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SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER 2023 – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

SUNDAY MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH PRIEST	WEEKEND & WEEKDAYS HOLY MASS TIMES			
Today is the last day of the year 2023. As we celebrate this Sunday of The Holy Family, we are told, that to have a better life, we need to have Jesus with us. Joseph and Mary were just like any other human beings. Their family life was just the same as ours, but when Jesus came into their lives, they became <i>The Holy Family</i> . Let us try to stay with Jesus in the New Year, so that we too will have a blessed life like a Holy Family. Have a Blessed New Year 2024.	Datchet	Sat 30	06.00pm	Caroline Ansell RIP
	Eton	Sun 31	09.30am	Ciarán Eoin Ennis RIP
	Datchet	Sun 31	11.00am	Patricia Roanbee
	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God			
	Datchet	Mon 01	09.30am	Sam Pyett RIP
	Datchet	Tue 02	09.30am	Holy Souls
	Datchet	Wed 03		No Mass
	Datchet	Thu 04	09.30am	Caroline Ansell RIP
	Datchet	Fri 05		No Mass
	Rosary: Twenty minutes prior to Holy Mass on weekdays	Confession: Any Weekday after the Mass or by appointment		
	Eucharistic Adoration: Weekdays before Mass from 8.30am			

WELCOME Fr. FRANK: As Fr. Shyju is in India on his holiday, we welcome Fr. Frank McAuliffe, our former Parish Priest, who we will be with us from Saturday 30 December until the end of January.

SICK OF THE PARISH: Please pray for the sick in the Parish, especially James Ansell, Maria Cordosa, Maggie and Peter Darbin, Sheila Jones, Terri Nicoll, Fred Oufi, Nino Puma, Eithne Reynolds and Roger Stewart. If anyone would like to have a priest visit them or others who are sick, kindly speak to Fr. Frank.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: I wish to offer my sincere thanks for the Christmas cards and greetings I have received, and for your most generous Offering on Christmas Day. It was far beyond what I could have expected. The only repayment I can make is a promise to keep you all in my prayer, and that I will do... Fr. Shyju.

THANK YOU: As we come to the end of this year, I would like to thank the many people who have helped in keeping our Parish alive and vibrant during the year. Our Parish Council has been a huge help in dealing with the various issues involved in running the Parish and in their suggestions for improvement. Each one of the members has taken responsibility for a specific area of parish life – finance, administration, catechetics, hall and nursery, health and safety, parish security and maintenance. The flower committee - though small- has contributed greatly towards keeping the Churches looking at their best. The organists, too, have helped in choosing suitable hymns and encouraging greater participation in them. Our thanks, also, to the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers and altar servers. We cannot forget those involved in producing the newsletter each week and in managing our website, and the Parish owes a lot to those who have given their time to organizing the tea/coffee mornings on Sundays. There are others, too, who remain largely silent, but whose valuable service is greatly appreciated. To all, I would like to say a sincere 'thank you' for your encouragement and support. May God reward you for your service to him in strengthening the good community spirit we enjoy. Let us serve the Church and the Lord in the New Year too with more enthusiasm.

Have a Blessed New Year 2024. Fr. Shyju.

PARISH CHRISTMAS: I would like to thank everyone who helped over Christmas to decorate our Churches and serve our Parish community in various different ways, enabling us to keep the festivity of Christmas. May God bless you all.

100 CLUB DRAW was held at the Christmas Carol Concert. The winners of the Draw for the months of October, November and December 2023, will receive a cheque for £100. Congratulations to Michael Torpey, Helen Niffikeer and Kathy & Noel O'Donovan. If you wish to join the 100 Club, please email Pamela office@staugustines.org.uk The subscription is £1 per week, i.e. £52 per year and there is a monthly prize of £100.

VOCATIONS CALENDAR: We have received a few copies of the Diocesan Vocation Calendar. They cost £5 each. All proceeds from their sale will be used for the promotion of priestly vocations across the Diocese.

PREPARING FOR THE RITE OF ELECTION 2024: The Liturgy Commission and Mission Northampton are offering a Zoom session on Thursday 25 January from 7.30-8.45pm for clergy, RCIA group leaders, catechists, liturgists [not catechumens/ candidates] to explore the Rite and prepare for this year's celebration which will be held on 18 February at 3pm in the Cathedral with Bishop David. To register your place for the session please contact Mgr. Kevin McGinnell at:

frkevin.mcginnell@northamptondiocese.org . You will then receive a confirmation of your booking and the Zoom details you will need to join the session.

CENTENARY JUBILEE OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH: Our Chapel was established in 1923 and 2023-2024 is our Parish Centenary Jubilee Year. We are planning a Parish celebration with our Bishop on **SUNDAY 25 AUGUST 2024**. More details will follow, but in the meantime please save the date.

THANK YOU FROM SLOUGH FOODBANK: *"We would like to thank you for your kind support and recent donations in November to Slough Foodbank, which weighed a total of **43Kg**. Each gift makes an enormous difference to families and individuals who are most in need in our local community."*

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE FOODBANK

The need for donations of food and toiletries for the Slough Foodbank remains great. Please try and donate items to the Foodbank on a regular basis. Boxes for donations can be found in each Church.

The Foodbank's December Shopping List states the items needed are:

Food Urgent: tinned spaghetti, tinned fruit, tinned tuna, long life fruit juice, tinned carrots, long-life sponge puddings, long-life rice puddings / custard, cooking sauces, tea

Always required: long-life milk, instant mash

Please note they have a 12 month supply of PASTA. It is NOT NEEDED

Toiletries & Basic Items Urgent: washing up liquid, shampoo, deodorant, shaving foam/gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, size 5 nappies

Always required: toilet rolls, strong carrier bags