



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteache

## Newsletter 368 Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Most of the children had their traditional class parties on Monday afternoon with Year 3 and 4 celebrating this afternoon—thank you all so much for your generous donations of party food.

Our Christingle service on Tuesday afternoon was a beautiful affair. Thank you to all of you for providing your child with a Christingle. When all the candles were lit during the liturgy, there was a tangible sense of awe and wonder in the assembly hall. It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents joining in with our celebration of Christ the Light of the World.



We began today with our Advent Reconciliation Service which was a peaceful and solemn occasion. The children's behaviour was impeccable. Afterwards children from Years 4, 5 and 6 were able to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation from Father Eduard with an opportunity for individual confession. Miss Fordham had created a wonderful, spiritual atmosphere in the hall, using the Advent wreath, the stable and some small tea-lights—these provided a focal point for the children throughout the service.



Today's Christmas dinner was the usual jolly affair. Tammy and her staff in the kitchen do a fantastic job each Christmas, preparing over 200 meals—all to a very high standard.

The term drew to a close with our traditional final assembly—Carols Round the Tree. This year, Mrs Clark and the signing choir treated us to three favourites; Year 5 sang a version of the Twelve Days of Christmas complete with actions. Before the carols began, we presented Miss Fordham with flowers, a card from the children and a gift from the staff as she will return in the new year as Mrs Monksfield after her wedding next week.



**Christmas Mass Details** The children and staff have worked hard throughout Advent to prepare for Christ's birthday at Christmas. You can help your child to give meaning to these Advent preparations by attending one of the Christmas Masses—times below:

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December, 6.00pm	Holy Family Church	Vigil Mass for Christmas
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December, 10.30pm	Holy Family Church	Midnight Mass of Christmas
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December, 8.30am	St Thomas More, Hadleigh	Christmas Morning Mass
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December, 10.00am	Holy Family Church	Christmas Morning Mass

**Parentpay** It is now possible for parents and carers to pay for the school's annual visit to the Wednesday Players' Pantomime on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January via Parentpay. This may be accessed by the Parentmail website or the app. The cost is £12.10 per child covering the cost of the ticket and the coach. Thank you.

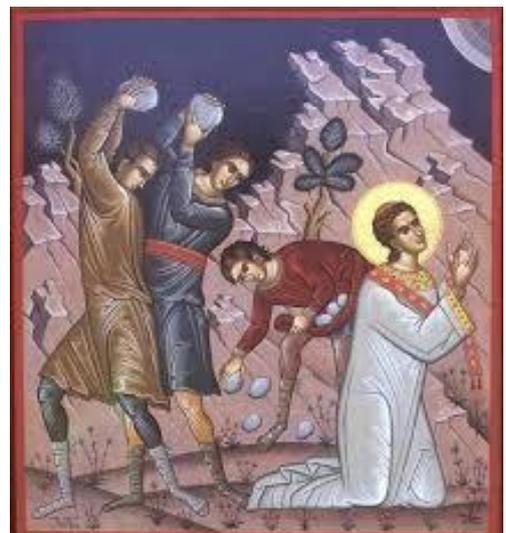
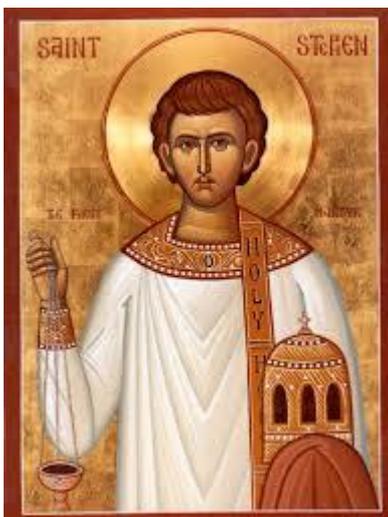
**Drum lessons** There will be one space for a pupil to start drum lessons with Mr Stevenson at the beginning of the Spring term. The cost is £75.00 for 10 lessons of 15 minutes each term. If your child is interested in learning to play the drums, please contact Mrs Duxbury in the school office. The place will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Thank you.



**The Holy Family**

**Prayer to the Holy Family** Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen

**Saint of the week** In popular culture we refer to 26<sup>th</sup> December as Boxing Day, but for centuries Christians have known it as St Stephen's Day. Stephen is honoured as the first Christian Martyr. His name means "crown" and he was the first disciple of Jesus to wear the martyr's crown. Stephen was one of the first deacons in the early Christian Church ordained by the apostles as helpers who looked after the widows and the poor. God worked many miracles through Stephen and he spoke with such wisdom and grace that many were converted to Christianity. Stephen was dragged from the city of Jerusalem to its outskirts where he was stoned to death. He prayed to God to forgive his killers as he was dying. He is a true inspiration to us all.



Finally, on behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for all the Christmas cards and gifts we have received. We wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing the children back in school on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018**.

### **Parish Contact Details**

Holy Family Catholic Church, 661 High Road, Benfleet, SS7 6SF

Parish Priest: Fr Eduard Fartan,

[eduard.fartan@yahoo.com](mailto:eduard.fartan@yahoo.com)

[priest@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:priest@holyfamily-church.org)

Parish Secretary: Mrs Julie Herridge,

[office@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:office@holyfamily-church.org)

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Nursery class 86.3% RF 88.3% 1F 94.6% 2T 94.8% 3W 92.8% 4HW 92.7% 5LB 91.7% 6F 94.5%. Well done to Year 6 for best attendance once again last week.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

### **Diary Dates**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December—Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 Christmas Holidays

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

Non-pupil day

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018

First day of Spring Term 2018

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Whole School Pantomime Trip

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Fr Eduard will be available to provide

Certificates of Catholic Practice after evening Mass

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Fr Eduard will be available to provide

Certificates of Catholic Practice after evening Mass

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Young Voices concert o2 Arena Y5 & Y6

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

Non-pupil day (*TBC*)

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February—Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Year 6 Danbury Residential