

# *St Teresa & St John Southworth Churches, Cleveleys*

Fr Chris Cousens—Phone: 853340

Rev Bernard Ward (Deacon) (Tel: 858346)

Enquiries for St John Southworth: Phone: 853340

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<http://www.st-teresas-church.co.uk>

Email: [st.teresas.cleveleys@gmail.com](mailto:st.teresas.cleveleys@gmail.com)

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## **Sunday : The Second Sunday after Christmas**

**Contents:** The Gospel Reflection  
Notices (Including details of Live-Streamed Mass)  
Reflections for the coming week

### **Gospel: John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word:  
The word was with God  
And the word was God.  
He was with God in the beginning.  
Through him all things came to be,  
Not one thing had its being but through him.  
All that came to be had life in him  
And that life was the light of men,  
A light that shines in the dark,  
A light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
As a witness to speak for the light,  
So that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
Only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light  
That enlightens all men;  
And he was coming into the world.  
He was in the world  
That had its being through him,  
And the world did not know him.  
He came to his own domain  
And his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who did accept him  
He gave power to become children of God,  
To all who believe in the name of him  
Who was born not out of human stock  
Or urge of the flesh  
Or will of man  
But of God himself.  
The Word was made flesh,  
He lived among us,  
And we saw his glory,  
The glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,  
Full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims:  
'This is the one of whom I said:  
He who comes after me ranks before me  
Because he existed before me.'

Indeed from his fullness we have, all of us, received - yes grace in return for grace,  
Since through the Law was given through Moses,  
Grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.  
No one has ever seen God,  
It is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart who has made him known.

### **Gospel Reflection : Illumination - And Not Just In Blackpool**

This weekend the famous words of Minnie Louise Haskins come to mind. Although they were quoted by King George VI in his Christmas broadcast in an even darker winter than ours, after the 2nd World War had begun in 1939, they may now have a significance for us like at no other time during the rest of our lives : -

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year : ' Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown', and he replied : 'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.' "

As we embark together into a New Year, we embrace not only Christianity and its way of life, but also Christ and the hand he holds out to us all. A bright, or brighter, New Year to everyone!

### **NOTICES**

**We Remember In Our Prayers** Chris Isherwood whose Funeral Mass is at St. Teresa's this Tuesday, 5th January, and John (Jack) Orrell whose Funeral Service is at Carleton Crematorium on Wednesday, 13th January. We remember them and their families, and all those whose anniversaries are at this time. May they be in God's peace.

**The Feast of Epiphany,** which in recent years has been celebrated on the nearest Sunday to 6th January, is this year being celebrated on 6th January itself. So next Wednesday there is Mass for the Epiphany at St. John Southworth and St. Teresa's, **both** at 9.30 am ("with a little help from our friend!")

**Sleeping Bag Appeal** Peter and Carolyn Gara write : - "On behalf of the Salvation Army (Bridge Project) we would like to offer a massive thank you for the overwhelming response you made to the request for sleeping bags for the homeless at Christmas There was also a generous gift of 1,000 beakers from a well-known coffee cafe. These were also urgently needed to enable hot drinks and 'cup-a-soups' to be given out to those in need. And any money that was given went towards buying food. Again, a massive thank you to all those who helped. You can be sure that a lot of people felt warmer this Christmas and New Year because of you." And thank you Peter and Carolyn, because none of that would have taken place without you working hard to organise it!

**Although We Are Now Under Tier 4 Regulations, Those Regulations Still Allow Our Churches To Be Open For Mass.** As always we try hard to keep you safe in church, but please, please consider your own personal position, and the position of those you live with or who you may meet, before leaving home.

## **Times of Masses :**

### **St. Teresa's**

Saturdays (Vigil Mass) : 6.30 pm. Sunday's : 9.00 am, and 10.30 am  
Weekdays : Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30 am

### **St. John Southworth**

Sundays : 5 pm  
Weekdays : Wednesday : 9.30 am

## **Details of Live-Streamed Masses from St. Teresa's**

This Sunday we are live-streaming Mass at 10.30 am. This is by Zoom from St. Teresa's. To attend this Sunday from your laptop/computer, first go to this Parish website :

[www.st-teresas-church.co.uk](http://www.st-teresas-church.co.uk)

When the front page comes up, click on to the '**Newsletter**' bar at the top. Then when you want to join the Mass at 10.30 am this Sunday, please click on to this following code. (You may have to wait a short while to be connected) :

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84778040744?pwd=NjQrSm02OFQ3SUFkGcHlXNlNpMGhZQT09>

