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\*Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message. If you do not wish to opt-in to hear more about our work and fundraising via text, but would still like to donate £5, text METROCATHEDRALNOINFO instead.

## Mass & Service Times

All services take place in the cathedral unless marked otherwise

WEEK COMMENCING: **27 December 2020**

### Sunday 27 December Feast of the Holy Family

9.00am Mass

11.00am Mass

This Mass will be streamed live on Facebook and Youtube

### Monday 28 December Feast of the Holy Innocents

12noon Mass

### Tuesday 29 December Feast of Saint Thomas of Canterbury

12noon Mass

### Wednesday 30 December 12noon Mass

### Thursday 31 December 12noon Mass

### Friday 1 January Mary the Mother of God 12noon Mass

### Saturday 2 January 10.00am Mass 4.00pm Vigil Mass

### RECONCILIATION (Confession)

**Monday - Friday:**

Following the 12noon Mass.

**Please note that there are no Confessions on Holy Days.**

**Saturday:** 3.00pm – 3.45pm  
Confessions will take place in the St Columba Chapel.

### Crypt Crypt Chapel

**SS -**  
55 Seel St,  
Missionaries of  
Charity

**RLUH -**  
Royal Liverpool  
University Hospital

### CLERGY:

**PRIESTS:**  
Canon Anthony  
O'Brien Dean  
Fr Stephen Lee  
Fr Chris McCoy  
Fr Peter Murphy

**DEACONS:**  
Rev Noel Abbott  
Rev Paul Mannings



# Cathedral Record

[www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk)

## Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

No one can fail to be moved by the heart-wrenching accounts of families that have been tragically affected by the coronavirus. At a time when families come together to celebrate the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ, families are not only mourning their loved ones who have died from this dreadful virus but are often separated from their children, parents or grandparents because of the vital need to keep safe. One of the paradoxes of modern life is that as belief in the reason for Christmas declines the feast grows in importance because of its emphasis on family. Family as a constant feature in our lives is as important as ever. Therefore, it seems appropriate that today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family to ask for blessings on our own families.

We can learn a lot from the fact that the origins of the devotion to the Holy Family are seventeenth century North America. Early settlers in Canada were separated from their families by great distances and the Atlantic Ocean. The chances of them ever returning home were slim; and there was little possibility of being reunited with parents, brothers, sisters and cousins. Furthermore, despite the best efforts of the Church in sending priests and religious sisters to the New World to care for the settlers, many faithful Catholics would receive little pastoral care and have few opportunities to receive the sacraments and attend Mass. The prayer life of the family was the backbone of the Church and this had to be supported in every possible way. Family prayers such as the rosary, and reading from the family bible held families, and indeed the Church, together through terrible times. Pope Leo XIII recognised this when he instituted the feast we are celebrating today and another pope, Pope Benedict XV, made it a worldwide celebration. Nowadays, with email, the internet, Zoom and Skype the world has become very small and families spread throughout the world can communicate in a way which was unimaginable in past centuries. Nevertheless, family life is strained by many different pressures, not only the coronavirus.

This is felt none more so than by refugees, who experience acutely the dislocation of family life through war or persecution, but also by those who seek a different life through migration. According to the United Nations there are over 45 million refugees in the world today that have had to leave their homes and often their countries as well because of war. Five times that number of people migrate in search of a better life for their families.

The Holy Family itself experienced the same pressure of dislocation, and today's gospel is a reminder that difficulties are never far away. The story of the Presentation of

Jesus in the Temple tells us that, even as Mary and Joseph bring gifts of turtle doves in thanksgiving to God for the gift of their son, and are united in joy at Simeon's prophecy of the greatness of Jesus, Mary is warned by Simeon that a sword will pierce her own soul too. So it was that Joseph and Mary experienced the anxiety which is often shared by many parents about their children. Yet we also begin to understand Jesus' identity and relationship with his heavenly Father – a relationship which inevitably involves pain and suffering for his family as well as himself. To know, however, that Jesus, Mary and Joseph, despite all the odds, were able to establish family life gives us great hope and strength. This devotion reminds us that our Catholic faith grows in our homes through the parents' love for each other and for their children. As we are drawn into this love, on reflection, we can see the presence of Jesus as an additional member of our family, guiding, supporting and loving each of us. For this reason, we can be sure that Jesus dwells in all our families, giving families the strength to take up their crosses and so follow him, to rise again after they have fallen, to forgive one another, to bear one another's burdens, and to 'be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ' (Eph. 5:21).

That is the mystery that we celebrate in this feast. I say 'mystery' because in a Church sense, mystery means a sign that recognises the present reality and yet points to an ideal life in Christ. The crisis we are enduring as a Church has shown us that the heart of the Church is in family life, and the loving face of the Church in reaching out to those who are needy or lonely begins in our families and the family of the parish community.

