



**Come,  
Lord Jesus,  
come!**

# 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

Website: [www.stjoseph-leicester.btck.co.uk](http://www.stjoseph-leicester.btck.co.uk). Use the "Contact us" form on our website to email us  
(Contact us, also, via the parish website for Hall Bookings - 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

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

Dear People,

We have had a prayerful parish preparation for Christmas. On the Third Sunday of Advent, there was an outline of the very different stories of the Nativity which are full of fascinating symbol: an ideal invitation to read the stories at home, in our own bible.

On Monday evening SPANED came from Hinckley and sang and danced the story of "Mother Mary" - a beautiful performance, and we were privileged to welcome such a dedicated group into our church: a perfect evening prayer.

All the sick in the parish have been able to receive Holy Communion for Christmas and I was happy to be able to take my share of the visits and to be at the hospital. I am slowly coming back to full strength and am grateful.

Now for the celebration of the Day, Sunday and Monday, our glorious faith that God chose to live a human life as we live, to be born as a baby and not simply to appear as a man, to be human, frail and limited as we are.

Is it true? Jesus said it was. He said he was divine. If he wasn't then he was mad or bad: mad if he was deluded, bad if he knew he wasn't divine but pretended he was; but truly God if what he said of himself was true . . .

That's our choice: he was mad, deluded; he was bad, a deceiver; he was God as he said he was. He certainly wasn't a good man if he was mad or bad. He said he was God: "I and the Father are one" and we have chosen to believe in him. Others dismiss him as mad or bad or simply call him a good man. Tell them the truth: mad, bad, God.

Was his a natural birth or another miracle? We know from Matthew and Luke that he was conceived in Mary's womb by the blessing of God and there was no human father. That is the virginal conception and is easy to accept. But the birth: was it natural or was it a virgin birth, a second miracle?

The date is 25th December but we do not know when he was born. The 25th was chosen by the Church in the 4th century to counteract the Roman pagan celebration of the sun god: "Dies natalis solis invicta - the day of the birth of the invincible sun". The Church chose to celebrate the Son of God and not the sun god, and slowly Christmas replaced the pagan celebrations.

Happy Christmas in the blessings of God.

*Fr. John*



**24th December 2017 (Prayer Week 4)**  
"The day before . . ."

## Mass Times and Intentions

### 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's

(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)

Sunday Mass (Christmas Eve): 9.00 am at the Rosary Church

Sunday Mass (Christmas Eve): 10.30 am at St. Joseph's

(Intentions for Sunday Mass)

for Bernadette Howard, Una Shearer, Peggy Keeley,

Pat Grady, Sean Grady, Nelson Fernandes,

Ron Parkin & family, Chris & Andrea

## Christmas Mass

6.00 pm and 10.00 pm at St. Joseph's

(Carols before each service - see over)

### MONDAY 25th DECEMBER

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

#### Intentions to be remembered at each Christmas Mass

James Stones, John & Peggy Nott, Bill Wall,

Liam Murphy, John Lawrenson, Jack Laing,

Howard Fertig, Bill Mary & Catherine Murray,

Anamaria Graham, Ron & Elaine Gibson,

Franz & Anne Bungart, Angela Payne,

Tony & Anthony Merriman, Family Blessing

### TUESDAY 26th DECEMBER

(Feast of St Stephen)

10.00 am at St. Joseph's for Philip & Shane Jackson

### WEDNESDAY 27th DECEMBER

(St John, Apostle)

10.00 am at St. Joseph's

for Hugh Burns & Burns & Wright families

### THURSDAY 28th DECEMBER

(The Holy Innocents)

10.00 am at St. Joseph's for Frances Cassidy

### FRIDAY 29th DECEMBER

(St Thomas a Becket)

7.00 pm at St. Joseph's for Martina & Family,

### SATURDAY 30th DECEMBER

(St Eugene)

9.30 am at The Rosary Church for Shane Fanning

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

(Saturday) 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's

(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)

### SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER

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

6.00 pm at St. Joseph's

## CHRISTMAS AT ST JOSEPH'S

### SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER

Sunday Mass (4th Sunday of Advent)  
Rosary Church, 9.00 am : St Joseph's, 10.30 am