## **A New Year Blessing**

*May the joy, peace and love of Christ come and be with you  
Throughout the coming New Year.  
May God's grace and blessing be with you  
And flow through you to others.  
May you be filled with strength and wisdom  
That you may bring help and healing  
To those you love and reach out to.  
Know the Lord is at your side as you journey through 2021.*

## **Daily Reflections for this week**

### **Monday (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)**

An image needs a living object, and a copy can only be formed from a model. Either man forms himself on the god of his own invention, or the true and living God moulds the human form into his image. There must be a complete transformation, but how is it to be affected? Since fallen man cannot rediscover and assimilate the form of God, the only way is for God to take the form of man and come to him. The Son of God who dwelt in the form of God the Father, lay aside that form. He has become like us so that we should be like him. And in the incarnation, the whole human race recovers the dignity of the image of God. In his own person, Christ restored the image of God in all that bears a human form.

### **Scripture (Matthew 2:1-2,7-12)**

*After Jesus had been born, suddenly some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east asking 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' Having listened to what king Herod had to say, they set out. And suddenly the star they had seen rising went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

### **Tuesday (2nd Vatican Council, 'Revelation')**

Then, after speaking in many places and varied ways through the prophets, God last of all in these days has spoken to us by his son. For he sent his son, the Eternal Word, who enlightens all, so that he might dwell among us and tell us the innermost realities about God. Jesus Christ, therefore, speaks the words of God and completes the work of salvation which his Father gave him to do. To see Jesus is to see his Father.

### **Scripture (Hebrews 1:1-3)**

*At many moments in the past and by many means, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our time, the final days, he has spoken to us in the person of his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things and through whom he made the ages. He is the reflection of God's glory and bears the impress of God's own being, sustaining all things by his powerful command; and now that he has purged sins away, he has taken his seat at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high.*

### **Wednesday (Pope Leo the Great)**

In the person of Jesus Christ, humility was embraced by majesty, weakness by strength, mortality by eternity. And in order to pay the debt of our condition, the invulnerable nature was united to a passing nature. The 'self-emptying' by which he who is invisible rendered himself visible and the Creator and Lord of all chose to be mortal, was a condescension of pity, not a loss of power. So he who made the human race while remaining 'in the form of God' was the same one who was made human 'in the form of a servant'. Just as the 'form of God' does not take away the 'form of a servant', so the 'form of a servant' does not detract from the 'form of God'.

### **Scripture (Colossians 1:13-16,18-19)**

*It is he who has rescued us from the ruling force of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him we enjoy our freedom, the forgiveness of sin. He is the image of the unseen God, the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, thrones, ruling forces, sovereignties, powers – all things were created through him and for him. He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that he should be supreme in every way; because God wanted all fullness to be found in him and through him to reconcile all things to him.*

### **Thursday (Martin Luther King)**

There is so much frustration in the world because we have relied on gods rather than God. We have genuflected before the god of science, only to find that it has given the atomic bomb, producing fears and anxieties that science can never mitigate. We have worshipped the god of pleasure, only to discover that thrills play out and sensations are short lived. We have bowed before the god of money only to learn that in a world of possible depressions, money is a rather uncertain deity. These transitory gods are not able to save or bring happiness to the human heart. Only God is able. It is faith in him that we must rediscover.

### **Scripture (2Cor. 4:3-6)**

*If our gospel seems to be veiled at all, it is so to those on their way to destruction, the unbelievers whose minds have been blinded by the god of this world, so that they cannot see shining the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. It is not ourselves that we are proclaiming, but Christ Jesus as the Lord. It is God who said 'Let light shine out of darkness,' that has shone into our hearts to enlighten them with the knowledge of God's glory, the glory on the face of Christ.*

### **Friday (C.S.Lewis)**

It is always shocking to meet life where we thought we were alone. An 'impersonal God' - well and good. A subjective God of beauty, truth and goodness, inside our own heads, better still. A formless life-force surging through us, a vast power which we can tap—best of all. But God himself, alive, pulling at the other end of the cord—that is another matter. There comes a point when people who have been dabbling in religion ('Man's search for God!') suddenly draw back. Supposing we really found him? We never meant it to come to *that!* Worse still, supposing he found us?

### **Scripture (Eph. 3:8-12)**

*I, who am the least of all God's holy people, have been entrusted with this special grace, of proclaiming to the gentiles the unfathomable treasure of Christ and of throwing light on the inner workings of the mystery kept hidden through all the ages in God, the Creator of everything. The purpose of this was, that now, through the Church, the principalities and ruling forces should learn how many-sided god's wisdom is, according to the plan which he had formed from all eternity in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Martin Bennett