



St John Southworth's RC Parish

at Holy Saviour's Church, Vulcan St, BB9 8HE
and Christ Church, Carr Road, BB9 7JS

Nelson

Parish House: 5 Park Drive,
Nelson, BB9 0JY

Parish Priest: Rev Gerard Kelly

Tel: 01282 614859

Email: stjohnsouthworthrc@gmail.com (click)

2nd Sunday of Advent



10th December 2023



Click on the moneybox to make a
secure online donation to the parish!

[St John Southworth's Facebook Page](#)

Click link for live-streamed and recorded Masses.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Parish Mission at Sacred Heart church, which concluded with a final Mission Service on Friday evening, was for me an unexpected grace. It would seem to be the very nature of grace, that it is always unexpected; when we are looking for one thing, we find something else which is more valuable than what we were first looking for!

The Mission which was a great opportunity for the people of Sacred Heart parish in Colne, became an unplanned and unexpected blessing to all our parishioners living in Nelson, Brierfield, Fence, and to folk who came along from even further afield. We thank Fr Peter and the parishioners of Sacred Heart parish for extending their welcome to us! It was truly a delightful spiritual experience which served to nurture our Advent preparation for Christmas.

We prayed for healing for ourselves in every aspect of our lives; we were presented with opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation; we prayed for those who have died; we reflected on the great gift of prayer which opens us to the power of God, and finally, on Friday evening, we renewed our devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus.

We thank the two Redemptorist priests—Fr Peter and Fr Elias—who preached with passion, and who presented their message in creative liturgies which helped us to really enter into the times of prayer and reflection.

But, what was for me an unexpected grace was how comfortable we all felt ourselves to be as we gathered together from the wider area of Pendle. If you would care to listen to the debate to which there is a link at the bottom of this page, you will hear about how the Holy Spirit is at work in new ways in the Church, and it would seem to be clear that parish life as we have experienced it over this last fifty years is changing. Just as our natural families tend to be more dispersed than in times past, we are now experiencing a widening of our spiritual family beyond the geographical boundaries which once very much defined a parish.

Last week's Parish Mission was a shared experience, creating a shared memory, and this, after all, is what the life of the Church is all about: a shared experience and a shared memory which takes us all the way back to the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and that first experience of the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. In the love of Jesus, Fr Gerard.

I would very much like to recommend a recording of a discussion which took place online this week which was entitled, '**Thriving or Closing**'. The discussion brought together several parties including the C.E.O. of the Catholic Truth Society (CTS); the Bishop of Northampton, David Oakley; and a priest from Canada, Fr James Mallon, who makes a highly contribution to the debates about parish life.

[You can access the recording of the debate on this link](#)

Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 11th December

Monday 11th Dec	Tuesday 12th Dec	Wednesday 13th Dec	Thursday 14th Dec	Friday 15th Dec	Saturday 16th Dec	Sunday 17th Dec
NO MASS	MASS C.C. 10.00am	MASS H.S. 7.00pm	MASS & Exposition 10.00am C.C.	MASS  C.C. 12.00 noon	Confessions C.C. 11.00— 12 noon	C.C. 9.30am H.S. 11.15am

Children's Church: C.C. - Siobhan & Barbara H.S. - Annika, Shannon, Amber

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This Week: 10th Dec	Luke	David
Next Week: 17th Dec	Joan Penny-Heys	Amanda Duckett

CHRISTMAS MASSES

24th December, Christmas Eve (Sunday) morning:
C.C. 9.30am, H.S. 11.00am

24th December, Christmas Eve (Sunday) evening:
H.S. 5.00pm (Family Mass)
C.C. 8.00pm

25th December, Christmas morning:
C.C. 9.30am, H.S. 11.00am

TODDLERS' CLUB

The Toddlers' Club meets every Wednesday at Christ Church in the upstairs room: 9.45—11.15am. All ages from babies to pre-school are welcome. The children find friendship; the adults find support and understanding! **Christmas Party and Nativity, 13th December.**

Warm Space

Wednesday 13th December at Christ Church
12:30pm – 3pm
Hot drinks, soup and bread will be available.

MASS INTENTIONS

Jack Brady, anniv, 7th Dec
Charlotte Jones, anniv, 9th Dec
Louis Gildea, anniv, 14th Dec

CHURCH COLLECTION

3rd December: £349.10
Standing Orders: approx: £632 p/w
Thank you!

Holy Saviour's—lost, found!

1. Please claim the lost property which is accumulating in the porch at Holy Saviour Church.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Dec 11th	Charles Stockton (1994)	
	Darcy Williams (1991)	
	Bashir Variyam (2015)	
Dec 12th	Florrie Wilson (1987)	
	Thomas O'Donnell (1985)	
	Thomas Howarth (1975)	
Dec 13th	Joseph Heseltine (1959)	
Dec 14th	Louis Gildea (2017)	
Dec 16th	Ellen Nolan (1941)	
Dec 17th	Annie Arnold (2015)	

We pray for the repose of the souls of all who have died, that the Lord will receive them into the fullness of his resurrection life!

POUND DRAW WINNERS

£10 Anne Callaghan
£10 Mary Mullarkey
£10 Orla Dempsey
£10 Arthur Needham



£65.00 towards Parish funds. Many thanks!

LAST CHANCE this weekend to enter the CHRISTMAS SPECIAL POUND DRAW

100 first prize

Have as many goes as you want!

The Draw will take place on Friday 15th December at the **C.A.F.O.D.** Soup kitchen at Christ Church.

The Advent C.A.F.O.D. Soup Kitchen
ON FRIDAYS after 12.00 noon Mass
Final Mass: 15th December