### Christmas Eve Mass at St Joseph's

6.00 pm (Family Mass)  
10.00 pm (Carols from 9.30 pm)

### MONDAY 25th DECEMBER

#### Christmas Morning Mass

Rosary Church, 9.00 am : St Joseph's, 10.30 am  
*Christmas Mass Intentions are over the page*

### TUESDAY 26th DECEMBER

Mass on Feast of St Stephen (Boxing Day), 10.00 am

Usual mass times continue for the rest of week  
(New Year's Day mass will be at 10.00 am)

## The Parish on Sundays



Hot (and cold) drinks after mass on Sunday mornings at both our churches. (Library, Lourdes Garden, "Home from Home" Shop, Watermead Shop open at St Joseph's).

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The next session will be during the liturgy at 10.30 am mass on Sunday 14th January.

## Prayer Box

Please pray for:  
**Families of the parish  
and our loved ones living and dead  
especially for those who have recently died:**

Frances Cassidy (RIP), Nancy Harris (RIP)

Fabian, Declan, Jenny, Jonathan,  
Jennifer, Pat, Mary, Anna

Prayers for: Mary, Ellen

The McCann family and all missing children

The peoples and countries of the world,  
especially SOUTH SUDAN, YEMEN, CONGO

## POSTBAG

Dear People,

We raised £470 at the "Mother Mary" musical from tickets for charities and we have shared the money with "Let the Children Live" and "One Roof Leicester". Fr Frank Daly only wanted to cover the cost of programmes, so we were able to donate this money from the parish.

What a good evening it was. I have written to thank St Peter's parish and SPANNED on our behalf. Thank you, Fr John

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Wishing you a  
Peaceful and Happy



## Keeping Christmas

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people and to remember what other people have done for you . . .

To ignore what the world owes you and to think what you owe the world . . .

To put your rights in the background, your duties in the middle distance and you chances to do a little more than you duty in the foreground . . .

To see that others are as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy . . .

To close you book of complaints and to look around where you can sow a few seeds of happiness . . .

To remember the weakness and loneliness of the people who are growing old . . .

To bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts . . .

To believe that love is the strongest blessing in the world and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago is the image and brightness of Eternal Love . . .

Then you can keep Christmas, and if you keep it for a day - why not always.

(Henry Jackson van Dyke,  
an American author, educator and clergyman)

## Watermead shop

**CLOSED during the week until 2nd January**

Will be open from 11.45 am -12.15 pm  
on Sunday 24th & 31st December

Last week's collection was safely counted and banked. **£1,187**  
\*(Special RASH Collection £140)

Thank you. Counters : TBA

(Next week: Gail & Keith)

\*RASH stands for our regular giving for Leicester's Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Homeless.

## CHURCH ROTAS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat. 6.00 pm	Edward	Ann B
Sun. 9.00 am	Bob	-
10.30 am	Ann	Gerry / Sister Lelia
6.00 pm	TBA	Marie

**Children's Liturgy** - none next week

## THE GIFT

The father was annoyed with his five-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of expensive gold wrapping paper. Money was tight, and he became even more upset when the child pasted the gold paper onto a box to put under the Christmas tree.

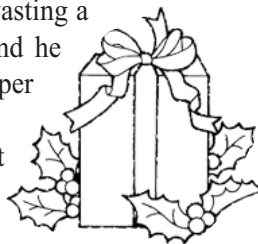
Yet the little girl brought the gift box to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy". The father was embarrassed, remembering his earlier overreactions, but his annoyance flared again when he found the box was empty.

He spoke to her harshly, "Don't you know, young lady, that when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package?"

The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes. "Oh, Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his little girl and he begged her to forgive him for his anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later and the father kept that gold box by his bed for the rest of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced a difficult problem he would open the box and take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of the child who had put it there.



## BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL - Come to the Manger



Open every day this week from 10.30 am - dusk.

## CONFESSIONS NEXT & EACH WEEKEND

**SATURDAY** Following the 9.30 am mass at the Rosary Church  
**SATURDAY & SUNDAY** 5.15 pm at St. Joseph's (in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel)