

**St Anne's Parish, Wappenbury
with
Our Lady of the Angels', Princethorpe**

27 December 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Year B

Fr Teddy O'Brien MSC - Parish Priest

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham
(Registered Charity Number: 234216) and is conducted, on behalf of the Archdiocese,
by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

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FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, 26/27 DECEMBER 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"This child is destined to be a sign...so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare."

May I first of all wish you and all those close to you a blessed and happy Christmas. Every day of the Christmas Octave - in the week leading up to New Year's Day - is a continuation of the celebration of Christmas. But I know that this year – because of the coronavirus restrictions - it will be much more difficult for us to maintain the Christmas spirit across the traditional twelve days. Today's Feast of the Holy Family is particularly poignant in a year when it has been impossible for our families to gather together as they usually would. Perhaps this serves to emphasise some of the things that we can easily take for granted about family life and the value of our relationships. The family is part of the natural world that God has created and entrusted to us. All living creatures exist in some sort of kinship, guaranteeing their continuity and sustaining the quality of their lives. Pope Francis has said that we need education in the care of the common home to help people understand that environmental problems are linked to human needs.

From the very outset of our lives the human needs on which we depend for life itself find their natural setting in the family. From the gift of life itself to the loving provision of food, shelter and all the benefits of human contact, the family is the gift that keeps on giving. A new-born baby becomes the focus of love and attention on the part of parents and family, not because of anything it can do but simply on account of its being alive.

With the birth of his Son, the Father has revealed his unconditional love for us, irrespective of our ability to achieve anything in life or to merit God's love. St Paul has put it this way: *"It is proof of God's love for us, that Christ died for us while we were still sinners...While we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son"*. We see this unconditional love in the Holy Family – even when its demands caused some perplexity. St Luke's Gospel indicates something of this where it describes the journey of Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem, taking the infant Jesus to the Temple to present him to the Lord. The evangelist says the child's father and mother stood there *"wondering at the things that were being said about him"*.

Looking back on the closing year, with all its extraordinary ups and downs, we may not always have seen the sense of what was happening to us or to our families – we may often have felt anxious or perplexed about events unfolding around us, locally or nationally. At times of crisis we tend to fall back on those things that are fundamental to our lives and our beliefs. Hence, the need for our family and for our faith have been central to surviving 2020. This year we have missed those very special expressions of family life that continue to make Christmas an important season for believer and non-believer alike. Our parish communities have done their utmost – through the continued opening of our churches, alongside the live-streaming of Mass - to sustain the life of faith within our families.

The familiar saying: *"absence makes the heart grow fonder"* can never have been truer than it is for 2020. Family life and Catholic faith teach us to hope that the things we have glimpsed, or experienced in part, will one day find their fulfilment in the Kingdom of God. The Holy Family of Nazareth shows us that we are called through Christ to the eternal communion of love and life in God. As the New Year approaches we ask the holy child - destined *"to be a sign...so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare"* - to give us the courage to bring our secret thoughts to God.

A beautiful prayer from the Iona Community can help us prepare for 2021:

"You keep us waiting.

You, the God of all time want us to wait -

For the right time, in which to discover who we are, where we must go, who will be with us, and what we must do".

May the Holy Family of Nazareth help us all, this New Year.

With my prayers for you and my kindest wishes.

Yours devotedly in Christ Bernard Longley Archbishop of Birmingham

Given at Birmingham on the 22 December 2020

**Mass streamed live from St Anne's using [fb.me/stanneswappenbury](https://www.facebook.com/stanneswappenbury)
Please see diary below for this week's timings of Mass and Prayer Services**

I hope that celebrating with me for this short service gives you a feeling of community which still remains for all of us.

Have you thought of inviting someone to join with you at one of the streamed Masses thought the week?

Sunday 27 December	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
	11.00am	Princethorpe	Covid-19 restrictions apply
Monday 28 December	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Tuesday 29 December	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	St Thomas à Becket, Bishop, Martyr
Wednesday 30 December	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	
Thursday 31 December	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	St Sylvester I, Pope
Friday 1 January 2021	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Saturday 2 January	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church
Sunday 3 January	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	2 nd Sunday After Christmas
	11.00am	Princethorpe	Covid-19 restrictions apply

Christmas Masses

It was so heartwarming and encouraging to see those who came to the Masses on Christmas Eve at Princethorpe Chapel. Although the celebration of both Masses was not quite as we would have wished, especially without the opportunity to sing carols together, both Masses gave us the opportunity to come together, in prayer and in support of each other.

You have been very kind and attentive to me throughout the year and especially in the weeks before Christmas. Your cards, your kind words and your digital greetings were truly uplifting and affirming. I am truly grateful for your generosity and your imagination in giving gifts of varying kinds, some prepared personally by children, and I thank you deeply for your generous contributions to the annual Christmas clergy offering.

