

This Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family



Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone
amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Colossians 3:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated

Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.



Archdiocese of Southwark

Pastoral Letter for the Solemnity of the Holy Family



Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ

After a celebration of Christmas Day in restricted circumstances, due to Covid 19, we come to this beautiful Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth. The home life of the Lord Jesus, of His mother, the Virgin Mary, and of His foster father, St Joseph, teaches us the importance of *'compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.'* We want to love as they love, to sit in the classroom of the Gospel and learn from Christ, inspired by the fidelity of Mary and Joseph. These qualities are the sure coordinates to guide us forward.

The images we sometimes see of the Holy Family make everything look so perfect, as if there were never any problems, or moments of anxiety, and not that much joy and laughter either. How can any family flourish without joy? How can any family blossom without laughter? No, the Holy Family was a real family. *'Tears and smiles, like us,'* they knew, each in their own way. All our experiences of family, and of our relationships within them, form a school where our understanding of holiness can deepen, where, modelled on Christ, we are trained how to love evermore generously.

Of course, we know family life is not always easy. Every family needs help, especially when its members face difficulties and struggles. Above all, each of us, no matter what our age or circumstances, needs to know that we are loved and that we belong. This is why the Church matters, as a family for everyone, a place to find and know God's love, a place to discover our true home in Christ and with each other.

St Luke retells an important event in the life of the Holy Family. Forty days after His birth, the Christ Child was presented by His parents in the Temple in Jerusalem, in accordance with the Law of Moses. This humble couple accepted the precious vocation God gave them as parents. This call from God is alive today. Parents are to protect and nurture new life. They are *'the first teachers'* of their children *'in the ways of faith.'* They are also to be *'the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do.'* This is both a gracious invitation and an awesome responsibility. As they prepare for

the baptism of their child, every mother and father should be given a copy of the Gospel with the words: *'Receive the Gospel of Christ whose teacher you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.'* The family remains the primary place for living, teaching, and sharing the Gospel. Daily evangelisation is part of every home centred on Christ. The need for witness to our Catholic faith about, and within, the family is as great as it ever was.

I want to thank every Christian family in our parish and school communities for your faithfulness to Christ. Thank you to wives and husbands who encourage each other to live the Gospel, *'for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer.'* Thank you to mums and dads, to grandparents, aunts and uncles, for passing on the faith to your children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces. Thank you to older brothers and sisters for the good example of faith you give to your younger sisters and brothers. They look up to you and need you. Thank you to clergy and religious, and to parish catechists and school staff, who support families in handing the faith to new generations. Please make sure that our communities are welcoming and supportive to all families, not least those new to our country or area, those going through brokenness or separation, and those facing poverty and hardship.

The home of the Holy Family of Nazareth was a loving space where the Lord Jesus grew to maturity, filled with wisdom. May our families, and the family of the Church, enable the message of Christ, in all its richness, to dwell within us so that we always speak and act with love.

I assure each one of you, your families, and your loved ones, of my prayers as 2021 opens before us. Whatever this New Year brings, let us step out with *'compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,'* united as members of one body. May the peace of Christ reign in our hearts and in our world.

With every blessing
Yours devotedly in Christ
+ John Wilson
Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark

MASS IN OUR CHURCH

Three Sunday Masses in our church:

SATURDAY 6.00 PM, SUNDAY 9.30 AM & 11.00 AM

Weekday Mass at 10.00 am

The church will be open 30 minutes before each Mass.

KEEPING SAFE IN OUR CHURCH

We thank all parishioners and friends who have helped to create and maintain a safe environment in our church for the public celebration of Mass. We look forward to welcoming back those who feel able to join us again.

By now, we are all aware of the measures we need to take in order to continue having Mass together.

Although it is counter-intuitive for us all, we ask all parishioners to

REFRAIN FROM SOCIALISING IN CHURCH BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER MASS

so that all can feel and actually be safe.

Our church is clearly marked with blue distance markers.

Please do not enter spaces marked by the blue tape if someone else (outside your social bubble) is in that area.



Solemnity:

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

1st January

Mass at 10.00 am

Solemnity:

EPIPHANY

6th January

Mass at 10.00 am



**As numbers for these two Solemnities are unknown,
we invite parishioners to register 2 days in advance**

PLEASE REGISTER FOR SUNDAY MASS BY FRIDAY 12 NOON

THANK YOU

FROM THE CARMELITE COMMUNITY

The Carmelite Community at Whitefriars thank you for your Christmas greetings, gifts and Christmas Offering.

Thank you also to Diane and John Griffin for preparing the beautiful Christmas Crib and for decorating the church. Our thanks go also to those who provided poinsettias and flowers for our Christmas celebrations.

Above all, we are filled with gratitude for all your kindness,
continued care and support for this wonderful parish, as well as your friendship and prayer.



