



**THANK YOU** from Fr Patrick for all the cards, gifts, generous offerings and prayers. Wishing you all a very happy New Year.

**Luke 2:41-52** Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The celebration is in honour of Jesus of Nazareth, His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and His foster father, Blessed Joseph, as a family. The Holy Family is presented to us by the Church as a model for all Christian families.

The Gospel tells us that Joseph and Mary went to the temple to present the baby Jesus to God and for their own purification. It was the law at the time that every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord. The normal sacrificial offering would have been a year-old lamb in accordance with Mosaic Law. Joseph and Mary were unable to provide a lamb due to their poverty and, therefore, gave a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. The young couple were offering back to God, what had been given to them by God. Every child is a gift from God.

The Gospel speaks of two witnesses to the events in the temple. These witnesses were the man Simeon and the prophetess Anna. The Gospel tells us that the Holy Spirit rested on Simeon. He was a man of great faith. Simeon recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah sent for the salvation of all nations and to be a light to the world. He warns Mary that a sword will pierce her very own soul. Anna was a woman of great prayer and faith. She also recognizes Jesus as the child sent for the deliverance of Jerusalem.

How is the Holy Family a model for all Christian families? This Gospel tells us that the family is a sacred institution established by God. God Himself chose to enter humanity through a poor and simple family. God obtained His humanity through the Blessed Virgin Mary. We obtain our humanity and the foundations of our faith through our families. The Holy family as a reflection of the Blessed Trinity shows us how we are to live in families of love. The Holy family expresses the joy of a life lived for the other rather than for oneself. The Holy family teaches us the joy of a life surrendered completely to God in total faith and trust. At the heart of the Holy Family is found Jesus Christ – our Lord and redeemer. We have no better model for a Christian family.

**SVP SENIORS NEW YEAR MEAL:** Will be held on 12th January 2025 in St Charles Hall at 1.00pm. All elderly and housebound are welcome. There will be a full Christmas Dinner at a cost of £5.00. If you would like to attend, please put £5.00 in an envelope and put it in the box at the back of the church, with your name, address, telephone number and any dietary requirements. Lifts are available. Donations for raffle would be welcomed. Kevin Norton.

**NEW YEAR EVES PARTY:** 31st December 2024 at 7.30pm in St Charles Hall. Ticket only event £10.00. You need to bring your own food and drink. Children are free. Buy from Peter McManamon, Julie Lee Or Tracy Wyatt.

**ST CLARE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** Applications for 2025 intake must be submitted to Essex County Council between 4th November 2024 and 15th January

2025. You no longer require a Certificate of Catholic Practice. You will need to supply the child's baptism certificate to the School. If your child has not been baptised, speak to Fr Patrick as soon as possible.

**THANK YOU:** I have received an email from Mary's Meals for the foreign currently collected by Our Lady of Light Parish. The foreign currency raised £166.66 for the charity.

**FR PATRICK:** Will be on leave from Monday 30th December 2024 to Friday 10th January 2025. Fr Gerald Gostling will be providing cover in his absence.

### THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

Saturday 28th December 2024. <i>The Holy Innocents, Mm.</i>	9.30am.	MASS: Rev'd Anthony Spooner RIP. Alison Spooner.
Saturday 28th December 2024.	11.00am to 1.00pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 28th December 2024.	11.00am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.
Saturday 28th December 2024.	11.00am to 12.00pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.
Saturday 28th December 2024.	12.00pm.	THE ANGELUS AND THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 28th December 2024. <i>Vigil of The Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph.</i>	6.00pm.	MASS: Sharon, Tom, Andrew & Mark McKurkie Intentions. Angela Cook
Sunday 29th December 2024. <i>Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph.</i>	8.30am.	MASS: Michael Palmer Intentions. Catherine.
Sunday 29th December 2024.	10.30am.	MASS: Mary Tomlin Intentions. Lindsey Abbarchi.
Saturday 4th January 2025.	9.30am.	MASS: Abbarchi & Pinney Families Intentions. Lindsey Abbarchi.
Saturday 4th January 2025.	11.00am to 1.00pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 4th January 2025.	11.00am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.

Saturday 4th January 2025.	11.00am to 12.00pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.
Saturday 4th January 2025.	12.00pm.	THE ANGELUS AND THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 4th January 2025. <i>Vigil of the Feast of The Epiphany of The Lord. (C.)</i>	6.00pm.	MASS: Danny & Julie Fitzgerald Intentions. Jean.
Sunday 5th January 2025. <i>The Feast of The Epiphany of The Lord. (C.)</i>	8.30am.	MASS: James Fili Intentions. Catherine.
Sunday 5th January 2025.	10.30am.	MASS: Julia Clarke Intentions. Lindsey Abbarchi.
Saturday 11th January 2025.	9.30am.	MASS: Pam Filmer RIP Terrence & Tara.
Saturday 11th January 2025.	11.00am to 1.00pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 11th January 2025.	11.00am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.
Saturday 11th January 2025.	11.00am to 12.00pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.
Saturday 11th January 2025.	12.00pm.	THE ANGELUS AND THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 11th January 2025. <i>Vigil of the Feast of The Baptism of The Lord. (C.)</i>	6.00pm.	MASS: Todd Family Intentions. Lindsey.
Sunday 12th January 2025. <i>The Feast of The Baptism of The Lord (C.)</i>	8.30am.	MASS: Alan Casey & Family. Catherine.
Sunday 12th January 2025.	10.30am.	MASS: Edward Lewis Intentions. Mary.