



**CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE**

## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**THE HOLY FAMILY  
28th Dec 2025**



*Jesus, Mary & Joseph  
I give you my heart  
& my soul.*

*The child grew, filled with wisdom*

**Canon Don Bowdren**

St Charles Rectory  
Woolley Bridge Rd  
Hadfield SK13 1PQ 852351  
& 07762057572

*don.bowdren@dioceseofnottingham.uk /  
daniel.bowdren@gmail.com*

*Deacon: Rev Dr Owen Le Blanc*

*longdendale-catholics.co.uk  
Facebook@stcharleshadfield*

**OUR SCHOOLS**

**St Charles Primary** Hadfield SK13 7PQ  
Head : Mrs B Quirke  
Tel : 852692

**St Margaret's & All Saints Federation**  
Gamesley SK13 6HB  
Head : Mrs G Beaumont  
Tel : 855818

**St Philip Howard Secondary**  
SK13 8DR  
Head : Mr J Kayes  
Tel : 853611/861022

DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 28th	<b>HOLY FAMILY</b> 9.15 (BB) M Robinson (SL) 11am (HAD) family welfare (CF)	
Mon 29th	<b>ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY</b> 9.30 (HAD) Fr T J Keogh (D&JW)	
Tues 30th	<b>Sixth day in the Christmas octave</b> 8am (HAD) Joan Killeen's eternal welfare (AH)	
Weds 31st	<b>Seventh day in the Christmas octave</b> 9.30 (HAD) Christine Wild RIP (CW)	<b>(St Sylvester)</b>
Thurs 1st Jan 2026	<b>MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD</b> Noon (HAD) M& J Gavan RIP (SL)	<b>New Year's Day</b> <b>World Day of Peace</b>
Fri 2nd	<b>Ss Basil &amp; Gregory</b> 9.30 (BB) Johnson fund benefactors	<i>no First Friday visits today</i>
Sat 3rd	<b>Christmas feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Christine Wild RIP (N&DS)	
Sun 4th	<b>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</b> 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Ken Pover RIP	
<div> <p><b>HOLY FAMILY (A)</b></p> <p><b>Psalter wk 1</b></p> <p><b>First reading:</b> Sirach 3 'He who fears the Lord honours his parents.'</p> <p><b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> <i>BLESSED ARE ALL WHO FEAR THE LORD, AND WALK IN HIS WAYS.</i></p> <p><b>Second Reading:</b> Colossians 3 : Family life in the Lord.</p> <p><b>Gospel :</b> Matt 2 'Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.'</p> <p><b>Comm. Ant.</b> OUR GOD HAS APPEARED ON THE EARTH, AND LIVED AMONG US.</p> </div>		

### **SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

**Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish:** Peter James, Pauline Anderson, Isabella Phillips, Joe Singleton, Arthur King, Maura Farrell, Rita Dwyer, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Diane Wilson, Gordon Handley, Jean Ashton, Anne Black, Keith Winston.

**And our deceased clergy & parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time;** Revv Eric Grasar, Peter Wilson, Paddy Kearney, Bernard Mooney; Bridget Pyke, Edward Boyle, Dennis Clayton, George Langton, Michael Deary, Leonard Judge, Kitty Ball, Toby Higgs, Robert Owen, Vincent O'Brien, Philip Love.

*May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen*

### **PARISH NOTES**

**THIS SUNDAY** is the last in the year 2025. We honour the Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph. We need to learn lessons from the Holy Family: The Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that he might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God.

**THE GOSPEL** The flight into Egypt is a splendid gospel for the feast of the Holy Family and is also used on certain other feasts of Our Lady. It tells of a time of the acutest danger, when Mary and Joseph must have been at their wits' ends to care for their precious child, and so most bound together as an endangered family, and at their most reliant on God in a situation humanly hopeless. The powerful, resourceful and pitiless Herod was a formidable threat; he would have no scruples about killing a few male children in the little hill-town of Bethlehem. There is also a further dimension: on many occasions and especially here, Matthew depicts Jesus as a Second Moses: from the beginning Herod threatens Jesus' life just as Pharaoh had threatened Moses' survival as a baby. Just as Moses went into exile after killing the Egyptian overseer, so Jesus also goes into exile, to return when the threat is past. Of both it is said, 'Those who wanted to kill you/the child are dead' (Exodus 4.19). Later Jesus will be seen as the Second Moses when he stays forty days and nights fasting in the desert, and when he gives the Law at the Sermon on the Mount and at the Transfiguration.

