



The Holy Family Catholic High School Weekly Newsletter

Follow us on twitter: @HFCarlton

Facebook: @HFCarlton

Email: enquiry@holyfamilycarlton.org

'To grow in wisdom and grace.'

Friday 4th December 2020

Mrs Mitchell's Update

Latest DFE Update for Parents/Carers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

In our school community, we have students and staff who live in both tier 2 and tier 3 areas. We ask that everyone continues to be vigilant and keep each other safe. Face masks continue to be worn in our building when students are outside of classrooms. Any students who travel to school on buses must also wear a mask unless they have an exemption. **We continue to remind our students to wash their hands and use the sanitiser provided.**

Y11 Exams Update

Yesterday, we received some more information from the government about the arrangements for exams in 2021. Please see the link below.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-support-the-summer-2021-exams/guidance-to-support-the-summer-2021-exams

As more information comes through we will keep everyone updated.

Our Y11 students have started their mock exams this week, please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. They are amazing young people and we are really proud of them. We ask them to remember that 'Everyone is with you'. #proudcommunity #proudheadteacher

Reminders for the next two weeks...

Friday, 11 December is the deadline for all donations

World Gifts: (All Years) where each form will purchase life-changing gift(s) for families in developing countries

'When a child is born': (Years 7, 8 & 9) The Catholic Care Appeal for mothers and babies in need at this time.

Christmas Hampers: (Years 10 & 11) distributed to senior citizens within our community.

Many thanks for all your kind donations so far. To make things easier (and safer) you can donate through Parentpay for world gifts. Baby items and hamper goods are being gathered in our chapel!

Thursday 17 December—Christmas lunch and our non-uniform 'Christmas Jumper' Day. Many thanks for the responses received through 'group call' for the Christmas lunch. The deadline for purchasing one of the options is Friday 11/12/20. If parents have not responded by this date, we will assume that students are bringing their own lunch. All students will be seated in their year group 'bubble families' for Christmas lunch at staggered times.



Picking up students from school...

Thanks to everyone for responding to our appeal to not park where buses are turning in, it has helped a great deal!

Communication and Information

Our Year 7 'virtual parents' evening went really well! Thanks to everyone involved.

This week we have rolled out our 'Parent App' to Year 7. We will extend this to other year groups throughout the next term.

Leeds Diocese have sent a flyer which gives information on worship and masses over the Christmas period. See attached.

We have had a few students wearing hoodies to school this week. These are not part of our school uniform and these students have been told to remove them. We ask for your support in ensuring that every student wears a school jumper and suitable coat in line with school policy. Plain blue or black sweatshirts (without hoods) are fine for PE days. The vast majority of students are getting this right and we really appreciate your efforts and support! Thank you.

No room at the inn?



Coming to Mass this Christmas



- ***Can I safely come to Mass this Christmas?***

Yes! But Masses will be socially-distanced and may be busy. Book in advance, online or by phone. ***Check your parish website or bulletin for details of Mass times, and how to book places.***

- ***What if the Christmas Eve and Day Masses are fully booked?***

Don't worry. Many parishes will be putting on ***extra Masses each day during the Christmas Octave***: the eight days from Christmas Day until the Feast of Mary, Mother of God (1st Jan).

- ***If I go to Mass on another day during the Christmas Octave, will I miss out on celebrating Christmas in Church?***

No! We celebrate the Christmas Octave because our Christmas joy cannot be restricted to a single day. ***Masses during the Octave will be especially festive this year***, by including Christmas prayers before the crib, recordings of carols, and sermons which reflect on the mystery of Christ's birth.



THE DIOCESE OF LEEDS

GOING TO MASS THIS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATING EIGHT WONDERFUL DAYS!

*Our Christmas church celebrations this year are going to be different.
But no less special ...*

Will I be able to go to a Christmas Mass this year?

