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**Parish Priest:** Fr. Gregory Marchwiński

**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Elvis Jose

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**The Holy Family**

**31st December 2023**

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## **MASS TIMES AT ST. EDWARD'S, KETTERING**

- Tuesday - 10.00 am
- Wednesday - 10.00 am
- Thursday - 7.00 pm (*This evening Mass is with music on screen*)
- Friday - 7.00 pm
- Saturday Vigil Mass - 6.30 pm ***After Mass - confession on request***
- Sunday Early Mass - 8.30 am
- Sunday Family Mass - 10.30 am

## **MASS TIMES AT BURTON LATIMER**

The **1st** and **3rd** Sunday of every month - **9.00 am**

## **MASS TIMES AT DESBOROUGH**

The **2nd** and **4th** Sunday of every month - **9.00 am**

## **MASS TIMES AT ROTHWELL**

The **1st** and **3rd** Sunday of every month - **12.15 pm**

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*For the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, please check the newsletter*

# *FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY*



*O Holy Family,  
bless and protect  
all the families of the world*

## THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONS

- Saturday**     **06.30 pm** - Packie Kiernan RIP /  
                     - Irena and Tomasz Nalepa remembrance of wedding anniv.
- Sunday**        **08.30 am** - Teresa and John Antill, Saunders,  
                     Mannion and Blackman family RIP  
                     **10.30 am** - Eileen and William McNulty RIP / - June Noone 80<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Monday**        **Private Mass** - Julia Roberts RIP
- Tuesday**        **09.30 am** - *Exposition and Adoration*  
                     **10.00 am** - Maureen Davies RIP
- Wednesday**   **10.00 am** - For the Holy Souls
- Thursday**      **07.00 pm** - Domenico and Filomena Bernardi RIP,  
                     Valentina Di'Cicco / - Jom Makkil special intention
- Friday**         **06.00 pm** - *First Friday Adoration and Benediction*  
                     **07.00 pm** - Mark Anthony, Michelle & Antonio Villanueva RIP

+ + +

## Epiphany of the Lord



- Saturday**     **06.30 pm** - Cathy and Tom Murphy intentions, 90<sup>th</sup> birthday /  
                     - Leokadia Hyla, birthday and get-well int.
- Sunday**        **08.30 am** - Maureen Davies RIP  
                     **09.00 am** - / **Burton Latimer** / - For the Parish  
                     **10.30 am** - For the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kano /  
                     - Bonifacio Somera death anniversary  
                     **12.15 pm** - / **Rothwell** / - For the Parish

*To request a Mass Intention please contact the parish office.*

*To respect people's wishes, there has usually been only one Mass Intention per Mass (This Intention might encompass even several people, but it will have been requested by one individual). There are occasional instances though, when there need to be two separate Intentions at a Mass. When this arises, I would be grateful for your understanding.*



**A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM  
FR GREGORY, FR ELVIS AND CANON JOHN**



We priests would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers in all our Churches, who helped to make Christmas such a well organised and fitting tribute to the birth of our Lord Jesus. We would also like to thank you for your generosity and for all the cards and gifts we have received. Your kindness means a lot to us. Thank you.

As we enter 2024, we wish you all a very happy and blessed year ahead. May we deepen our faith and love for our Lord, Jesus, the Christ!

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**



- + **Gordon Edwards** - His funeral will be held at the Crematorium on Thursday,  
**4<sup>th</sup> January at 1 pm.**
- + **Joan Murphy** - Her funeral will be held at the Crematorium on Friday,  
**5<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30 am.**
- + **Mary Ellen Roberts** - Her funeral will be held at Holy Trinity, Desborough  
on Monday, **8<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30 am.**

*In our prayers, let us remember our deceased parishioners, family members and friends. Let us especially remember those who have recently passed away.*

## CHERISHING MEMORIES



The New Year is upon us. A time to cherish last year's events, regret some of our actions but look forward to new challenges, to take stock and plan. In the verses from Luke this week, the Mother of Jesus similarly takes the time to reflect on the events of her Son's birth. In doing so, she cherished the memories mothers have of their first experience of child birth. And she cherished the message that her Son would be the Messiah and Lord of all. So, following the Feast of the Holy Family, the Church begins January with a Feast Day for the Mother of God. The verses from Luke (2:16-20) complete the ark of three angelic visitations in His infancy narratives: Gabriel's message to Zechariah, his message to Mary, and the angel's message to the shepherds. In each case, the message results in a reaction. When Zechariah refused to believe the message that he could be a father at an old age, he was stuck silent and only regained his speech after naming his son "John." The reaction of the people there was holy fear. In contrast, Mary accepted the words of the angel. When she visited Elizabeth her cousin, the Spirit moved Elizabeth and the Son in her womb to recognise the Messiah. In Luke 2:9-12, an angel appeared to announce the birth of the Messiah to some shepherds who were terrified at first. They reacted in two ways: rushing to confirm the sight of the "babe wrapped in swaddling clothes" and a passing on of the Good News. The result would be a holy fear, an awe of God's presence and activity.