In these difficult times, you have truly displayed the essence of a Christian community in your concern and support for me and for each other. I appreciate your support of me in this and so many other ways. Let us continue to pray for, and to support, each other.

Re-Opening Of Our Churches And Receiving Communion

Regulations and changing so frequently that it continues to be difficult to open St Anne's Church for Mass. I want to assure you that, as soon as government regulations permit, I will make provision for a limited number of parishioners to attend Sunday/daily Mass at St Anne's with me. I will keep you informed.

Currently there is no Mass available at St Anne's Church. Daily Mass is currently Live Streamed from St Anne's Via Facebook – See Diary For Weekly Information. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

Please let me know if you would like Holy Communion brought to you at your home so that you can receive communion as you share streamed Mass with me.

Finally, have you considered inviting someone to join with you, from their own homes, at one of the Masses that are streamed every day at 9.30am? People of all faiths and none seem to welcome this invitation. During these difficult times.

Parish Finances

Thank you to those of you who have returned the Option Choices Form regarding your standing orders. Anyone who has not completed the form sent to you please do so as soon as possible. If you would like to discuss how you can help in any way with the parish finances please talk to one of the Finance Committee or by emailing Fr Teddy directly at fr.teddy.obrien@rcaob.org.uk If you would like to receive a Donations Options Form please let me know. Thank you to everyone who is managing to continue with financial support to the parish. It is hugely appreciated.

Internments at St Anne's Parish Cemeteries

The Parish Finance committee has worked very hard this year to clarify the conditions for interment and/or burial of ashes at St Anne's cemeteries. Further details will be available on the parish website from 1 January 2021.

Holy Communion For Those Who Cannot Attend Mass and for Those Sharing Streamed Mass Daily

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to take communion to our house bound parishioners. I will explain the details to all those interested so that everyone is safe. If anyone else would like to come forward please let me know. Let me know if you would like to have communion at home during lock down.

Prayer List – Would You Like Any Amendments Or Additions?

If you have any amendments to the Prayer List you would like me to make please do get in touch either with myself, by using the contact details at the top of the newsletter, or with Loretta at lkpcurtis@hotmail.com. It is important in these difficult times that we think and pray for those dear to us and allow our community to pray for them too. Please let me know of any wedding anniversaries, anniversaries of death and any significant birthdays – we would love to share our prayers with you on that day.

Spreading Our News

Do you know anyone who would like to receive our newsletter by email? Please ask them to contact me and I would be delighted to add their details to my records. Are you willing to deliver a copy of the newsletter to those who do not have internet? Please let me know.

The Parish Is On Facebook! - Thank You Sebastien Buhour

Please take time to 'like' and 'share' or indeed 'comment' the page so that as many of the wider community can enjoy the delights of our wonderful St Anne's and Princethorpe College. The link to use is <http://www.facebook.com/stanneswappenbury>

Vacancies At Princethorpe College And Crackley Hall School

Princethorpe College

Development Database Assistant - We are looking for a Development Database Assistant to assist with the successful planning and implementation of campaigns for the Foundation's Development Office. The role will initially be on a fixed-term basis until the end of March 2021, with the possibility for an extension thereafter. Current initiatives include the Science+ Campaign and a telephone fundraising campaign. The role is offered on a part-time basis, ideally working 20 hours a week over five days.

Salary from £8.82 - £9.74 per hour/ £17,191.01 - £20,714.11 full time equivalent (B17 – C7 on the Princethorpe Foundation salary scale) by negotiation, depending on qualifications and relevant experience. Closing date Tuesday 5 January 2021

Princethorpe College

Lunchtime Supervisors - We are looking for Lunchtime Supervisors to join our existing duty cover team, to provide care for students during lunchtimes. The core purpose of the role is to be responsible, under the direction of the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and in co-operation with existing duty staff, for securing the safety, welfare and good conduct of pupils during the lunch period, in accordance with the policies and procedures of the College. This will initially be on a temporary basis, but could become a permanent role. The working hours are from 12.00pm to 2.00pm Monday to Friday, working up to 10 hours per week, term time only. Other work, of a similar nature may be available during the school day or after school. Closing date Tuesday 5 January 2021.

Princethorpe College

Teacher of Business Studies - a well-qualified, dynamic and lively graduate to teach Business Studies to GCSE and A-level for significant part-time or full-time, negotiable for September 2021. The ability to teach A-level Economics and BTEC Level 3 Business Studies would be advantageous. The vacancy is a result of the continued growth in popularity of the courses we are offering in our department. Closing date Monday 11 January 2021.