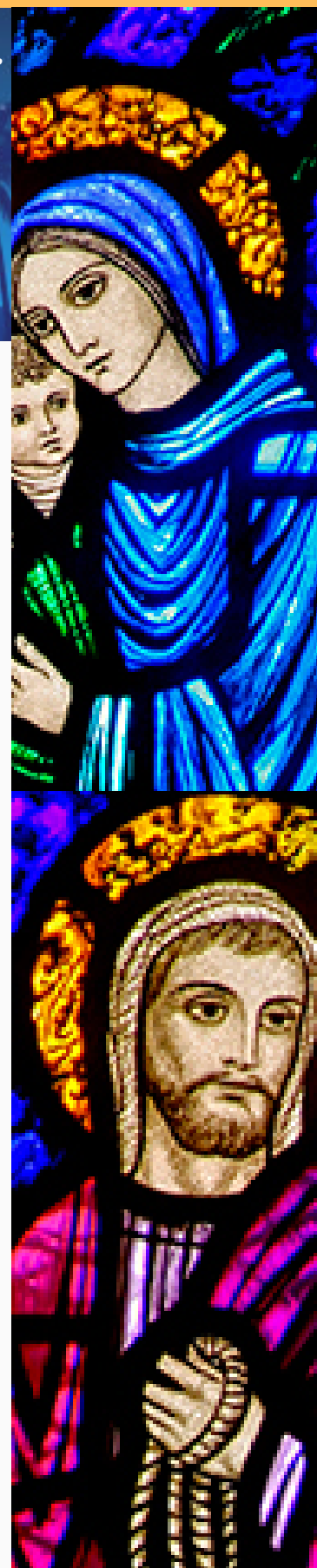
Yes! So long as you book ahead in good time and are open to the possibility of attending a Mass on a day other than Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

What will be different this year?

To accommodate larger than normal congregations over the Christmas period while at the same time ensuring social distancing, most of our parishes will be putting on extra Masses during the eight-day period between the great solemnities of Christmas 25th December (including Christmas Eve) and Mary, Mother of God on 1 January. Liturgically, this period is known as the **“Christmas Octave”**.

What's the significance of the Christmas Octave?

Derived from the Latin word for eighth *Octava*, the concept of an “octave” can be traced back to the Old Testament, when certain celebrations such as the feast of Booths and feast of the dedication of the temple lasted eight days. In the Early Church a tradition arose whereby the number eight became associated with the Resurrection (since it was on the eighth day after His entry into Jerusalem that Christ rose from the grave). Saint Augustine describes the eighth day as “everlasting...hallowed by the resurrection of Christ”. The tradition is this reason why many baptismal fonts are *octagonal* in shape. Christmas octaves were introduced into the liturgical calendar soon after the date of Christmas was settled in the late Fourth Century.





THE DIOCESE OF LEEDS

GOING TO MASS THIS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATING EIGHT WONDERFUL DAYS!

Will the Masses celebrated during the Octave after Christmas Day have a “Christmas feel”?

Absolutely! As always, many of the liturgical prayers of Christmas Day are repeated during the Octave. Where possible, carols will be played (although not sung), there shall be visits to the Crib and the homily will focus on the Christmas mystery. In addition, each day of the Octave has a distinctive emphasis due to its readings and the saint being commemorated. On Saturday 26th, we remember the Church’s first martyr, **St Stephen**; Sunday 27th is the feast of **The Holy Family**; Monday 28th is the feast of the **Holy Innocents**; and on Tuesday 29th we will celebrate the Feast of **St Thomas Becket**. The Octave concludes with Solemnity of **Mary, Mother of God** on 1st January when we honour the role of Mary in our salvation.



Why is it important to celebrate Christmas during the Octave?

Because Christmas is just too important to limit to a single day’s celebration! We spend four weeks of Advent anticipating and preparing for the Christ child to be born. We therefore need plenty of time to simply enjoy the great mystery once arrived. The Octave actually fits within a longer period of “Christmastide” - the twelve days commencing on Christmas Day and concluding on the Feast of the Epiphany on 6th January - the visit of the Wise Men. In some countries, people wait until Epiphany before exchanging gifts. For example in Ireland Epiphany is popularly known as “Little Christmas”.

What should I do next?

Check the arrangements for Christmas Masses in your parish by visiting its website and checking its the news bulletin.