

THIS WEEKEND		Feast of the Holy Family		Year B
Sat 30th Dec	5.00pm	St O	Parishioners + Priests of St Oswald	
	6.30pm	St T	Allan Stapley + Family	
Sun 31st Dec	8:30am	St MM	<i>Latin Extraordinary Form Mass</i>	
	8:30am	St O	John Nickson	
	9.30am	St T	Shelia Williams, Arthur Holmes	
	11.00am	St MM	Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving (Parkins) James Patrick Delaney (Jnr) James Delaney (Snr)	
WEEKDAY MASSES		Divine Office Week 2		
Mon 1st January	11.00am	St T	Henry Eyles + Helen Lewis	
Tues 2nd January	9.15am	St T	Heather Carey	
	9.30am	St O	Beryl Connor (ill)	
Wed 3rd January	9.30am	St MM	Albert and Margaret Dawson + Florence	
Thu 4th January	9.30am	St O	Bert Sheepwash	
	11.00am	St T	<i>Funeral Service: Andy McCann</i>	
	7.00pm	St T	Ann + David Irving	
Fri 5th January	9.15am	St T	Frank Pilkington	
	9.30am	St O	Mary Patricia Wildman	
NEXT WEEKEND		Solemnity of the Epiphany		Year B
Sat 6th January	10.00am	St T	<i>Confessions + Exposition ending 1030</i>	
	5.00pm	St O	Mrs N Lancaster	
	6.30pm	St T	Parishioners intentions	
Sun 7th January Solemnity of the Epiphany	8:30am	St MM	<i>Latin Extraordinary Form Mass</i>	
	8:30am	St O	Patricia + Roger Holdcroft	
	9.30am	St T	Margaret Stringfellow	
	11.00am	St MM	James Hardacre	

Confessions 10.00am - 10.30am: 1st Sat at St T, 2nd Sat at St O

Web Site: www.catholic-penwortham-longton.btck.co.uk

Web Cam: <http://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-teresas-penwortham>

The CATHOLIC CHURCH in PENWORTHAM + LONGTON

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Feast of the Holy Family 31st December 2017

As an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more dramatic events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today's Gospel reminds us there were also the so-called hidden years - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example.

Our celebration of this feast announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. So whatever the shape and size of your family, even if your family is just you, today is for you.

Thank you: to everyone who has helped in any way in our celebrations of the Feast of Christmas. Everything was splendid in all 3 churches. A special thanks to flower arrangers and sacristans. Thank you everyone.

Knit-a-Bit: A big thank you to all the ladies who have come to Knit-a-bit since the group was set up in September. As well as doing our own projects we have donated 26 jumpers and 3 blankets to International Aid for distribution to needy babies abroad. A couple of ladies who don't attend but still knit have requested the pattern and have joined in with this project. Newcomers always welcome. We're taking a break for a few weeks but it will be business as usual on Monday January 8th.

Lay Funeral Ministers: The next Diocesan Course is Feb 21st and 22nd at LACE. If anyone feels they could help minister in this important way please see Fr Philip or Fr Michael.

St Oswald's Bereavement Team: We hope to set up a bereavement team. There are 4 main things to do - provide a welcome at funerals, send anniversary cards, visit those bereaved within a month of the funeral and offer a monthly afternoon tea and chat (probably a Sunday afternoon.) There will be a meeting for anyone interested - Jan 4th at 2.00pm in St O.

Penwortham Farmers Market: Is now being held at Penwortham St Teresa's Scout Hut on the 1st Saturday of the month. The 1st market in 2018 will be on Sat 3rd Feb.

Parish Workers Social Night: On Friday 2nd Feb 2018 there will be a barn dance and food for all parish workers. This is an opportunity for us all to get together and for the priests of the parishes to say thank you to all those who in any way help with the running of the parishes. This is for all 3 parishes. More details next year!

Retirements: Linda House: On the 3rd Sunday of Advent Linda "retired" from the Children's Liturgy Team at St T. She has done this for over 30 years. The children gave her a bouquet of flowers and a lovely card. Linda, thank you. We also had a retirement at St MM: **Hannah** has retired as an altar server after 11 years. Thank you Hannah, you will be very difficult (impossible) to replace.

Thank you: for the donation of £1000 towards the cost of the meeting room extension at St T.

Parish Club at St T: opening times: New Years Eve 7.00pm - 1.00am. New Years Day: 4.00pm - 11.00pm

Primary Admissions for September 2018 (Reception Intake): Parents have until 15th Jan 2018 to express up to 3 primary school preferences. www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools Closing date 15.01.18.

Be Still and Know Prayer Group: We meet again on Thursday 4th January at 6.30 pm in St's meeting room. All welcome.

Lourdes 2018: Dorothy Power is organising a trip for 5 days, 17th - 21st Sept. Travelling with Northern Star, flying Manchester to Toulouse. Full board in Lourdes. £575 each, single supplement £120. For details and a booking form phone Dorothy on 742927.

Fr Philip Writes:

As we come to the end of a year we all look back and forward. 2017 has been a year of yet more changes for our parishes. With the arrival of Fr Michael we have adapted to new ways. The outstanding thought for me of 2017 is how blest we are with so many people who contribute in so many ways to parish life and what a joy it is for me to be your parish priest.

What of 2018? None of us knows what is in store. But a few things will point the way. Lent starts early (Feb 14th!) We hope to have another week of guided prayer. The pilgrims will have already started packing for Malta! In St T the meeting room extension will give us much needed facilities. We hope work will start in the Spring. I hope that in St O we can make some progress on the old club. In St MM we will need to find new volunteers for many things.

The Archbishop has appointed me as Moderator of the Synod which will be held in 2020. This will mean many more meetings and a great deal of extra work as we prepare for the first Synod the Diocese has held since 1954. You can read about the Synod in the article I have written for the January edition of the Catholic Pic.

In the Diocese we have 3 ordinations. These will take place in the Cathedral in July. This is the most we have had for 6 years. But we are still expecting more retirements (and deaths) than ordinations! As the Archbishop reminded us in his Advent Pastoral Letter we must always live confident that the Church is in the hands of God.