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE** We lament the death in recent days of:

- Bill Wilson (War Hill, Mottram) (Diane's husband)
- Lawrence Massey (erstwhile Woolley Bridge barber 'shed' (Lynn Wiedemann's brother)
- Joan Killeen (97) Hillside Close, Hadfield—who died on Christmas Day.  
*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.*

**WORDLD DAY OF PEACE** Thursday 1st January is designated '59th world day of peace' by our holy father. On page 3 you'll find a further reference to this event.

**SPUC** is the Society for the Protection of Unborn children. Some literature from that society is found at the back of the church. Furthermore there is a marked basket for any contributions to support that valuable work.

**HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS** is retiring as Archbishop of Westminster as announced on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December; he is now Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Westminster, until 14<sup>th</sup> February. **THE MOST REVEREND RICHARD MOTH** was announced this week as Archbishop-elect of Westminster and Apostolic Administrator of Arundel and Brighton; he will take possession of the Archdiocese of Westminster on 14<sup>th</sup> February. In so doing he will become our Metropolitan Archbishop, since we are the most northern of Westminster metropolitan parishes.

**RECENT TOTE WINNERS** Last weekend was the Big Draw: **St Charles:** 1st (£100) G Collins; 2nd (£50) Nuala Shepley, 3rd (£50) Dennis Jordan. **Immaculate Conception:** 1st (£100) D Norton; 2nd (£50) Carole Wardle.

**THIS WEEK**, being the first full week of Christmas, the timetable is a little different. Early bells (8am) start to Mass on Tuesday, and on Thursday (New Year's Day), Mass at Noon.

**WILLOW WOOD HOSPICE** will receive a cheque this week valued at £366, being the result of the collection taken up at BB during the service the Nine Lessons & Carols. Huge thanks!

**STANDING ORDERS:** Immaculate Conception : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "St Margaret's church/collection (or tote)" 00510567. St Charles : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "St Charles church/collection (or tote)" 00269177.

**BEST THANKS** to all those who lavished kindness on me in the Christmas offerings and in many other gifts during the run-up to Christmas Day.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to David and Kath Holtom, who this weekend celebrate their diamond jubilee of married life. Ad multos annos!

**THE CHURCH'S JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE** comes to an official end this weekend with the solemn closing of Jubilee cathedral and church doors throughout the world.

**WORLD DAY OF PEACE:** from the Holy Father's message: In today's world, justice and human dignity are at an alarming risk amid global power imbalances. How can we live in this time of destabilization and conflict, and free ourselves from evil? We need to encourage and support every spiritual, cultural and political initiative that keeps hope alive, countering the spread of "fatalistic terms, as if the dynamics involved were the product of anonymous impersonal forces or structures independent of the human will." For, as has been suggested, "the best way to dominate and gain control over people is to spread despair and discouragement, even under the guise of defending certain values." Against this strategy, we must promote self-awareness in civil societies, forms of responsible association, experiences of nonviolent participation, and practices of restorative justice on both a small and large scale. Leo XIII had already made this clear in his Encyclical Rerum Novarum: "The consciousness of his own weakness urges the human person to call in aid from without. We read in Scripture: 'Two are better than one, for they have the advantage of their society. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up' (Eccles 4:9-10). And further: 'A brother that is helped by his brother is like a strong city' (Prov 18:19)." May this be one of the fruits of the Jubilee of Hope, which has moved millions of people to rediscover themselves as pilgrims and to begin within themselves that disarmament of heart, mind and life. God will surely respond to this by fulfilling his promises: "He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord"

**SAFEGUARDING** If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact Karen our joint-parishes PSR. Email: [Karen.ProctorPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:Karen.ProctorPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk); / phone 07513 725411.

**AND FINALLY** A word of advice for the person who on Boxing Day asked me if I 'had a nice Christmas'. Happily the Christmas season has just begun, and in the liturgical calendar it ends on January 11th.

