



Saturday 27 th December	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 28 th December	11.00am	Josephine Griffin
Tuesday 30 th December	9.30am	Peace in the World
Wednesday 31 st December	7.00pm	Holy Souls
Thursday 1st January New Year's Day	11.00am	John and Robina Roscoe
Saturday 3 rd January	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 4 th January	11.00am	Ken and Anne Fidler

Sunday Liturgy

Proper of the Mass

Profession of Faith

Nicene

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Preface

Nativity I

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Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer 2

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The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December



For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. "From all eternity God chose with infinite wisdom the woman who would be the Mother of His divine Son. To prepare for the Word Incarnate a spotless and holy tabernacle, God created Mary in grace and endowed her from the moment of her conception with all the perfections suited to her exalted dignity."

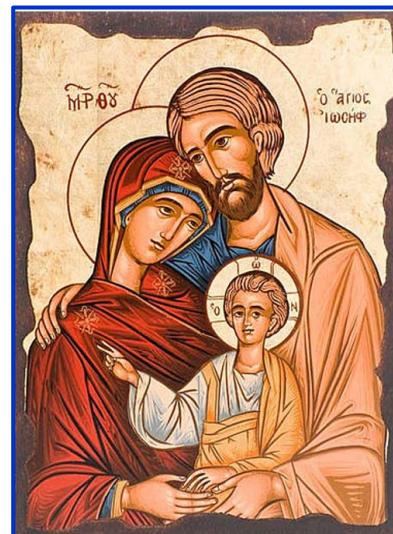


**The Roman Catholic Parish of
Our Lady Help of Christians**
Portico Lane, Prescot, L34 2QT

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Feast of the Holy Family (A) 28th December 2025



The Holy Family

This Sunday, we remember and celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The focus of attention leading up to and during the celebration of the Nativity is mainly on Jesus. This Sunday, we acknowledge the family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus, a model for all families - but, like all families they had their share of sorrows, anxieties, misfortunes and difficulties. It was with deep faith and trust in God that they didn't just survive but rather overcame the chaos that surrounded their lives. Although the challenges they faced were different from those families face today, the church reminds us that regardless of those challenges, we must try at all times to keep deep faith and trust in God. The time between Christmas and New Year is usually family time, a good time to think about what family means. A time to connect with and enjoy the company of those with whom we have family ties, especially those who are alone or struggling in some way. No one's family is perfect but regardless of this we owe our family everything and so on this feast of the Holy Family, let us ask for God's guidance as we pray in grateful thanks for our own parents and families. Let us also pray for all those we know who are experiencing the pain and difficulty of problems in their married and family life. Pope Francis says about the family: 'every family is always a light, however faint, amid the darkness of this world.' Even in the darkness that can go with family life, in the middle of family conflicts, divorce, crime and addiction, there is a light in the love of people's hearts. May the Holy Family of Nazareth bless, guide and protect all our families, now and always.



Offertory Collection/Donations

If you do not have any cash you can donate by scanning this QR code with a smart phone.

Thank You!

Fr Andrew and Deacon Tom are extremely grateful for the many cards, gifts and good wishes they received from parishioners over Christmas. They really are deeply appreciated. Thank you. And thanks to the many people who volunteer in our parish in so many different ways. We are very lucky to have so much wonderful support, which includes Organists/Musicians, Safeguarding, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Gardeners, Church Shop, Catechists, Bereavement Group, Church Cleaners, Parish Administration including Finance and Gift Aid, Missio Boxes and Cafod Co-ordinators, Church Flowers, Parish Hall, 50+ Group, Fundraisers, Website and more.

And thank you to all our sick and housebound parishioners who continue to support us with their prayers.

There will be an opportunity in the New Year to thank all our volunteers – more information next week.

A Prayer for Families

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen our families in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal. May the mutual love and respect of families be a sign of Christian life here and for all eternity. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Portico Knitters and Stitchers Group

We intend to start a knitting & stitching group for Parishioners, here at Our Lady's. So, how about sharing your skills to complete various Church projects? If you are interested please come to an initial meeting to discuss projects, which could include new Altar cloths and other Church linen.

Meeting in Church Hall on **Thursday 29th January at 2pm**. Looking forward to seeing you.
Angela Steward & Lynn Jones

Peace Sunday

Peace Sunday will be held on Sunday 18th January. The Bishops' Conference encourage us all to use the day to reflect on the Pope's message for the World Day of Peace on the 1st January. Pope Leo has said that the theme for his message which will be 'Peace be with you all: towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace'.

First Holy Communions 2026

Parents and guardians of Baptised children in Year 4 and above who wish to make their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are welcome to join the "With You Always" programme. Please call Denise Liptrot (preferably after 6.00pm) on 07726 286 363 as soon as possible with your name and contact details.

New Year's Prayers

During Mass at 11.00am on Thursday January 1st there will be a short service to welcome the New Year.

Confirmations in 2026

Anyone in Year 8 or above can now register to be Confirmed in 2026. Register: www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk

Feast Days This Week

Sunday

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Monday

St Paul of Latros - Byzantine hermit, sometimes listed as "the Younger." Paul was born at Pergamos, near Smyrna, in Asia Minor, the son of an officer in the Byzantine army. His father was killed in battle, and after his mother died, he became a monk in a community on Mt. Olympus in Greece, with his brother, Basil. Paul later left the monastery and became a hermit on Mount Latros in Bithynia, Asia Minor. Soon he attracted followers, and Paul was compelled to organize them into a laura, or community. After twelve years, Paul departed Mount Latros and settled on the island of Samos to live in a cave. More followers gathered around him and Paul oversaw the creation of several more lauras before returning to Latros, where he died after years of prayer and mortifications.

Tuesday

St Sabinus - Martyr with St. Exuperantius, Marcellus, Venustian, and companions. They were put to death at Spoleto, Italy, during the persecutions of the Church under Emperor Diocletian. Sabinus was a bishop (he is claimed by several cities, including Assisi, Spoleto, and Faenza); Exuperantius and Marcellus were his deacons; and Venustian and others were converts. The martyrs were brought before the local governor, and Sabinus converted many and cured a blind child.

Wednesday

St Sylvester - He became Pope in the year 314, a time of relative peace, expansion and consolidation for the Church. He was a wise ruler and defender of his people against the Arian and Donatist heresies. The Council of Nicea was held during his pontificate in the year 325. He died in the year 335.

Thursday

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Friday

St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen - Two close friends and saints of the Eastern Church. Basil was born in the year 330 at Caesarea. He became a hermit but was made Bishop of Caesarea in 370. He fought against the Arians and wrote many notable works, in particular the monastic rule that bears his name and is still followed in many Eastern monasteries. He died on 1st January 379.

Saturday

Gregory was born in the year 330 near Nazianzus. He followed his friend Basil into the wilderness but he too was ordained. He was elected Bishop of Constantinople in 381 but because of factional fighting within the Church he retired to Nazianzus, where he died on 25th January 389. He is known as "Gregory the Theologian" in honour of his learning and eloquence.

St Zosimus and St Athanasius - They were Martyrs in Cilicia (modern Turkey). They were executed during the persecutions of Emperor Diocletian (r. 284-305). According to one account, Zosimus was tortured and Athanasius, a witness, was so moved that he converted to the faith. Both were then tortured but survived and died in peace after being released. They became hermits.