Luke had an interest in the low and the outcast. The audience for the message were the least in society: shepherds. Despite their scriptural and pastoral image, shepherds were in those times held in disdain, for most were hired to watch the flocks of the rich. Without personal financial investment, these hired hands had the reputation as cowards in the face of trouble; many were hired because they lacked any other employable skills. And how would the message be confirmed? The shepherds would see a young family with a newborn. These images were antithetical to common expectations.

Many Jews anticipated the Messiah to be born in the midst of luxury; many expected the news of the Messiah would be confirmed by the leadership in Jerusalem (i.e. the Sanhedrin or the Temple priests) and spread from the leaders to the people. Luke painted a much different picture. The shepherds spread the Good News and Mary treasured up these words, pondering them together in her heart. Even in her silence, Mary believed the message of the angel. She bore Messiah and Lord into the world. She was the first follower and a symbol for all of us. As we reflect on the New Year and plan our resolutions, let us consider Mary's place in *our* hearts and on our faith journey. She is the Mother of God and our model for living the Christian life. Let us ask for Mary's prayers in our renewed efforts this year.

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### **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**



Registration for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 9 am**, in the Parish Hall. Children must be in year 3 or older.

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### **SEMINARIAN RENVER IN THE PARISH**



In January, we will be hosting a seminarian, who started his seminary formation this year at the Royal English College in Valladolid in Spain. His name is **Renver** and his family is originally from the Philippines, although they are now living in Luton. I am sure you will all make him feel welcome.

## COFFEE MORNINGS



The next **Wednesday Coffee Morning** will be run by **The Burton Latimer Community** after 10.00 am Mass on **3<sup>rd</sup> January**.

## COFFEE MORNINGS 2024

On **3<sup>rd</sup> January** - **The Burton Latimer Community**

On **7<sup>th</sup> February** - **The Desborough Community**

On **6<sup>th</sup> March** - **The Rothwell Community**

On **3<sup>rd</sup> April** - **Legion of Mary**

*Any funds raised will go to the communities for flowers and other necessities.*

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## A NEW CARD READER



Parishioners regularly ask me about the possibility of donating to the Parish via credit/debit cards. The reason for this is that we carry much less cash on us, and it would be more convenient for some parishioners to support the Parish in this way. To give people this opportunity, we will install a Donation Station with a card reader at St Edward's Church. This is initially on a 3 months trial, to see how helpful and successful it will be. This device will cost the Parish £15 per month to rent. As always, I thank you for your generosity and please feel free to speak to me if you have questions or concerns regarding the security and use of this reader. Once we have a sim card the 'dona' station can be activated and it will stand next to the statue of the Sacred Heart.



## AN INITIATIVE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PARISH



*Youth Group at St Edward's in 1990*

Our Parish is very blessed with a number of groups and societies. However, most of them are for adults. We are hoping to launch a specific group for our young people on Friday, **5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 6.30 pm until 8.00 pm**. I want this to be a fun time with games, competitions, art work, and there will be always something delicious to eat. The main goal of these meetings would be to learn more about our Faith, to build a strong relationship with God and to make friendships with other young people, which could last a lifetime. Initially, these meetings will be held on the first Friday of the month in the parish hall. They will be open for those who are between 12 - 17 years. If these meetings are successful, we might organise days away. My long-term aim is that as these young people mature, we will be able to set up a group for young adults. I ask all parents to support this initiative and encourage their children to attend our Parish Youth Group.

### AN IMPORTANT UPDATE

If you would like your son or daughter to take part in youth group activities, please collect a registration form at the sacristy before or after any Mass. We can also email you a form if you wish, so you can print it off and fill it in.

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### UCM

The Union of Catholic Mothers AGM will be held on Monday, 8th January 2024 at 1.30pm in St Edwards Hall. All members are required to attend this important meeting. Anyone interested in joining the UCM is also very welcome



## CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST - CAFOD



You will be aware of the terrible conflict in Israel and Gaza. It is easy to feel helpless from such a distance. CAFOD have produced three ways we can respond; prayer, donating and sending a message to our Foreign Secretary. Find out more here:

<https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/israeli-palestinian-crisis-how-you-can-help>

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## BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



If you would like your child to be baptised, please contact Fr Gregory. Parents who would like their children to be baptised are invited to attend Baptismal Preparation on the first Monday of the month at **7 pm** at St Edward's Church. The next meeting will be on Monday, **8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

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## A PLACE OF CALM



**Dear Parents of our youngest children**, we realise how difficult it is for you when your children get 'lively' or 'upset'. Therefore, we invite you to take them upstairs to the organ loft, which is above the sacristy. It is a safe place with a triple sound-proof window overlooking the altar. There is a speaker up there, so you will be able to take an active part in the Mass and your children will become calm and comfortable. Please take care on the stone steps.

