



# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH, DARWEN

Parish Priest: Mgr. Peter Wilkinson

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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

27<sup>th</sup> December 2009

## This week in St. Joseph's Parish

Sunday	9.00 a.m.	Sunday mass – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Monday	10.00 a.m.	Mass – <i>The Holy Innocents, martyrs</i>
Tuesday	9.00 a.m.	Mass – St. Thomas à Becket, bishop and martyr
Wednesday	9.00 a.m.	Mass
	11.00 a.m.	Funeral service for Mary Haworth, R.I.P.
	7.00 p.m.	Bible study group
Thursday	10.00 a.m.	Requiem mass for Michael Burns, R.I.P.
Friday	12.00 noon	Mass ( <i>New Year's Day</i> ) – <i>The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</i>
Saturday		<i>Note: no morning mass or confessions on Saturday</i>
	6.15 p.m.	Vigil mass for Sunday
Sunday	9.00 a.m.	Sunday mass – The Epiphany of the Lord

*The church is open for private prayer each weekday morning from 9 a.m. until midday.  
Volunteers to help maintain this service are always welcome.*

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## Message from Fr. Peter

Once again Christmas at St. Joseph's has been the best ever. That is because it is the current one: the one where we are at, the one where we can receive the blessings of our God into our lives now and the one in which we can make our return to him in love and service, of Him, his Church and his People.

I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to contribute to this year's celebration. In particular I would like to thank the young parishioners who accepted the invitation to make decorations and who, with their families, turned up on Christmas Eve to help decorate the church.

As I said at the masses, the church is only here at Christmas because people work hard all year round keeping it here. I would therefore also like to thank the people who give their time generously every day, preparing the church for services, serving mass, keeping things in order and locking up. I would like to thank the people who give time, often many hours, each week staffing the church to keep it open each morning, counting the collections, dealing with Gift Aid, organising the 200 club, editing the newsletter, cleaning brasses, doing the laundry, sewing, arranging flowers, sorting votive candles, vacuuming and dusting, providing refreshments and bacon butties, organising and running the repository shop, running Rainbows, Brownies, Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts, preparing and running Children's Liturgy and the Sacramental Programme.

I would like to thank the people who give many hours as necessary pruning bushes, repairing and painting window frames, replacing slates, cleaning gutters, cleaning drains, making general repairs, painting both for maintenance and for decoration, painting for enhancement of liturgy, repairing the flat roof, doing plumbing work, cleaning the hall and the church and reception area, collecting litter and taking rubbish to the tip. Thanks are also extended to the people who organise social occasions, dances, quizzes, concerts and fundraising activities such as the Christmas Fair and raffle. (*continued over...*)

## *(... continued)* Message from Fr. Peter

I would like to thank the people who exercise ministries in the liturgy: reading, as Eucharistic ministers both in church and in visiting those who cannot come to church, the organists and other occasional musicians, altar servers, people who come especially to welcome visitors at funerals and baptisms. I would like to thank the collectors, the people who gather up and tidy the hymn books and mass sheets, and the people who arrange rotas for readers and Eucharistic ministers.

I would like to thank the groups in the church who meet to discuss the weekly scripture readings and those who meet as the S.V.P. and the Knights of Saint Columba. I would like to thank the parishioners who give their time and expertise to serve as school governors. I would like to thank the people who make other people feel welcome and valued, and I would like to thank the people who speak words of encouragement to me and to others so that we inspire each other to continue in the Lord's work.

I would like to thank everyone who contributes by their presence here, which encourages others to continue to come. Most of us are encouraged in our faith by others we see in church, who probably do not know that they are an anchor to our faith.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing generous financial contributions: for your mass offerings, for legacies and for spontaneous generous gifts when we have particular needs.

There are just so many people who make St. Joseph's happen; too many to be named individually and often they are people who go unnoticed and not adequately appreciated. To those I've listed and to others whom I will have regrettably omitted, I give my own sincere thanks and the thanks of the parish.

Thanks, Happy Christmas again, and a very Happy New Year.

*Fr. Peter*

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## Mass intentions received

**Anniversaries:** Josephine Scholes (24<sup>th</sup> December), Beatrice Ellen Holden (27<sup>th</sup> December), James Culshaw (31<sup>st</sup> December), Peter Taylor (4<sup>th</sup> January), Thomas Taylor

**Birthday anniversary:** Ronald Taylor (4<sup>th</sup> January)

**Christmas remembrance:** Brian Entwistle – 2 masses, Jean Bolan, the McIver family, the Holden family, the Smith family

**Other intentions:** John Edwin Bentley – 10 masses, the Waddington family, the Entwistle family, the holy family, Stephen Bolan, Elizabeth Bolan, Terry Harwood, William Fay, Winifred Byrne – 2 masses

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## Last week's collections

Offertory collection                      £418.84

Thank you

## 200 Club winners

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	£40	5	Eileen Connolly
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	£10	143	Pauline Culshaw
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	£5	142	Carla Broadbent

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## Ministries

	This week		Next week	
	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<i>Readers</i>	D. Ross B. Hughes	D. Riding A. Gibbs	W. Godwin A. Gibbs	T. Thompson P. Cooney
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	A. Barker A. Gibbs P. Ainscough K. Hine P. Wardle	D. Jarrett B. Melia P. Cooney M. Alvarez J. Briggs	M. Saynor T. McIver R. Knowles A. Barker A. Gibbs	D. Forbes F. Boudjeko A. J. Gordon G. Brindle D. Jarrett

New lists for readers and Eucharistic ministers are now available in the sacristy