



The Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph are put before us today as a model for our families. We call them "*The Holy Family*" but just like every family they had to face problems and overcome them. We can easily imagine how misunderstood both Mary and Joseph must have been when Mary conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Their story would never be believed. Even Mary herself had it very rough early in the pregnancy when Joseph was planning to divorce her before the angel intervened in a dream. When the time for Jesus' delivery came it took place in an animals' shelter since Bethlehem was already so crowded. We do not hear of Joseph any more after the awful experience of losing Jesus for three days when he was twelve years old, so we presume that before Jesus began his public ministry in Galilee Joseph had died - The Holy Family suffering the greatest pain of all families, the pain of bereavement and separation through death. The saddest moment of all came when Mary watched her son die on the cross. What kept The Holy Family together and sane throughout all of these trials was their 'Love for each other and God'. Jesus' love for Mary and Mary's love for Jesus, and the love of both of them for God the Father. What also holds our families together in times of difficulty is love and forgiveness. It is love which triumphs in the end, whenever our families are successful, it is because they are places of love. The greatest threat facing families now is simply that we don't spend enough time together. In recent Sundays we have considered the damage done when we spend extended periods of time with our electronic gadgetry, without conversation, shutting out those that we love. Spending time together with the family is a way of showing our family that we love them. When we love our family we want to sacrifice ourselves by spending time with them, and all the more so when we realize that by not spending time with them we are depriving them of our love and hurting them. Just as the holy family survived all its crises through love for each other and faith in God, let us pray during this Mass that our families will conquer all difficulties through love for each other and faith in God.

Masses and Services During the week - Eucharistic Service: Monday - 9.30 a.m. Masses: Tuesday - Friday - 9.30 a.m. **Sunday – 9 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. **Reconciliations** - **Saturday** – at 12.30 - 1.00 p.m and again from 6.30 – 7.00 p.m.**

Thank you all for your kindness over the last 29 years and thanks to all who helped over the Christmas period to make the church so beautiful after the rewire. Thank you for all your cards, gifts and thanks for your excellent generosity in the Christmas Offerings. Thank you for all you are and do for your parish. You are continually remembered in all my masses and prayers. On behalf of Deacon Tom and myself, I wish you all a very happy and holy New Year.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

Headteacher Vacancy - St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Nantwich - Application forms and further details must be obtained from and returned to: The School Governance Team, Children's Services, Delamere House (EC), Delamere Street, Crewe, CW1 2LL. If electronic copies of these documents are required, please obtain them from the Governance team to ensure compliance with recruitment procedures. Telephone: 0300 123 5036; e-mail: schoolgovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Wellington Road, Nantwich, CW5 7DA. Tel: 01270 685353. Web: www.stannes.cheshire.sch.uk; L12 – L18 (Salary to be agreed on appointment); Group 2; Permanent; Start date: September 2020; NOR: 210. Visits to the School Monday 13th January 2020 from 2pm to 3pm or 4.30pm to 5.30pm; Closing Date for Applications Friday 24th January 2020 at midday.

Lay Chaplain (for January 2020) - New NJC Points 23-28, £26,999 - £31,371 pro-rata. 37 hours per week, term-time only (plus INSET days). Would consider part-time applications to the HR Officer at: All Hallows Catholic College, Brooklands Avenue, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 8LB. Email: hr@allhallows.org.uk Application documents can be found on All Hallows Catholic College website: <http://allhallows.org.uk/about-us/work-with-us/associate-staff-vacancies/> Closing Date: 09/01/2020. Interviews: 12 noon on 15/01/2020 .

God Bless You All

Fr. William O'Riordan

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. W. O'Riordan 01625 522776. Permanent Deacon: Rev. B.T. Chrisp: 07925 072270.

Parish Contact for all Sacraments/Newsletter -Irish Chrisp: 07957 285824 or trishchrisp@gmail.com

Parish Rep. Child Protection: 01625 252108. S.V.P: 07749 453776. Hall Co-ordinator: 01625 250879

Parish Website: <http://stbenedictshandforth.mycylex.co.uk>

Your Catholic Primary School is: St. Benedict's situated on Hall Road, Handforth.

For more information please contact Hannah McGuire, Head Teacher on 01625 520207