

Introduction Today's feast offers us the image of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph to help us in our own family lives. The choice of date for its celebration is no doubt intended to coincide with the time of the year when we are most likely to be coming together in our own family units...for better or worse!

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

The Lord promises Abraham and Sarah a son.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:18. 11-12. 17-19

It is through faith that Abraham receives the gift of his family.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

The child Jesus is presented to the Lord in the Temple and blessed by Simeon and Anna.

Please pray for Frank Rocks, Ged Salisbury and Eric Pollard lately dead and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time:

DECEMBER

31 Ann Taylor, Katherine Brown

JANUARY

1 Robert Barnes, Jane Swarbrick, Peter Haslem

2 Isabel Jean Hull, Mary (Molly) M^cKee

3 Iris Moulding, deceased members of Farrelly family

4 Tom Begley, Teresa Noble 6 Mary Ventimiglia, Herbert Rowe

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal
at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030

to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need.

Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

WEBSITE: www.standrewscottam.org.uk

Parishes of St Andrew & Blessed George Haydock, Cottam, and St Mary, Lea Town

The Holy Family 31st December 2023

Parish Priest: Canon Adrian J. Towers VF

114 Hoyles Lane, Cottam, PR4 0NB

Tel: (01772) 726166 E-mail: adrian.towers@lrcd.org.uk

Deacon: Rev. John W Cliffe

Tel: 01257 264445 johncliffe@standrewscottam.org.uk

Baptisms and Marriages by Arrangement.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday (4.30pm to 5pm) or on request. Please call in to the Presbytery or speak to Canon Adrian before or after Mass.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

Tony Murphy 07557 373534 (St Andrew's)

Mike Fitzpatrick 07739 880965 (St Mary's)

Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

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234331



Those who honour their
father, atone for sins;
those who respect their
mother, store up treasures.

Sirach 3:3-4

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art by Julie Lonneman

SATURDAY 30 December

5.30pm (Vigil) Deceased Members of the Watt Family (7967)

Mass will be live streamed from Parish website

SUNDAY 31 December (PMB p105)

9.00am(Lea Town) People of the Parish

10.30am Peace in the Holy Land

NO Afternoon Devotions

6.00pm Souls of Norman & Mary Blocksidge (7990)

MONDAY 1 January – Mary, Mother of God (Solemnity)

11.00am Brian Critchley (7970)

Mass will be live streamed from Parish website

TUESDAY 2 January - NO MASS

St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen (Memorial)

WEDNESDAY 3 January

The Most Holy Name of Jesus (Optional Memorial)

9.15am Members & Benefactors Living & Dead

Lancashire Infirm Secular Clergy Fund (8009)

THURSDAY 4 January

10.00am (Cottam) Requiem – Frank Rocks

FRIDAY 5 January

11.00am (Cottam) Requiem – Ged Salisbury

SATURDAY 6 January

9.15am Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

5.30pm (Vigil) Kathleen McEnnerney – Lately Dead (7984)

Confessions next Saturday 4.30pm to 5.00pm at St. Andrew's

Mass Intentions All Mass offerings and intentions are most welcome. If you require a Mass on a particular day, please let Canon Adrian know or place the intention, offering and details in an envelope on the collection plate at the weekend Masses. Mass intention envelopes are at the back of church.

Thank you from Canon Adrian

I should like to thank all parishioners for the many cards, gifts, good wishes and generous offerings I have received. A very special thank you to Deacon John Cliffe, and to all involved in the Christmas Masses and who worked so hard to make this a joyful and happy Christmas.

I should also like to thank all who throughout the year work so hard at St Mary's and St Andrew's - cleaners, flower arrangers and sacristans, those who serve tea and coffee, altar servers, organists, musicians and singers, readers, eucharistic ministers, collectors, those who look after the church grounds and cemeteries, catechists, children's liturgy leaders, Social and Finance Committee members, teachers, governors and all who work in our schools, the St Vincent de Paul Society, those who help with the youth group and with administration, and everyone who prays and worships in our churches.

May 2024 be a year of peace and blessings for us all.

Deacon John Cliffe & Julie wish to convey to all the parishioners their thanks for Christmas greetings & cards and wish everyone every blessing for the New Year.

Annual Mission Appeal 2024 Next weekend we will welcome Fr Serge Traore of the Missionaries of Africa (The White Fathers), who will be preaching the Missionary Appeal in our diocese this year.

Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage 23 July to 30 July 2024.

Please join Bishop Paul Swarbrick on the Diocesan Pilgrimage. Youth Section (Coach Travel - 22 July to 1 August) will travel by coach with an evening and a day sightseeing in Paris. Email youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk for details. For all other Pilgrims and for further information please check the Diocesan Pilgrimage Website www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk or email operationsdirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

Parish SVP Thank you for all the donations of non-perishable food and toiletries. We will continue to support our local food bank with your kind donations.

HELPING HANDS at ST MARY'S SCHOOL Helps families that are in urgent need. At the back of St Mary's church is our Helping Hands Box for any kind donations of nonperishable food and toiletries.