

2024 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF BISHOP JOHN ARNOLD

In a year that has seen conflict across the world, unrest in our own cities, poverty across the world, as well as at home, Bishop John reminds us of a baby who was born into the very midst of all these challenges, to walk with us and to bring us hope.

He said: "For us Christians, we must not lose that sense of the real meaning of Christmas: that moment when God, because he loves us so much, sent his only son to be born among us, in humility and poverty, to show us the way, the truth, and the life. And we mustn't lose sight of that."

Bishop John continued to draw our attention to our upcoming Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee, a year in which the Church offers us the opportunity to renew our relationship with God, each other, and all of creation to bring a little of the light of Christ into a world in darkness.

He said: "So many things need to be mended and repaired in our world, and this is our opportunity to remind ourselves that Jesus is with us.

"And that prayer, "Stay with us, Lord, on our journey", is so important for every step of the way when we're facing the conflicts and difficulties of our times that we remember that the Lord is with us and wants to help us on our way, and if we are determined to be doing the right thing, he will guide and strengthen us every step of the way.

"I wish you a very happy Christmas; one that has that real sense of meaning and purpose in the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ."

FRIDAY ADORATIONS AND MASS:

From next month, we shall return to having adorations only on the first Friday of the month followed by the mass. We shall no longer have adorations and mass every Friday from January.

MASS OF NEW YEAR:

Wednesday is the 1st of January and the solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God, we shall therefore have our new year mass at 12:00pm.

THE JANUARY EDITION OF MY DAY BY DAY – is on sale in the piety shop this weekend priced £1.00

THE JANUARY EDITION OF BIBLE ALIVE – is on sale in the piety Shop this weekend priced £3.00

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!!

I want to thank everyone of you for making our Christmas celebration a good and memorable one. Thanks to the Sacristan, the altar servers, the readers and Eucharistic ministers, the welcomers, those who helped set up the Christmas trees, crib and flowers, the organist and all who helped with music etc.

I also want to thank you all for your Christmas gifts, cards, messages and good wishes. I am grateful. Do continue to enjoy your Christmas!

"URBI ET ORBI" 2024 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS (Part 1)

Dear sisters and brothers, happy Christmas!

The mystery that never ceases to amaze and move us was renewed this night: the Virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God, wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. That is how the shepherds of Bethlehem, filled with joy, found him, as the angels sang: "Glory to God and peace to men" (cf. Lk 2:6-14). Peace to men and women.

This event, which took place over two thousand years ago, is indeed made new thanks to the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit of Love and Life who made fruitful the womb of Mary and from her human flesh formed Jesus. Today, amid the travail of our times, the eternal Word of salvation is once more truly made incarnate, and speaks to every man and woman, to the whole world. This is the message: "I love you, I forgive you; come back to me, the door of my heart is open for you!"

Brothers and sisters, the door of God's heart is always open; let us return to him! Let us go back to the heart that loves and forgives us! Let us be forgiven by him; let us be reconciled with him! God always forgives! God forgives everything. Let us allow ourselves to be forgiven by him.

This is the meaning of the Holy Door of the Jubilee, which I opened last night here in Saint Peter's Basilica: it represents Jesus, the Door of salvation open for all. Jesus is the Door; the Door that the Father of mercies has opened in the midst of our world, in the midst of history, so that all of us can return to him. We are all like lost sheep; we need a Shepherd and a Door to return to the house of the Father. Jesus is that Shepherd; Jesus is the Door.

Brothers and sisters, do not be afraid! The Door is open, the door is wide open! There is no need to knock on the door. It is open. Come! Let us be reconciled with God, and then we will be reconciled with ourselves and able to be reconciled with one another, even our enemies. God's mercy can do all things. It unties every knot; it tears down every wall of division; God's mercy dispels hatred and the spirit of revenge. Come! Jesus is the Door of Peace. (to be continued)



SS AIDAN & OSWALD R.C CHURCH

VAUGHAN STREET ROYTON, OLDHAM OL2 5DL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



E-mail: staidanroyton@outlook.com

Parish Website: www.staidanroyton.org.uk



0161-624-1322

St Vincent de Paul Society: 07398 638649

Credit Union E-mail: SSAOCU@outlook.com

Parish Administrator: Fr. Churchill Emeghara m.ss.cc.

Mass Times This Week

Saturday Vigil : 5.30p.m.

Sunday : 9.30a.m.

Monday: 8.30 am (Service)

Tuesday & Thursday: 8.30am

Wednesday: 12:00pm

Friday: Adoration : 6.00pm followed by mass

Confessions

Saturday

11.30a.m. 12.00noon

5.00p.m. - 5.20p.m.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 29TH DECEMBER 2024



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

Sunday 29th 10.30a.m. *Coffee Morning prepared and served by Camie Ann & Thaddeus Varey.*

Monday 30th *The Rosary will be recited after the 8.30a.m. masses this week.*

10.00.a.m. *Welcome Centre*

Tuesday 31st 10.00 a.m. *Welcome Centre*

Wednesday 1st 8.45a.m. *Babies' & Toddlers' Group (term time only)*

Sunday 5th 10.30a.m. *Coffee Morning prepared and served by Donna Leqq*

PRAYER FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Father we Thank you for the gift of your son in this Eucharist.

We now place before you all the sick and housebound of the Parish.

As they share in this Eucharist with us, we pray that they may come to know the depth of your love for them and the joy, the peace and healing of your presence. Through Christ our Lord.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

THURSDAY 2ND: SAINT BASIL THE GREAT AND SAINT GREGORY NAZIANZEN:

close friends, and great figures of the Eastern Church in the fourth century. Basil was Bishop of Caesarea and active in promoting the monastic life, writing a "rule" which is still observed today. Gregory was Bishop of Constantinople, and because of his great learning is still known in the East as "Gregory the Theologian"; he eventually retired from the episcopacy to return to his monastery in Nazianzus. Gregory summed up their lives: "Our great concern, our great name, was to be Christians and be called Christians. E

WEDNESDAY 3RD: THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS:

The greatest promoters of this devotion were St Bernardine of Siena and St John of Capistrano, who used the monogram of the Holy Name in their preaching. Because the manner in which Saint Bernardine preached this devotion was new, he was accused before Pope Martin V but was successfully defended by John. This feast reminds us that the word "Jesus" means "God Saves", and our salvation comes through Christ alone.