



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
newsletter electronically, then
please email the parish.

2nd Sunday of Christmas



4th January 2026



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

[St John Southworth's YouTube Channel](#)

Click link for live-streamed and recorded Masses.



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Although what is left of the mince pies might be rather dried out by now, and the decorations are disappearing from the shops and the streets, the Church continues to dwell on the Christmas story and what it means for our world.

Without God's intervention in human affairs, it should be quite clear to us that there is no hope for the world: no light of Christ, no peace that the world cannot give, no knowledge of God as a loving Father, no power over sin, and no promise of eternal life!

The night would remain silent and empty, the winter would remain bleak and frosty, and we would experience that no amount of will power or human good will could transform our life on earth where the shadow of death is a constant threat until it has the final word.

It's into this desperate scenario that Jesus is born—God's plan for the saving of the world is in its infancy! From vulnerable beginnings in a cattle shelter to an eternal kingdom of peace and joy is more than a remarkable development—and surely eight, twelve, or even more days of celebration still hardly does justice for such a momentous change of fortunes for the beleaguered human race.

May the joy of Christmas continue to be ours!

Fr Gerard



Changing the Food Bank to a Community Pantry

There has been an emergency food bank at Christ Church every Monday and Wednesday since 2012. In the past year there has been a huge increase in client numbers, with the majority of our clients now regular visitors coming each week or month. They need extra food as they struggle to manage their income on Universal Credit or the State Pension.

Starting on 7th January we are going to become a community food store where clients can pay a nominal amount and buy a selection of food stuffs. This will give our clients more control over their budget, help their self-esteem, and remove some of the stigma attached to needing a food bank.

The Salvation Army will continue to provide emergency food parcels for those with no money.

The food bank volunteers are extremely grateful for the support received from the Catholic and Methodist congregations, and trust this support with food, money donations, and prayers will continue for the Community Pantry.

Thank you to all. Andy Parker (M: 07968050390)

Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 5th Jan	Epiphany Tuesday 6th Jan	Wednesday 7th Jan	Thursday 8th Jan	Friday 9th Jan	Saturday 10th Jan	Sunday 11th Jan
NO MASS	MASS C.C. 10.00 am	MASS H.S. 7.00pm	MASS C.C. 10.00am Exposition	MASS C.C. 10.00am	NO MASS	C.C. 9.30am H.S. 11.15am

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This Sunday: 4th January	Margaret Borman	Emmanuel Dwamena
Next Sunday: 11th January	Sarah Ellison	George Winkley

Children's Church recommences next weekend

Eucharistic Ministry 1st Sunday (C.C. and H.S.)		MASS INTENTIONS
Francis Ryan	Sarah Kelly	Olwyn Riley, died recently Deceased members of the Stephenson and Smith families. Yunas Khushi, b'day anniv. Mary Ingham, anniv, 2nd Jan

Shirley Clegg, RIP

Shirley Clegg, mother of Janet Parker, and a well-loved member of the Methodist congregation has now gone to the Lord. Shirley was well-known by all those who attend Christ Church and will be missed by Methodists and Catholics alike. Her funeral service will take place at Christ Church on Tuesday 13th January at 11.30am. May she rest in peace.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE	
Jan 5th	Mary Gibbons (2013) Michael Gibbons (2016)
Jan 6th	W M Spencer (2003)
Jan 7th	Mary Anne Jennings (2002)
Jan 8th	Gerald Kelly (2002) Ann Mularkey (2025)
Jan 9th	Harry Rawston (2014) Anne Halstead (2005)
Jan 10th	Rev Thomas Baron (1972) Maureen Waddington (2025)



POUND DRAW WINNERS

£10.00 Orla Dempsey
£10.00 Selina Blacklaw
£10.00 Maureen McDermott
£10.00 Brian Sagar

So ends another year of the POUND DRAW. The TOTAL raised for Parish Funds this year is a remarkable £5,753. Thanks all for your support, and please continue in 2026. Anyone new to the Parish wishing to join the weekly draw please contact one of the organisers mentioned below for more information.

A big thank you to Wilf Eccles, Jack Manley and Antonio Parente for their help throughout the year.

*Thanks again and kind regards,
Ian*

CHURCH COLLECTION
Standing Orders: approx: £685 p/w.
28th Dec: £310.40
Christmas Masses: £1,507

Many thanks for the exceptionally generous
Christmas collection!

Catholic and Methodist Time of Prayer
This coming Wednesday, the first Wednesday of the month, there will be our usual time of shared prayer at Christ Church at 11.30am.

Feast of the Epiphany
A Holy Day of Obligation
Mass will be on Tuesday 6th Jan at 10.00am at CC
The Wednesday evening Mass at Holy Saviour's at 7.00pm will also be a Mass of the Epiphany.