The presence of Jesus in our families is seen in the many signs of hope which are around us. I see this hope in action when I visit our Catholic schools and see how much the children are loved by their parents who go to enormous lengths to ensure a Catholic education for their children. In our parishes there are always young children at Mass, and especially at Christmas. Our youth ministry through Animate engages with children and teenagers as their gift of faith is developed in many ways. So, I am not discouraged. On the contrary, the children and their parents inspire me even though these are difficult times to raise a family. While I am well aware that family life is not simple, I also know that the love that is deep within a family is possible, because that love is an expression of God's love for us.

May the new year ahead be a time of unity, peace and health as we pray that the Lord blesses you and your families.

**Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP**  
Archbishop of Liverpool

Tel: 0151 709 9222

Email: [enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk)

# Cathedral Notice Board

## MASS INTENTIONS

Gerry Horn (RIP), John Stockley (RIP), Dennis and Rosaleen Conlon (Christmas Intentions), Dennis Conlon (Birthday), Tony McCormack (Intentions), Maureen Young (Christmas Blessing), Fay Adderley (RIP), Terry Dunn (RIP), Michael Cross (RIP Christmas Intention), Jane Daly (Christmas Intention), Stan Sutton, Gerard Webb (RIP), Holy Souls, Catrina McManus (RIP).

## NEWSLETTER

Please note that the next Newsletter will be issued for 9/10 January 2021.

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

We celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord on Wednesday 6 January 2021. We will have Mass at 12noon and this Mass will be live streamed on Facebook and Youtube.

## POLITE NOTICE

While we will attempt to take appropriate precautions consistent with the advice of public health authorities, parishioners should understand that they assume the risk of contracting COVID-19 any time they enter a public space since such precautions do not eliminate the risk of infection.

## WOMEN'S REFUGE

Thank you so much to everyone who donated gifts and toiletries for our Christmas appeal. It was

the most successful yet and the response was overwhelming. Your generosity was really appreciated. Thank you so much. The generosity and kindness never ceases to amaze us and you can be assured that your offerings have made a real difference. We appreciate your generosity even more as we know how many demands are being made on people to donate to all different charities, all of whom are as worthy as the next. Thank you to everyone who made such an effort.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone who donated money for the Christmas flowers. The flowers will now decorate the Cathedral. The 11.00am Mass on Sunday 27 December will be offered for all their names.

## CATHEDRAL MUSIC STAFF TO RUN MARATHON FOR MICAHA

Music staff from the two Cathedrals in Liverpool are coming together to raise money for MICAHA, the social justice charity set up by Liverpool Cathedral, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, Christ the King and St Bride's Church to relieve Liverpool residents from social injustice and poverty. Christopher McElroy is Director of Music at the Metropolitan Cathedral. Stephen Mannings is the Director of Music Outreach at Liverpool Cathedral. The pair will be running a marathon on New Year's Eve 2020 to raise money for MICAHA Liverpool. Chris and Stephen are hoping to raise £2000 for MICAHA. It is also hoped to raise public awareness of issues relating to poverty and social exclusion, which are particularly acute in our city at this time. The pair have launched a JustGiving page to help them reach their target.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/micahmarathon> . If you would feel able to make a donation and sponsor Chris & Stephen this would be greatly appreciated, and would go a long way to supporting the work of MICAHA in our city, amongst our most underprivileged communities. Please pray for good weather!

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SUPPORT

Here you will find links to support and resources for anyone who may be struggling over Christmas and New Year.

<https://hubofhope.co.uk/> The Hub of Hope is the world's first of its kind mental health database bringing grassroots and national mental health services together in one place for the first time ever. Using the location of web browser or mobile devices, the cloud-based web application allows anyone, anywhere to find the nearest source of support for any mental health issue, from depression and anxiety to PTSD and suicidal thoughts, as well as providing a 'talk now' button connecting users directly to the Samaritans. It is currently the biggest and most comprehensive resource of its kind, with more than 1,200 validated support networks already registered on the web app and this number increasing each day. It has been endorsed by the Samaritans and 25 other national mental health support organisations and trusts. It already has a proven record of providing support to thousands as a vital stopgap for those on the five to six month NHS

waiting list for mental health referrals."

<https://www.mind.org.uk/> (0300 123 3393) Mind is a mental health charity, whose aim is that no one has to face a mental health problem alone.

<https://www.samaritans.org/> (116 123) The Samaritans operates a 24-hour service available every day of the year. If you prefer to write down how you're feeling, or if you're worried about being overheard on the phone, you can email Samaritans at [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

<https://www.thesilverline.org.uk/> (0800 4 70 80 90) The Silver Line is a free confidential telephone helpline offering information, friendship and advice to older people in the United Kingdom, available 24 hours a day.

<https://www.studentsagainstd Depression.org/> (01635 869754) Students against depression is a website for students who are depressed, have a low mood or are having suicidal thoughts.

Childline (0800 1111) runs a helpline for children and young people in the UK. Calls are free and the number won't show up on your phone bill.

NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> 0800 800 5000 [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

Last week's collection: **£495.36**



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## Stay Connected

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## Golden Book of Remembrance

The Golden Book is open and accepting your entries but on a limited basis for the time being.

Please email [enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk) or telephone 0151 709 9222 where a member of the team will assist you.