## PLANNING YOUR WEDDING



If you are planning to get married abroad or at St Edward's Church, you must give us at least six months' notice. This is to ensure that all the preparation that couples are required to do, and the pre-marriage courses are completed along with the necessary paperwork. You are always welcome to approach me after any Mass, so that you can begin making wedding plans.

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### ST EDWARD'S PARISH FACEBOOK GROUP



**The Parish of St. Edward, RC Church, Kettering.**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2762598427183322/>

**St. Nicholas Owen Catholic Church - Burton Latimer.**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/809856073037388/>

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### PARISH CALL AND CARE



The Parish is continuing with its "Parish Call and Care scheme" to support isolated and elderly parishioners. If you are someone who would like to receive calls, from a fellow parishioner, or know of someone who you feel would appreciate such a call, please contact Fr Gregory in the first instance on 01536 512497 or email [parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org) with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number) [parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org) with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number)

## USEFUL LINKS

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline** 0808 2000 247

**Refuge website** <https://www.refuge.org.uk/>

**Kettering Foodbank** 1 Horse Market, Unit 1B, Kettering, NN16 0DG (side entrance at the top of Market Street) Tel. 07709 741353 <https://www.ketteringfoodbank.org/>

**A list of free food outlets in Kettering** (updated March, 2022):

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Kettering-Food-Outlets-Virus-Update-no32.pdf>

**Mary's Meals** <https://youtu.be/llqBIXrVJzw> / **Right to Life**  
<https://righttolife.org.uk>

**Redundancy Coaching** <http://www.vitaeopus.co.uk> provides free online information and advice about Job Hunting, Self-Employment and Active Retirement for Parishioners adversely affected workwise by the pandemic. Please pass the link on to anyone who may find it useful.

**Safe Spaces** We welcome contact from anyone hurt by abuse, whether that be through your experience within the Church or elsewhere. **Safe Spaces** is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England or the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

[safeguarding@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding@northamptondiocese.org)

Please have a look at this page from the Northampton Diocese website:  
[Northampton Diocese Resources](#) which gives further information and contact details.

**Safe Spaces** is an independent and confidential support service for adults who have been abused by someone in the Church. Please see parish noticeboards for further details.

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## WEEKLY/MONTHLY DONATIONS



If there are any Parishioners who would like to join the weekly box system / gift aid scheme, then please do let us know by completing a form, available from the porch table and putting it on the collection plate or through the Presbytery letterbox. To those

who already donate through the Gift Aid Scheme, please be reminded that if your tax situation has changed or you have moved house, then please let us know.

There are several other ways of donating as follows;

- **Online** This can be done via the Diocesan website which can be found at <https://northamptondiocese.org/>. Scroll down to find the 'Donate' button and follow the instructions on the Catholic Diocese of Northampton Virgin money giving page. By indicating in the notes section of the donate page that the donation is for "**St. Edward's Kettering**" your donation will go into our parish account with the diocese, and will at the same time help our diocese as a whole. Please note that there is the facility to Gift Aid any donation to your parish if you are a taxpayer.
- **Standing Order** via your own bank. Alternatively, you can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using your online bank account. The information required to make the donation is as follows. Bank; NatWest Sort Code; 60-06-11 Account Name; 46898093 Account Name; Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Payment Ref; St. Edward's, Kettering
- **Make a donation to your own parish over the phone** - Each 'Tuesday' between 10.00am and 4.00pm, a member of the finance team will be available at Bishop's House to take your calls to donate to your parish community over the telephone. To donate simply call 01604 712065 with your debit or credit card details. (If you get the answering machine just leave your name and number NOT bank details and you will be called back). You can make a one-off donation or regular weekly or monthly payments, on any Tuesday until further notice.
- You can also support the Parish by **making a donation through the letterbox** of the presbytery at any time.

**Thank you for any help you can give.**

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## **YOUR LEGACY**

Your Legacy - Invest in the future of your parish and our Diocese. Gifts in your Will are a memorable and lasting way you can continue to support the Church's ministry and mission and help meet the needs of future generations. Please consider gifts to the Church and Catholic charities next time you update your Will. For more information, pick up a bookmark; contact your parish office, alternatively, go to [www.northamptondiocese.org/your-legacy](http://www.northamptondiocese.org/your-legacy) or contact Brian Emmanuel on 01604 600337 or [brian.emmanuel@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:brian.emmanuel@northamptondiocese.org)

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## DIOCESAN E-NEWSLETTER

Our diocesan e-news is now published fortnightly.

Keep up to date with news and opportunities from across our diocese by signing up to receive updates straight into your inbox. Simply visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/#signup>

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**UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY**

# The Gift that keeps on giving: the Universe Catholic Weekly

**The ONLY weekly Catholic newspaper in the UK**

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The advertisement features a background of Christmas gifts and lights. A preview of the newspaper is shown on the right, with headlines including 'Public say churches must not close again', 'Cardinal talks tactics', and 'Pope in tribune on funeral of tragic baby girl'. A small box in the top right corner of the newspaper preview says 'Subscribe today Click here and pay just £20 for 13 weeks'.

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