

St. Mary Star of the Sea 1 High Street, HASTINGS TN34 3EY
Tel: 01424 421263 Email: stmarystarofthesea.hastings.uk@gmail.com

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarystarofthesea.net

Office Hours for Hall Bookings and Baptism Certificates 10am-2pm Mon-Fri
(Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity 252878)
Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines)

Parish Priest: Fr Eamonn Monson, SCA

Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Brown

Normal Mass Times

Sundays: 6.00pm (Sat), 10.00am, 11.30am. Tuesday to Saturday: 10.00am

Adoration: Saturdays: 10.30am to 11am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 10.30am and after the 6.00pm Mass.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, 29th DECEMBER 2019 YEAR A

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A BLESSING AT COMMUNION TIME

Non-Catholics and those who have not received First Communion are invited to seek a blessing by crossing their arms over their chest.

PARISH COMMUNITY CLUB (PCC)

In the Crypt. Entrance via blue door in The Bourne.
Mondays 10.30am to 12 noon.

PCC wishes all a happy and holy Christmas.

January 2020 Programme:

6th: LOADS OF CHAT: What did you do?

13th: English Rivers talk by Claire Power

20th: Coffee & Chat. Bring photo of a RIVER if you have one.

27th: Anecdotes of Winchelsea's past by Malcolm Pratt
Don't let any winter wind keep you in your shell.

Come to our warm hall and 'ave a laff.

Members free with annual £5 subscription. Guests welcome: £1 per talk. Tea or coffee with biscuit 50p.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Christine Jennings who died on December 8th. May she rest in peace. Many of you will remember her late daughter Susan. Christine's funeral Mass will be celebrated on January 7th at 10.00am.

Come to our Marriage party!

On January 16th at 7pm at Christ the King, 3 Princes Road, Eastbourne BN23 6HT we are holding an evening to celebrate the beauty of Marriage. It will be an opportunity to reflect on our own marriages and to enjoy meeting others. As a couple you are a living witness to the fidelity and love Christ has for His church, so if you are interested in promoting this wonderful Sacrament please join us RSVP; Simon Kirkdale at Simkirk@gmail.com

Parish Finances

The Offertory collection on Sunday 22nd December came to £1,043.09 including cheques and standing orders. The Christmas Collection came to £2,614.68. Many thanks for your generosity.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

Eastbourne Deanery Initial Safeguarding Awareness Training in the church hall at Our Lady of Ransom, 2-4 Grange Rd, Eastbourne BN21 4EU on Wednesday 22nd January from 7-9 p.m

If you are able to attend, please book online at <https://www.dabnet.org/ViewArticle/?section=Courses&id=1498&subject=Safeguarding> (is easy to copy and paste this link from this newsletter on our parish website) or give your name to our Safeguarding Rep., Chris Emary, tel. 07518 521286. This training is for *everyone* but particularly those who work with or minister to Vulnerable Groups (Children and Adults at Risk.) It is the expectation of the Bishop, Trustees and Safeguarding Commission that this initial training is undertaken and refreshed every three years. New Volunteers should undertake the Initial Training within the first year of being appointed. A Refresher Training Programme is now being rolled out. From this year there will be one Initial Safeguarding Awareness session per Deanery per year and one Refresher session per Deanery per year. The next Eastbourne Refresher Training session will be in July 2020. We would be grateful to have names/numbers by 15th January for refreshment and hand out purposes. If you are unable to attend and wish to undertake online training, just email bethany.arthur@abdiocese.org.uk with your name, parish and role. Bethany will register you with EduCare, the National online Training Provider. The sections of the modules can be dipped in and out of so can be done when convenient. There is also Certificate provision on successful completion.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER MEETINGS All welcome to join us in the presbytery at 2.30pm on Mondays: Jan. 6th, 20th. Feb. 3rd

MASS INTENTIONS AND FEASTS Please note that if your Mass intention is replaced by a Funeral Mass, or if there is a Liturgy of the Word on that day, your Mass will be moved to the next available date.

Sat. 28th December, 6pm: Paul Murphy RIP

Sun. 29th December, Holy Family, 10am: John & Joyce Bumstead RIP

11.30am: Pat Hansford RIP (recently deceased)

Tues 31st December, St Sylvester, Pope, 10am: Christine Jennings RIP

Wed. 1st January, Mary, Mother of God, 10am: Special Intention (Mary Oliver)

Thurs, 2nd January, St Basil the Great, Pope and St Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop, 10am: Mary Oliver Intention

Fri. 3rd January, First Friday, Most Holy Name of Jesus, 10am: Parishioners

Sat. 4th January, St Elizabeth, 10am: In thanksgiving for many blessings

Please remember in your prayers all who are ill, including: Thomas Reilly, Phil, Tracey Fischer, Hazel Gordon, Peter Ashwood, Barry Amar, Win Goldsmith, James Grant, Martin Kavanagh, Linda Frost, Linda Deeley, Helen Surges, David McIntosh, Young Tessa-Mae, Jenny Rowley, Stephen Gurden, Maureen McKenna, Fiona Skowronski, Freda Barrell, Beverley Lambeth, Alan Turner, Margaret Aris, Sheila Black, Debbie Wood, Jacob, Lila Brooker, Tracy Coal, Christopher Browne, Michael Ramsay, Spencer Ramsay, Michelle Spencer, Rosa Santos and Tommy Gaynor.

Feast of the Holy Family

A married couple become one body, one Icon of God, a window giving us a glimpse into God; one revelation of who God is and they live the priesthood of Christ in a way that is not lived by the ministerial priesthood - their love for each other is the supreme image of Christ's love for the Church.

In giving birth to children they reflect the life-giving priesthood of God the Father. A Christian family in turn becomes an Icon and reflection of the family of the most Holy Trinity.

Marriage and family offer us the various expressions of the One Love of God – espousal, fatherhood, motherhood and the childhood – each of which is found in Sacred Scripture.

The Hidden life of the family of Nazareth is seen by St. Vincent Pallotti as one of the most precious aspects of the life of Jesus. The inner family life that is private and not public, a hidden interior life that feeds all that we are and do when we go out the door of our home to school, to work, to play and to minister. What goes on in the privacy of the home, especially a Christian home is very sacred.

Pope Francis in his homily at the conclusion of the Synod on the Family points out that faith cannot be scheduled. Family life, human life cannot be scheduled in the way that we often want or expect it to be. The thrust and tumble, agony and joy, the mess and the tidying, the unpredictability of our home all contribute to its sacredness. God is in the midst of it all with us.

In a special way the family table is sacred. I love going to visit families where there are children, to sit at table with them and go with the flow of a child's natural, God-given way of being. It is certainly an image of what we will experience at heavenly banquet - the abundance spoken of in Isaiah, the experience of salvation, the wiping away of every tear and the consolation of every sorrow. The vibrancy and love of parents and children sitting down together is an Icon of the table of the Holy Trinity.

Like all families, there's a bit of tension in the Holy Family of Nazareth - between the twelve-year-old Jesus and His earthly parents. He is getting a sense of who He is meant to be in this world but Mary and Joseph in their distress do not understand Him, a familiar feature in the relationships of a lot of children with their parents. On the one hand the child needs to start discovering his or her path in life and on the other hand the child can only gain the necessary wisdom for life by living under the authority of parents. It was the same with Jesus who grew in wisdom and stature under the authority of Mary and Joseph, a necessary period in any child's life and it might help children to meditate on and pray to the twelve-year old Jesus to help them through. It would help parents also to pray to the Holy Family to get them through many situations that might otherwise be impossible. *Eamonn Monson sac*