



Our Lady and St Joseph RC Church Heywood

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Served by the
Missionary
Society of St Paul

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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Year A, 28th December 2025

THIS WEEK AT OUR LADY AND ST JOSEPH

Monday 29th Dec.: St Thomas Becket (Mem.).

9.30am Morning Mass

Tuesday 30th Dec.: Christmas Weekday.

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

Wednesday 31st Dec.: Christmas Weekday.

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

Thursday 1st Jan.: Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Solemnity)

9.30 am Mass:

Friday 2nd Jan.: SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

(Mem.).

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass:

Saturday 3rd Jan.: Christmas Weekday.

10am Morning Mass:

10.30am. Adoration and Confessions.

6pm: First Mass of Sunday:

Sunday 4th Jan.: The Second Sunday of Christmas.

9.30 am Mass:

11.00 am Mass:

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers

27th/28th Dec.: Readers: 6pm J. Sherry, 9.30am: S. Skinner, 11am: G. Da Silva. **Eucharistic Minister:** 6pm: J. Matthews 9.30am: D. Dodd, 11am D. Tierney.

3rd/4th Jan.: Readers: 6pm P. Sherry, 9.30am: M. Schofield, 11am: D. Doyle. **Eucharistic Minister:** 6pm: B. Doyle, 9.30am: H. Sharrock, 11am C. Shore.

Thank you for your generosity. **Last Weekend:** £372.15 (Gift Aid) £367.90 (Loose Change) & CAFOD £23.84.

200 Club If you would like to join it is only £5 a month which needs to be paid at the beginning of every month. The more members we have, the bigger the prize and more money going back into our church. Winners are on the Notice Boards.

Unclaimed 200 Club Winnings: S. Lloyd, J. Emmet, M. Basford and P. Djamilis. Please pick up Winnings from the sacristy.

Children's Liturgy: From the 1st Sunday of advent 30th Nov., we shall resume children's liturgy in the parish at the 11am Mass. We are asking for children's liturgy volunteers.

Parish Christmas Fayre : What a great day! Thank you for all your support. We raised £1,287.00 on the day. From the **MEGA Raffle drawn on the 23rd**, we raised £500.00, bringing the grand total to £1,787.00. The winning tickets numbers are displayed at church entrance doors. Many thanks to Kathleen Murray & G. Housley's Heywood who Kindly donated the 1st and 2nd prizes respectively and our other donors.

Heywood SVP Foodbank: are looking for someone with good money management skills to act as their treasurer. Role involves processing donations and payments, keeping good digital records of transactions and occasional reporting. If you would like to volunteer, please contact 07396071193 or speak to Brian Doyle for more details

This week we pray for the people of the parish St. Mary, Heaton Norris, with Fr. Geo rey Marlör, their parish priest, for their parish primary school and St. Anne's High School and for the community of Sacred Heart Fathers who live in the parish.

Let us pray for those who live and work on Mossland Cl, Salisbury Ave, Newbury Gr, Shaftesbury Dr & Honiton Cl.

For The sick of our Parish.

For Paul O'Rourke and all who have died recently.

For Nicholas, Dorothy, Kay, Nick, Dominic & James Doyle. Ethel & Peter McHugh, Josie Dermody,

George Basset, Joseph Wrigley, Ellen Holt, Handel Holt, Barry Fitzsimons, Lilian Walsh, Brian Neary, Kenneth Bray, Nora Jones Frank & Clara Taylor, Paul Haymes, Glen Wildman, deceased members of Rhodes & Wildman families, deceased members of Collen Family, Shea, Dominic, Bridget, Monica & Patricia, deceased members of Quayle and O'Donnell families, the Schofield and Thornton Families and all we remember at this time.

FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Holy Family: 531 During the greater part of his life Jesus shared the condition of the vast majority of human beings: a daily life spent without evident greatness, a life of manual labour. His religious life was that of a Jew obedient to the law of God, a life in the community. From this whole period it is revealed to us that Jesus was "obedient" to his parents and that he "increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man."

532 Jesus' obedience to his mother and legal father fulfils the fourth commandment perfectly and was the temporal image of his filial obedience to his Father in heaven. the everyday obedience of Jesus to Joseph and Mary both announced and anticipated the obedience of Holy Thursday: "Not my will. . ." The obedience of Christ in the daily routine of his hidden life was already inaugurating his work of restoring what the disobedience of Adam had destroyed.

