



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.**

Christmas Day



25th 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.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



CHRISTUS NATUS EST!



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Feast of Christmas is all about the excitement of a new birth! The birth of the Son of God is the ultimate and definitive new birth; there could not be a more wonderful gift and surprise than that of God coming, as a newborn child, to share in the life of the human race.

In this world, we are beset by the tyranny of darkness which constantly erupts into our world and into our lives from the mysterious root of sin, and now... God himself has arrived, in Jesus, as a mighty Saviour. He comes to bring a peace that the world, even through our well-intentioned actions, cannot give.

The Christmas feast teaches us something about God's way of relating to the human race. He offers us new beginnings, new opportunities, new life, new hope. There is always a light that can be perceived in the darkest of situations; there is always a prayer of thanksgiving that can be made in the face of the deepest regrets and disappointments. We have a God who makes promises to look after our welfare, and God is faithful to His promises whatever the cost to Himself.

May the celebration of the birth of Jesus bring hope and joy to you and your families, and may a new gift of faith light up our lives.

With every Christmas blessing, Fr Gerard



CHRISTMAS MASSES

24th December, Sunday morning:

C.C. 9.30am, H.S. 11.15am

24th December, Christmas Eve (Sunday) evening:

H.S. 5.00pm, Family Mass

(Rehearsal at 11.00am on Saturday 23rd in Holy Saviour's church for children involved in presentation, and to arrive at 4.30pm on Sunday to be ready for Mass)

C.C. 8.00pm

25th December, Christmas morning:

C.C. 9.30am, H.S. 11.15am



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 23rd Dec, 11.00 –12.00 at Christ Church.



Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 25th December

Monday 25th Dec Christmas Day	Tuesday 26th Dec Boxing day	Wednesday 27th Dec	Thursday 28th Dec	Friday 29th Dec	Saturday 30th Dec	Sunday 31st Dec Holy Family
C.C. 9.30am H.S. 11.15am	MASS C.C. 12 noon	MASS H.S. 10.00am	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. - Siobhan & Amanda H.S. - Monica, Catherine M, Irene B

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This Sunday: 24th Dec	Margaret Needham	Roger Lee
Next Sunday: 31st Dec	Margaret Borman	George Winkley

POUND DRAW

£10 Jack Manley
£10 Sue Barnes
£10 Sheila Hawthornthwaite
£10 Jim McArdle



The Pound Draw so far this year, with two more Sundays to go, has raised **£5,487** for the Parish.

Thanks to everyone who takes part in the Pound Draw, and a big thank you to the team from both Churches who run it week by week.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL POUND DRAW

A massive thank you to all who joined in for this. The final amount raised for Parish Funds was £630—a great result!

ADVENT SOUP KITCHEN



Another grace-filled event down at Christ Church during the four Fridays of Advent. A great team effort again by the soup makers and well-attended. Lovely to see children from our three primary schools. The money raised for C.A.F.O.D was **£1,009.30p**. A fantastic way to show our parish commitment to the needy in the world. Thank you all so much! See you in Lent next year! Ian.

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

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Dec 24th Charlie Horner (2001)
Dec 25th Joan Willan (2011)
Dec 27th Edward Nolan (1961)
Norah Seel (1988)
Dec 29th Gwendoline Calvert (1986)
John Whalley (1996)
George McNamara (2004)
Dec 30th John Coppock (2015)
Paula Dunne (1998)
Gerda McArdle (2019)
Dec 31st Marion Eccles (1993)



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 Duckworth, died recently
Moyna O'Malley, died recently
Mike Kenny, RIP.
Herman & Mary Eccles, RIP.
Thomas Talbot Howarth, anniv, 12th Dec (1975)
June Taylor, anniv, 31st Dec (2013)
Thomas Donnelly, anniv, 26th Dec (2018)
Mary & Michael Gibbons, RIP
Anna, Vincent & Kenneth Holden, RIP.
De Vylder family.
Intentions of Bernie & Paddy Kelly, Ruth Smrt,
Marion Reilly, Maureen McDermott.
Special Intention

CHURCH COLLECTION

17th December: £445.00
Standing Orders: approx: £632 p/w
Thank you!