



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
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**If you would like to
receive this news-
letter electronically,
then please email me.**

Feast of the Holy Family



31st 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.

A Reflection for the New Year

It is said that a person of vision is a person who sees not new things, but a person who sees familiar things with new eyes.

It is only the person of vision who truly looks forward to, and enters into, a New Year. For the person without vision, it's not so much a New Year but only *another* year! Another year older, another year further away from *the good old days*.

It's also said that the person without vision—without hopes and dreams for the future—is rarely disappointed! Nothing lost, but, most certainly, nothing gained!

We wish each other, a happy New Year. But happiness comes from being prepared to lose all in order to gain everything. Expectation, risk, and drama entice and engage the human heart whose very life-blood is the excitement of waiting for a longing to be satisfied, or, more particularly, a promise to be fulfilled.

In fact, we could say that a heart which is not enlivened by faith is a heart that is yet to come to life – nothing to hope for, nothing to pray for, no one to believe in, no God of surprises, only more... and more... of the same.

The fireworks, which accompany the chime of midnight as the New Year begins, soon fizzle away to be consumed by the darkness of the night. They are a fitting symbol of hearts that live only for the soon-to-pass excitement of the present moment.

I would like to wish you a happy New Year! But you can only receive the full import of that felicitation by being a person of vision. Oh yes, just another New Year, but we can enter this New Year as new people. We can see ourselves and the world around us through new eyes. We can receive this New Year as a gift to be unwrapped, day by day, until it reveals to us the fullness of its possibilities and opportunities.

It's a happy New Year alright, not because the passage of time is something to be celebrated in itself, but because, in time, we can become everything that our hearts can dare to dream when our hearts are enlivened by the Spirit of God who is the fullness of hope living within us, straining for fulfilment.

It's a happy New Year because this year belongs to God who, as the source of all happiness, welcomes us into the glorious future he has planned for us.

May God's blessing be upon us at St John Southworth's as together we enter into the adventure of 2024!

With every blessing for the New Year, Fr Gerard.



Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 1st January, 2024

Monday 1st Jan <i>New Year's Day</i>	Tuesday 2nd Jan	Wednesday 3rd Jan	Thursday 4th Jan	Friday 5th Jan	Saturday 6th Jan	Monday 1st Jan <i>The Epiphany</i>
MASS C.C. 12 noon	MASS C.C. 10.00am	MASS H.S. 7.00pm	MASS & Exposition 10.00am C.C.	MASS C.C. 10.00am	NO MASS	C.C. 9.30am H.S. 11.15am

Children's Church: C.C. - Wendy & Khuram H.S. - Monica, Venus, Antonio

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This Sunday: 31st Dec	Margaret Borman	George Winkley
Next Sunday: 7th Jan (2024)	Zechariah	Jeremiah

CAFOD UPDATES



Since October
£959.50 Advent soup lunches.
 (an additional £50 was sent direct by a parishioner)
£80.50 CAFOD box at Christ Church
£190.00: Teas and coffees at Christ Church
£281.50 Teas and Coffees at H.S.
 Also, a cheque for £5 and a gift aid receipt for £20 sent separately.

Many thanks for all the many contributions which have amounted to such a generous total of

£1,586.50

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE



Dec 27th Valerie Emery (2016)
 Peggy Duffy (2009)
 Dec 29th Joan Simm (2020)
 Dec 31st Mary Nolan (2011)
 Jan 1st Rev Alph.A Baron (1949)
 Annie Nurden (2000)
 Jan 2nd Mildred Hodgson (1995)
 Jan 6th W M Spencer (2003)

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!

MASS INTENTIONS

Mary Ingham, anniv, Jan 2nd
 Mildred & George Hodson, anniv, Jan 2nd
 Peter Khushi, anniv, 30th Dec (1998)
 Sardaran Ghulam, 30th Dec (2016)
 Stephen McDermott, anniv, Dec 30th
 Special Intention.

POUND DRAW



£10.00 Maureen Fannon
 £10.00 Laura Durham
 £10.00 Ray Whalley
 £10.00 Jackie Jennings

£85 towards Parish Funds, thank you.

CHURCH COLLECTION

Christmas Weekend £925.00
 Standing Orders: approx: £632 p/w
 Thank you!

WARM SPACE

Takes place on Wednesdays at Christ Church to coincide with the opening hours of the foodbank. Helpers are needed to facilitate these occasions of Christian hospitality, so if you feel moved or called to volunteer some time on a rota basis, then please contact Sheila Chadwick on: shenevchadwick181@gmail.com

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A PERSONAL THANK YOU FOR ALL THE GREETINGS, CARDS, AND GIFTS WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD. MANY THANKS AND GOD BLESS ALL!