in our communities and the wider society.

Forwarded by Deacon Jolyon

**Building a Better Marriage**

**Save the date** **Saturday 3 FEBRUARY 2024 9.30am – 4.00pm**

**This day, held at Maidstone South parish hall, Bicknor Road, Park Wood ME15 9PS starting at 9.30am until 4pm, is a day in which married couples can privately explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to the married. There is no charge for this course. Booking is essential - please contact Carole on****mflkent@rcaos.org.uk****or by phone:  07983 524 727 Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.**

 **Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages**

**Help Your Marriage –**Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue … or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about ‘Retrouvaille’ or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/)

**Retrouvaille – Do you need in your marriage?**Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or there is a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/)