

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH, LEICESTER

St. Joseph's Church, Uppingham Road : The Rosary Church, Armadale Drive

Priest serving the parish : Father John Daley I.C.

Parish House, 12 Goodwood Road, Leicester LE5 6SG : Tel. 0116 241 5159

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(for Hall Bookings email: stjosephs-hall@hotmail.co.uk or ring the Parish House)

(Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity number 234064)

Watermead Apostolate, St. Joseph's, 12 Goodwood Road, Leicester LE5 6SG : Telephone 0116 220 7881

Sisters of St. Joseph, The Convent, Uppingham Road, Leicester LE5 6RA : Telephone 0116 241 6255

Schools : St. Paul's Comprehensive, Spencefield Lane, Leicester LE5 6HN : Telephone 0116 241 4057

and St. Joseph's Primary, Armadale Drive, Leicester LE5 1HF : Telephone 0116 241 6197



Christmas 2015

Dear People,

They came a little late into mass, she on her walking frame and he at her side. They stayed behind after mass and I was glad of the opportunity to speak to them.

The man was angry, asking me what sort of a priest I was. His mother had been in a nursing home for weeks and I had not been to see her. I told him I did not know the nursing home, nor even where it was, and he told me it was my duty to find out about all the nursing homes - and I had little else to do, anyway.

He wanted a good retirement after a life of hard work, he said, and it was the church's duty to look after his mother while he went travelling. I told him what I thought of him, placing his mother in a nursing home, not informing the church and going off to enjoy his retirement. I never saw him again. Only once do I remember his mother telling me he had called to see her when he had come back from a holiday.

It is hard to visit elderly people in that lady's position. I visit nine nursing homes in our parish where our people are and try to make it at least once a month so that all can receive Holy Communion regularly. I am sad at what I sometimes see.

The homes seem to be well run and the staff are pleasant and co-operative, but the TV is the main company. I hope the families and friends are there at other times but they are not there when I am, so I don't know. And people at home, glad they are strong enough still to be at home, can also be lonely. Pope Francis writes of his sadness in his pastoral work of seeing the elderly left alone by those who should be caring for them, loving them.

But I've seen the other side of the picture, too. Grumpy, unpleasant, whingeing people who make visiting difficult and a chore, certainly not a pleasure. If we age gracefully we must not be surprised people don't want to visit us.

Old age could be a peaceful time of quiet joy, reading, music, prayer, compassion for all who are suffering in the world: refugees, victims of conflict, the hungry and homeless. We can pray for those we love and for ourselves, that our hearts stay open and do not close with less activity. The love God calls us to share at all times and for everyone is our vocation, whatever our age or circumstances.

God bless us all at Christmastime, *Fr. John*

Christmas Mass Intentions - remembered at each Christmas Mass

for James Stones, Ron Parkin, Pat & Sean Grady, Phyllis Lobo,

Angela McGovern, Morie O'Connor, Maura Burns, Eileen Green,

John Nott, Geordie Clarke, Howard Fertig, Jack Laing, John Boyd,

The O'Connor Family, Children & Young People, Families & Friends,

Cynthia Bunten, Ellen Connell, Attilio & Marisa Maffei, Nelson Fernandes

Sunday 20th December (Prayer Week 4)
Sunday 27th December (Prayer Week 1)

Mass Times & Intentions 4th 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

(Saturday) 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's

(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)

9.00 am at Rosary Church

10.30 am at St. Joseph's

6.00 pm at St. Joseph's

(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)

(Intentions for Sunday Mass)

for May Seddon, Cynthia Bunten, Sheila Jackson,
Agata & family Blessing, Reg & Eileen Day,
Eamon Neary, Jack Laing

M O N D A Y

21st December

(St Peter Canisus, Priest)

7.00 pm at St. Joseph's for Isma Glyn-Smith

T U E S D A Y

22nd December

10.00 am at St. Joseph's

for Geordie Clarke, and for Patrick Commins

**7.00 pm SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION
at St Joseph's**

W E D N E S D A Y

23rd December

10.00 am at St. Joseph's

for Patrick Commins, and for Geordie Clarke

10.45 am Funeral Service for Rose Reynolds

T H U R S D A Y

24th December

CHRISTMAS EVE

6.00 pm Mass for Children (Traditional)

9.30 pm Carols followed by

10.00 pm Christmas (Midnight) Mass

F R I D A Y

25th December

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00 am Mass at The Rosary Church

10.30 am Mass at St. Joseph's

For Christmas mass intentions - see box

S A T U R D A Y

26th December

St STEPHEN'S (Boxing) DAY

10.00 am Mass at St Joseph's for Special Intention

(SEE OVER FOR NEXT WEEKEND)

Mass Times & Intentions

FEAST of THE HOLY FAMILY(C) SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER

There is no Vigil mass next Saturday

9.00 am at Rosary Church

10.30 am at St. Joseph's

6.00 pm at St. Joseph's

(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)

(Intentions for Sunday Mass)

for Maria Zafi, Hugh Burns, Joseph Mampallil

MONDAY 28th DECEMBER

(The feast of the Holy Innocents)