Princethorpe College

Assistant Head (Director of Studies) - The successful candidate will have the ability to innovate and implement change. They will be passionate about enabling teachers to ensure pupils achieve their full potential. It is vital that the successful candidate has excellent communication, organisational and IT skills, as well as being proactive and a team player. This role is at the heart of the leadership and management of our large, busy, successful Catholic independent day school. Princethorpe has its own senior leadership pay scale which is above national scales. Closing date Monday 11 January 2021.

Princethorpe College

Deputy Head (Academic) - Required for September 2021, a well-qualified graduate with successful experience in middle or senior leadership combined with a strong track record of academic improvement to lead on all aspects of the academic life at Princethorpe. The successful candidate will need to demonstrate creativity, vision and the ability to innovate. They will play a lead role in taking Princethorpe through the next phase of its development, ensuring we are producing pupils who are "world-ready" with the skills and qualities necessary to go on to lead full, rich and meaningful lives. This is an exciting and challenging role and is likely to suit someone who will be looking to move to a headship in the future. Princethorpe has its own senior leadership pay scale which is above national scales. Closing date Monday 11 January 2021

Vacancies At Princethorpe College And Crackley Hall School (continued)

Crackley Hall

Assistant Head (Key Stage 2 Academic) - Required for September 2021, a well-qualified graduate with successful experience in a leadership capacity. The successful candidate will be an outstanding classroom practitioner, passionate about the delivery of excellent teaching and learning and committed to raising the achievement of children of all abilities. They will be a natural and confident leader with excellent planning, administration and time management.

The successful candidate will work closely with, report to and advise the Headmaster in all areas of school life, with specific responsibility for academic matters and all business relating to Key Stage 2. This role is at the heart of the leadership and management of our busy and successful Catholic independent day school. The Princethorpe Foundation has its own senior leadership pay scale which is above national scales. Closing date Monday 18 January 2021.

Foundation Marketing and Communications Executive - Required from February 2021, a creative, hard-working, team-player, with fluent written and excellent people skills, to become a key player in our marketing and communications operations. This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a successful, energetic, forward thinking team which plays a leading role in the success of the Foundation.

The post holder will support and work closely with the Assistant Head (Marketing, Admissions and Communications) to ensure all activity underpins our Schools' marketing strategies and objectives, consistent with the Schools' vision and values. You will bring new ideas to the table to take our marketing and communications to the next level. Closing date Monday 18 January 2021

For all of the vacancies visit <https://www.theprincethorpefoundation.co.uk/join-us?vacancyid=1756> Please note: Princethorpe College is closed until Monday 4 January 2021.

Have You Collected The Stamps From Your Christmas Card Envelopes?

Please let Loretta know if you have saved stamps for the RNIB by emailing lkpcurtis@hotmail.com then leave them with me at the Presbytery or be kind enough to give them to Loretta at the 11.00am Mass on Sunday or send them to her at 10 Arden Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2DU. Many thanks

Please Remember Especially In Your Prayers This Week – Let Us Not Tire Of Praying

Bill who is experiencing serious difficulties at present. He is awaiting another scan to see what further treatment can be offered.

Hold Bill and Yvonne in your prayers

Paul Catterall who is seriously ill from an accident at work last week. Hold Paul, his wife Theresa, and family in your prayers.

Violet, in Ireland, who may lose sight in one eye.

Sam, Sue Kimberley's grandson, who is recovering from an operation.

Alice, Jim Murray's sister, who is back in hospital and quite ill.

Alice, David and Sonia's daughter. Alice is home again and in pain, awaiting a serious operation. Please hold Alice, James and family in your prayers.

Mai, Basil's mother, who is unwell at present.

Jo who is recovering at home from her operation. Pray for Jo and Jonnie.

Joseph 14, who has a long standing illness and is now receiving treatment in hospital in Staffordshire.

Sue. Hold Sue and family in your prayers. Sue is receiving ongoing treatment.

Marlene who is awaiting the results of recent tests and waiting for a course of treatment.

Di, who has more tests to overcome.

Anne, Denis and Karen as they cope with health difficulties.

Linda, who is receiving further attention after her cancer treatment. Hold Bede and family in your prayers.

Mary and Brian Gould's niece, Elaine, whose lung cancer has reached stage four and has spread to her bones.

Stephen, friend of Milena's, who has had some setbacks in his preparation for treatment.

John and Veronica as they cope with John's health.

Catherine whose pregnancy with twins is worrying.

Jim and Anne for their young baby. Hold their wider family in your prayers.

David, a young father struggling at the moment.

Anne who is very anxious at present.

Peter Power and family.

School and College leadership for all the hard work in keeping their students safe.

Melanie, a young girl who struggles with identity. Pray for her family and friends as they present support.

Yvonne and Jade. Jade is quite unwell at present. Yvonne has recently retired from Our Lady's School.