Our parish is served by a
Community of Carmelite Friars.
We pray for you daily. Please pray for us too.



Click for A Christmas Reflection



Pope Francis:

No peace without a culture of care

In his message for the Catholic Church's World Day of Peace, Pope Francis appeals to the international community to foster a 'culture of care' by advancing on the "path of fraternity, justice and peace between individuals, communities, peoples and nations."

"There can be no peace without a culture of care," the Pope stresses in his message for the 54th World Day of Peace marked on 1 January 2021.

To read his full message, [click here](#).

Bishops' Statement on

EU Pact on Migration and Asylum

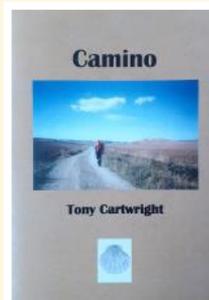
In view of the International Migrants Day, held annually on 18 December, the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) calls upon the EU and its Member States to put the human dignity and the common good at the centre of the future negotiations on the recently proposed EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Read the full statement by [clicking here](#).



*'Yonder peasant, he's not
from Tier 4 is he?'*

Camino Poetry Booklet Thanks from Tony Cartwright



Tony Cartwright writes:

"Thank you for your support in my fundraising effort to keep the refugee people warm and fed this winter in the Calais settlement. I have reached my aim to raise £500, which will go directly to the organised volunteer groups, which we support. Your donations help to boost vital services and, most importantly, the dignity of those uprooted people, homeless at Christmas and after. There are copies of Camino still available. The need is, sadly, ever present."

If you would like to help Calais Food Collective by giving a 10 donation for a copy of Tony's *Camino*, please contact him direct at: **07432 471 212**

From Christmas and into the New Year

During this Octave period between Christmas and New Year, we celebrate the time of year when we have the joy of wishing one another the blessings of Christmas. The Carmelite Community at Whitefriars continues to wish you peace in your hearts.

Circumstances change, but the message of Christmas that we have celebrated remains the same: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" Jesus came as the Saviour and brother for all. This Christmas, 2020 has found us changed. Our world is poorer, sicker, more frightened that we can ever remember. But we are also stronger, strengthened by what we have seen of the goodness of people who sacrifice themselves every day in order to help others, in the very difficult circumstances brought about by the Coronavirus.

And that is not all. While it is true that there are many examples of violent deaths, victims of crime, war and famine before our eyes every day, there are also many signs of life because of the many people who save lives, respect life and do all they can to protect the dignity of other people and of our common home.

Following Christmas and moving towards a new year, wouldn't it be lovely to give one another the gift of a Christmas that is simple, a Gospel Christmas, a purer Christmas, one in which we are attentive to the needs of

others, especially the needs of the poor, the infirm, migrants and people with no home either for themselves or for their families.

We commend one another and the whole of humanity to the loving care of Mary and Joseph as we welcome the gift of their Son, God made human, and join in one voice in singing, Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to the men and women that our God loves. May the grace and peace of the Incarnate Word fill our lives and our homes now and in the new year.



Your NHS
needs you

The need for blood
never stops.



New venue in Faversham

West Faversham Community Centre

Bysing Wood Road, Faversham, ME13 7RH
Blood Donor Appointments available on

Friday 15th January 2021
14:30 – 20:00

To book an appointment:

Visit blood.co.uk

Call **0300 123 23 23**

Download the app [NHSGIVEBLOOD](#)

Social distancing measures are in place for the safety of staff and donors. Please come alone to the session and, where possible, do not bring children at this time.

Online Gatherings

Tuesday Virtual Teatime
Is suspended until the New Year.
We will resume in January

Every Saturday at 9.00 am
INTER-CHURCH HOPE PRAYER

Details at

<http://www.hopefaversham.org.uk>

6.00 PM UNITE WITH US IN PRAYER

Our bishops are encouraging us to spend time in prayer at 6.00 pm each day, praying for an end to the pandemic and as an act of being united from home. Do join us and maybe even light a candle of hope. The Carmelite community holds every parishioner in prayer each day.

Sacramental Confession

If you would like to celebrate this sacrament of reconciliation, please contact us at Whitefriars to make an appointment with either Fr. Richard or Fr. Brendan. Following the Church's guidelines, we will celebrate God's tender-hearted forgiveness in a suitably ventilated space.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will re-open on
25th January

Parish Email:

faversham@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Phone:

01795 532449

Parish Website

www.whitefriarsfaversham.org

Parish Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/OLMCFaversham



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

FAVERSHAM SVP NEEDS YOU!

The Parish SVP Conference is a small and buoyant group of parishioners that seeks to help people in need of emotional and/or financial support in Faversham and the surrounding villages.

The organisation is both short of funds and members. What we are not short of is people who need our help, especially during this pandemic.