7.00 pm at St. Joseph's *for Family Blessing*

TUESDAY 29th DECEMBER

(St Thomas d Becket)

10.00 am at St. Joseph's *for Sheila Jackson*

WEDNESDAY 30th DECEMBER

(St Eugene)

10.00 am at St. Joseph's *for Audrey Brown*

THURSDAY 31st DECEMBER

(St Sylvester, Pope)

10.00 am at St. Joseph's

Requiem Mass for Jack Laing

FRIDAY 1st JANUARY

(Mary Mother of God)

10.00 am at St. Joseph's *for People of the Parish*

SATURDAY 2nd JANUARY

(St Basil the Great, Bishop

St Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop)

9.30 am at The Rosary Church *for Family & Friends*

2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS (C)

(Saturday) 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's

(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)

SUNDAY 3rd JANUARY

9.00 am at Rosary Church :10.30 am at St. Joseph's

6.00 pm at St. Joseph's

(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)

(Intentions for Sunday Mass)

See Parish website or facebook page

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL

Open every day from 10.30 am until dusk.

Do visit for prayer and see the children's crib scene

A Christmas Thought

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day:

Unseen, unheard, but always near;
Still loved, still missed, and very dear.

For reading and ministering at the Christmas services, see your personal rotas

Last week's collection was safely

counted and banked. **£967**

Thank you. *Counters: Gail & Keith*

(Next week: Sarah & Gloriosa)

ROTA FOR NEXT WEEKEND

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat -	<i>There is no Vigil mass next Saturday</i>	
Sun. 10.30 am	Sheila	Gerry
6.00 pm	TBA	Vincent

Postbag

Dear Parish and Friends,

Thank you to all who came and sang, read, accompanied, catered, brewed, decorated and helped in any way to the success of this year's Candlelight Carols and Entertainment Evening. Unfortunately the wind did take the idea candles to celebrate Jesus' birthday literally so not many candles remained lit throughout the outdoor service - but it was a good and happy evening and well supported.

Our donation baskets raised over £150 and this will be shared between charities supported by Watermead - two of which are parish causes; our altar server, Billy's, trip to Ghana with St Paul's School; and for one of our choir, Alex's family fund-raising for the building of a church back in their home village in Malawi, Africa (details pinned to the parish Facebook page).

Thanks, again. Alison (Watermead)

Dear Knitt and Knatter Group,

A very sincere thank you for kindly knitting hats to be used by the Innocent drinks company. We received a fatastic selection from all involved in the knitting initiative and 47,000 hats were handed in for which we will receive from Innocent several thousand pounds, which will be used to assist vulnerable older people during the winter period.

If Age Uk can be of help to you or your family at any time please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A.P. Donovan, Age UK

Dear People,

Thank you for the gifts and cards and greetings that are arriving for Christmas and the New Year. How I wish you a happy Christmas and New Year, God blessing your loved ones and granting you happy hours with them in person or whatever way available for you. You bless me by making me feel at home amongst you - whether I am praying for you at 12 Goodwood Road or able to visit you in your homes.

Thank you, Fr John

Prayer Box

Please pray for:

Families of the parish and our loved ones living and dead

especially for those who have recently died:

Jack Laing (RIP), Betty O'Gorman (RIP),

Josephine Lunt (RIP)

The sick and housebound, those in hospital and in nursing homes - especially:

Fabian Sweeney, Christina Flynn, Declan,

Jenny Aitken, Jonathan Lockwood, Ed James,

Pat Aitken, Lina Lobo, Mary Rayner, Patrick, Clare

Prayers for: The Parish at Christmas

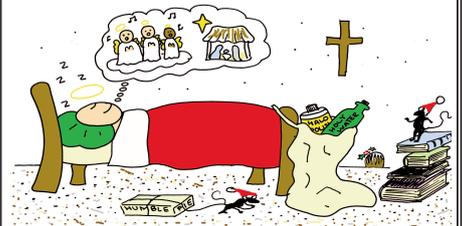
The McCann family and all missing children

The peoples and countries of the world, especially BURMA, CHINA, INDIA

Watermead

The "Old Stable" Centre

We would like to wish all parishioners and customers a very happy Christmas



OUR SHOP is OPEN THIS WEEK

Tuesday (22nd) and Wednesday (23rd)

from 10.30 am-3.30 pm

We are then closed Christmas Eve through till Tuesday 5th January (although should be open Sunday 27th)

Information from from **0116 220 7881 / 0**

www.watermead-apostolate.com

YEAR OF MERCY

8th December 2015 - 20th November 2016

The Spiritual Works of Mercy



1. To convert the sinner
2. To instruct the ignorant
3. To counsel the doubtful
4. To comfort the sorrowful
5. To bear wrongs patiently
6. To forgive injuries
7. To pray for living & dead

Our Christmas Service of Reconciliation is on Tuesday 22nd December, 7.00 pm

Our Parish Doors of Mercy

at St Joseph's:

- (1) The Inner Porch Doors
- (2) The Door of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

at The Rosary:

The Inner Porch Door

Please say a prayer each time you pass through the doors