Claire as she settles in her new home up north.

Sean who is unwell at present.

Anastasia as she is cared for at home.

Eileen who is being cared for in a rest home in Leamington.

Liz's mum who is unwell.

Parishioners with underlying medical problems of varying kinds and for whom this present viral situation induces increased anxiety. Pray for patience for all as times moves on.

Our medical staff – some members of this parish are actively engaged on the front line in our hospitals.

John whose family has asked for prayers.

Domonkos Kordas (14) who has lost sight in one eye. Pray for him and family and friends. His parents work on the front line.

Elizabeth and Neville Compton, sister and brother-in-law of Margaret Simmons.

John (75) diagnosed with bladder cancer.

All elderly parents of parishioners.

Elizabeth who has been diagnosed with a long term illness and is improving. She has had some good news recently.

Paul, a paramedic friend of Kathy Bond, Stretton on Dunsmore, seriously ill in University Hospital, Coventry.

Marc, who is seriously ill.

Keren and her husband John, Keren is a member of Princethorpe College staff.

Karen, waiting results of an exploratory investigation.

Linda, Stretton on Dunsmore, who is recovering at home. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Carolyn whose daughter is experiencing on-going mental health difficulties.

Roisin and Niamh, as they cope with difficult health problems. Their health problems are on-going.

Louise, suffering from various cancers.

Lucy (29), who is suffering from bacterial meningitis and is unable to digest food.

Eileen, friend of Mary Hewitt who is suffering from cancer.

Harry (23)

Seamus, who suffers from prostate cancer. Hold Seamus' family and friends in your prayers.

Michele, who has some serious health issues.

Kathy, who is recuperating after her successful operation.

Lola (29), who has been ill for most of her life and is again very ill.

Rose, who has severe mental health problems.

Frank

Carolyn, who is ill with breast cancer.

Tom who thanks you for your prayers. His treatment is ended at this time.

Fr David Bazen, Kenilworth, who is improving at home after an accident.

Young people as they struggle with hopeful return home for Christmas.

Parishioners who have been diagnosed with coronavirus.

Remember also, and especially, those who have been shielding now for a long time

All those people who put the lives of others and their own lifestyles before their own in whatever branch of community life they work.

Pray For Those Who Have Died And For Their Families

Gisela Heines (59), sister in law to Helen Peters (Willie Brown's daughter) who died last week.

Maureen Mernagh (95), aunt to Peter Power, who died last week in Co Wexford. Peter's Uncles Paddy and Tom, and his aunt Kate died earlier this year.

Kate Tennant RIP, friend of Loretta, who died recently. Please pray for Kate and her family.

Angela RIP, who died recently. Angela was a close friend of Mary Rogers.

Geraldine RIP, close friend of Jane and Tony Phayer, who died recently.

Chris Peake RIP (71), former caretaker of Our Lady's School, Princethorpe, who died recently. Please pray for Chris's family.

Stuart Cartwright (76), who died recently. Hold Stuart's wife and daughters and Paul in your prayers.

Paula whose mother died recently in Dublin. Paula is secretary to our MSC Provincial, Fr Carl.

Ron, father to a friend of Yvonne, who died from Covid recently.

John Deery (RIP) John was a faithful member of the parish community who regularly attended St Anne's.

Augustine RIP (19 years old) who has died following a 10m fall from a tree in Northern France. Sebastien, Carolina and family ask for your prayers for Augustine's family.

Marie, long standing friend of Mary Gould who has died.

Norman, very dear friend of Paul and Fen Whittle. Keep Paul and Norman's family in your prayers.

Members of the medical profession as they manage the current 'spike' in Covid-19 cases, and those who have died.

Denis and Kate McDaid as they come to terms with the death of Bridie Gallagher, Denis's aunt in Ireland. One of eleven children – Bridie was the last member of the maternal side of the family.

David Ratcliffe whose father in law, Tony, died recently

Margaret Patrick, former headteacher at Our Lady's School, whose husband died suddenly recently

Patrick Horgan (76) RIP who died unexpectedly and peacefully recently. Hold his family in your prayers. Pray for Jo, his very close friend.

Wolfgang, Chrissie's father, who died recently and her mother who has recovered well from her operation and is now at home.

Mildred (87) RIP (Ryton on Dunsmore)

Betty Lucas RIP

Kay RIP, aunt to Yvonne.

Antonio (80) RIP

Thomas Duffy RIP

Pauline RIP.

Chris Smart (77) RIP

Con McCorrison (88) RIP

Darren RIP

Joan (91) RIP

Myrtle Forster (64) RIP

Joan and Sister RIP

Bob RIP

Maria Ramsay (76) RIP

Mont RIP

John RIP