

From Fr David – 29th December 2020 – The Holy Name

Holy Name Esher

Tue 29/12/2020 18:46

To all the friends of Holy Name,

When thinking about names, a particular memory comes to mind from my school days. A small group of us had been working hard on a project for a long time, and on its completion we were all very proud of it. Our names were inscribed on the front of it, but when it came to the great unveiling, I was mortified to see they had spelt my name wrong. I remember feeling completely thrown at first, but slowly, as I adjusted to what was before my eyes, I felt tremendous disappointment, and even humiliation. No longer was this something I could be proud of, it was now something to be ashamed of, and teased about. It's incredible how personal names are, standing in for who we are and summing up our entire identity.

The name 'Jesus' is an English translation of the Greek 'Iesous' found in the New Testament. But although the New Testament was written in Greek, this was not Jesus' mother tongue at all, that was Aramaic of course, and the Aramaic name that was most likely translated into the Greek 'Iesous' was the name 'Yeshua', meaning 'he saves' (incidentally if you translate Yeshua directly into English it's more like the name Joshua).

In the New Testament, and certainly in the book of Acts, the name of Jesus takes on a huge importance. Peter and John claim it was 'by the name of Jesus' that the man lying at the beautiful gate was healed (Acts 3 – this scene is depicted in the bottom right hand corner of our beautiful stained glass window) and from there, reverence to the name of Jesus spread. We are so blessed that our Church is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, and wonderfully this year, the feast day of the Holy Name (3rd January) falls on a Sunday so we will be able to celebrate it this coming weekend. As we head into a New Year, may this feast day remind us all of the peace, the hope, and the joy that is to be found in the name of Jesus. He is truly the hope of the world, and how wonderful that our church community unfailingly reminds us of that.

With my love and prayers to you all for this new year,

Fr David

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Thank you from Fr David

A huge thank you to you all for your cards, words of kindness, offerings and gifts over this last week. I have been truly touched by your generosity and support and I thank you all sincerely for it. I'd also just like to say a big thank you to everyone who brought our Christmas celebrations to fruition. It was wonderful to see so many people pulling together to make it happen safely and happily. So my great thanks to all who cleaned, arranged flowers, played and sung, and to all who helped on the Hospitality Team too.

Holy Name Christmas Video!

Don't forget to give our Family Christmas Celebration a watch, every day in this Christmas Octave is celebrated as Christmas day so you're not too late. Click here to watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPgTQ0BRPBk&pbjreload=101>

Mary's Meals

I'm sure many of you will remember the charity Mary's Meals who we have supported in the past with two big clothing collections. Mary's Meals provide food to children in many parts of the world where it is scarce and until 31st January, the Government have agreed to match every pound given to Mary's Meals with another pound. To double your donation therefore, visit their website and donate by the end of January <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

Foodbank - Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our Reverse Advent Calendar Collection for the Foodbank. It was an absolutely wonderful effort and we very nearly filled the entire porch with donations! Thank you to everyone!

Mass Intentions for the coming week

9.30am Thursday 31st December – Intentions of the Salesian Family

9.30am Friday 1st January – A Mass for Peace

6pm Saturday 2nd January – Gordon Sugden RIP

10am Sunday 3rd January – May & Jon Junor RIP

6pm Sunday 3rd January – People of the Parish

9.30am Monday 4th January – Sr Mary Rose Bracuti

Homily

To read Fr David's Christmas homily click

here <http://www.holynamesher.org.uk/Homily%20-%20Christmas%20Eve%20Biv%20-%201914%20-%2024.12.20.pdf>

Holy Name Facebook Page

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