Relics of St Carlo Acutis to Visit Diocese of Salford:

In January, the relics of St Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two of our churches over five days, during which time the Diocese will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over for veneration. Carlo is the first millennial saint, and is celebrated for his profound faith and his use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at the age of 15. The relics will be presented at St Mary's Church, Burnley from 28-29 January 2026 before they travel to St Patrick's Church, Collyhurst from 30 January to 1 February 2026. More information will be shared soon with parishes and on the Diocesan website and social media channels.

THE WORD OF THE WEEK: 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 (especially in the shorter version), 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. The family is a basic unit of our Christian society, despite coming under threat nowadays. Our celebration of this feast, and the Word of God we proclaim, 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. .

J	M	S	N	O	E	G	I	P	E	PURIFIED	PARENTS	JERUSALEM
E	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	LAW	SCARIFICE	PIGEONS
O	A	R	P	U	W	N	O	R	E	SIMEON	TEMPLE	SERVANT
M	S	T	U	Y	R	A	E	E	R	MARY	ANNA	WISDOM
D	U	A	R	S	R	N	L	N	V			
S	R	N	I	I	A	A	P	T	A			
I	E	N	F	M	E	L	M	S	N			
W	J	A	I	L	P	M	E	T	T			
O	N	O	E	M	I	S	T	M	S			
E	M	O	D	S	I	W	R	A	E			



SUNDAY *Plus*

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph **Divine Office Week I** Year A

The reality of family life



Image: *The Flight into Egypt*, Cairo, Egypt © Sr Janet Fearn

The artistic imagination has often been kindled by the flight into Egypt. Usually, Our Lady is shown as seated in

a meadow, feeding her child with the fruit that St Joseph is industriously pulling down from the trees. Around them flit small and engaging angels. Or, in more serious mode, we may see Mary on a donkey, orderly and composed, while her faithful Joseph either lingers behind or leads the donkey by its reins... But this is really to make light of what must have been a harrowing experience...

Both adults are small-town Jews, running away from an armed pursuer into unknown territory. They have little money. They know nobody in Egypt. All they have is an anguished determination to guard the child who has been entrusted to them. How anxious they must have been, how ashamed by their lack of resources, how profoundly aware of their dependence on God...

Joseph and Mary had a rocky start to their marriage. He, quite naturally, suspected her

of betraying him, both a great sorrow and a scandal. She, on the other hand, must have been wounded that he did not trust her. Then there was the difficult journey to Bethlehem, the astounding events there; and now there is this dangerous crisis. It must have been a time of real growth in marital love for both of them. Each had to trust the other. Only as true partners could they nourish and protect their son.

All relationships go through difficult periods, but God can help us make those very difficulties a source of deeper understanding and love. The example of the Holy Family encourages us to accept the reality of family life, which may at times be a painful reality. They are a source of hope and courage.

Sr Wendy Becket, The Art of Christmas

God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! All of us are in God's hands. So, let us move forward, without fear, together, hand in hand with God and with one another other!

Pope Leo

Prayer to the Holy Family


Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalised find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

Pope Francis

Holy Family of Nazareth, watch over, protect and bless families everywhere, in all their joys and struggles. Bring them closer to you and to each other. I pray in a special way for my own family. You know their needs. Be with them.  Amen.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Welcome the stranger

Signs of hope should also be present for migrants who leave their homelands behind in search of a better life for themselves and for their families. Their expectations must not be frustrated by prejudice and rejection. A spirit of welcome, which embraces everyone with respect for his or her dignity, should be accompanied by a sense of responsibility, lest anyone be denied the right to a dignified existence. Exiles, displaced persons and refugees, whom international tensions force to emigrate in order to avoid war, violence and discrimination, ought to be guaranteed security and access to employment and education, the means they need to find their place in a new social context.

May the Christian community always be prepared to defend the rights of those who are most vulnerable, opening wide its doors to welcome them, lest anyone ever be robbed of the hope of a better future.

Pope Francis, Spes non confundit, 13



READINGS

Today:
Ecclesiasticus
3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians
3:12-21
Matthew
2:13-15, 19-23

Monday:
1 John 2:3-11
Luke 2:22-35

Tuesday:
1 John 2:12-17
Luke 2:36-40

Wednesday:
1 John 2:18-21
John 1:1-18

Thursday:
Numbers 6:22-27
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Friday:
1 John 2:28-28
John 1:19-28

Saturday:
1 John 2:29-3:6
John 1:29-34

Next Sunday:
Ecclesiasticus
24:1-2, 8-12
Ephesians
1:3-6, 15-18
John 1:1-18