You can help as much as you like; it is entirely up to you. We currently have Zoom meetings at 3 week intervals to discuss and update the membership on our referrals and other issues.

If you are considering joining us and would like to know more about what we do,

please call our helpline

07563 702033

If it is not answered immediately, please be sure to leave a clear message so that we can contact you.

You can donate to the SVP online here:

JustGiving™

Donate now

MASS INTENTIONS: 27th December-2nd January

Sat	26	6.00 pm	Carmelite Community
Sun	27	9.30 am	Parish
		11.00 am	Margaret Whelan, RIP
Mon	28	10.00 am	Margaret Lawrence
Tue	29	10.00 am	Joseph & Mary Castilino (Health)
Wed	30	10.00 am	Albuquerque Family (Health)
Thurs	31	10.00 am	Bill & Millie Castelino (Health)
Fri	1	10.00 am	Costelloe Family, RIP
Sat	2	10.00 am	Jan Paulina Manfredini, RIP

Audrey Bampton, RIP

Please remember in your prayer Audrey Mary Teresa Bampton who died after a long illness on 21st December, aged 97 years. Audrey was a long-standing member of our parish. Pray also for her family, friends and the dedicated nursing and care staff at Cooksditch Nursing home where she lived for the last years of her life. We are tremendously grateful to Trish Murphy for her ministry to Audrey as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Audrey was accompanied by the prayer of the Church and sacramental anointing during her final moments. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Audrey's funeral will be in our church on 11th January.

Barry Davis, RIP

We offer our most sincere condolences to Ted Davis, whose brother, Barry, died on 22nd December in York District Hospital. Barry had been unwell for some time and has been in our prayers for the past while. We pray also for Barry's wife, Gina, who was constantly at his side while he was in hospital. We entrust Barry now to the loving and welcoming care of our God. Our hearts go out to Ted and Cindy Davis as they grieve the death of Barry and of their daughter earlier this year.

Margaret Whelan, RIP

We thank David Sealey for notifying us of the death on 9th December of Margaret Whelan. After many years in Faversham, latterly her home was in East London. She was known as a woman of tremendous faith and devotion. She was a popular neighbour and friend to many and was known for her cheerful spirit and kindness. May she rest in peace. Mass will be offered for the repose of her soul on 27th December.

Need the SVP? Tel. 07563 702033

Vanessa Mayes, RIP



In your kindness, when you pray please remember Vanessa Felicia Mayes who died on 13th December aged 66 years, as a result of COVID-19. A much loved wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend. Please pray also for he husband, Patrick, and their two children and all those who grieve her loss at this sad time. The funeral for Vanessa will now be in our church on 15th January.

Maureen Jarrett, RIP



We were saddened to hear recently of the death of former parishioner, Maureen Jarrett. Maureen was part of the group that came from Davington and entered the Catholic Church in 1995. She and her husband, John were enthusiastic parishioners for several years before they moved to Scotland. Maureen will be remembered for her great sense of humour.

PLEASE PRAY FOR the sick and housebound: Gloria Barnes, Shelagh Bradley, Margaret Bridgen, Bill and Millie Castelino, Wendy Coley, Bob Costa, Michael Earls, Anthony Freed, Carol Gostling, Jeanne Harvey, Gladys Hatch, Jackie Hitchcock, James Kilcoyne, Janet MacKay, Ruth Mackay, Barnaby Marchant, Dominic Morgan, Terry Newbery, Margaret Nicolas, Gail O'Connor, Joan O'Sullivan, Geraldine Paine, Julian Philips, Ann Rake, Lola Rinvoluceri, Mario Rinvoluceri and Ginny Woodrooffe.

Please also remember in your prayers all those who have died recently, especially Barry Davis, Audrey Bampton, Vanessa Mayes, Maureen Jarrett and Margaret Whelan, and those whose anniversaries are about this time, including Denis Sayers, John Gilhooly, Margaret Hogben, Elizabeth Deboos, Jim Curtin, Ivy Coles, George Jackson, Ellen Stringer, Jolyon Beerstecher, Joyce Preston, Stanley Foot.

May they and all the faithful departed rest in peace.



***We hold
each other
prayerfully
in our hearts***

mary's
meals



a simple solution to world hunger



Double the Love

Mary's Meals has incredible news!

Until 31st January 2021, public donations made to their Double The Love appeal will be doubled by the UK government, up to £2 million.

We can bring new hope to families in Liberia where hunger prevents children from going to school. Together, through this *Double The Love* campaign, we can help transform the lives of more than 43,000 hungry children, across 167 primary schools in Liberia.

Watch a video message from Mary's Meals' founder Magnus McFarlane-Barrow. Simply [click here](#)

**To donate to the *Double the Love* campaign,
click on the image above.**