

# 'Crossing the Threshold'

## News



### GREETINGS

Dear Friends,  
It's been a busy autumn with teams being created, formation evenings and planning meetings, as well as lots of activities. Thank you for all you have done and are continuing to do. May the Lord bless you and your parishes in abundance.

*Deacon Vince & Clare*



"The primary reason for evangelising is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved, to point him out, to make him known?"

*Evangelii Gaudium 264*

## Pope speaks of the evangelising power of Christmas symbols

The Crib and the Christmas tree are Christmas signs that are always thought-provoking and dear to our Christian families: they recall the Mystery of the Incarnation, the Only-Begotten Son of God made man to save us, and the light that Jesus brought to the world with his birth. But the Crib and the tree touch everyone's hearts, also those who do not believe, because they speak of fraternity, of intimacy and of friendship, calling the men of our time to rediscover the beauty of simplicity, of sharing and of solidarity. They are an invitation to unity, to concord and to peace; an invitation to make room in our personal and social life for God, who does not come with arrogance to impose his power, but who offers us his Omnipotent Love through the fragile figure of a Child. Therefore, the Crib and the tree bring a message of light, of hope and of love.

...I express the hope that the Birth of our Lord is spent in serenity and intensity. He, the Messiah, became man and came in our midst, to dissipate the darkness of error and sin, bringing to humanity his

divine light. Jesus said of himself: "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Let us follow him, the true light, so we do not go astray and to reflect in turn light and warmth on all those going through moments of difficulty and interior darkness.

Full text: <http://bit.ly/1ClY0TB>

### Remembering the Family

As Mary and Joseph did, every Christian family can first of all receive Jesus, listen to him, talk with him, guard and protect him, grow with him, and thus improve the world. Let us make a place in our heart and in our days for the Lord. As Mary and Joseph also did, and it was not easy: how many difficulties they had to surmount! It was not an artificial family; it was not an unreal family. The family of Nazareth commits us to rediscover the vocation and mission of the family, of every family. And, as happened in those 30 years at Nazareth, so it can also happen for us: to make love and not hatred normal.

<http://bit.ly/1xbgsh3>

## TEAM NEWS...

### ST AELRED'S, YORK

The team has been meeting and has chosen a parish evangelisation prayer. Up until now, the team has been printing it in their weekly newsletter, but they have now asked a parishioner to design a picture for the actual prayer card. This is now being printed.

One of the team's priorities has been to involve the school very closely with the project – so as well as speaking about Crossing the Threshold every week at Mass, the team has been promoting it in the primary school and using the school newsletter to reach out to non-churchgoing families. The primary activity has been directed towards inviting families to a series of four informal Advent liturgies (6pm each Sunday in Advent in the parish church.)

On the parish website's home page it reads:

#### Parish Prayer

“And now, Lord,... help your servants, here at St. Aelred's, to proclaim your message with all fearlessness, by stretching out your hand to heal and to work miracles and marvels through the name of your Holy servant Jesus. Amen”.  
<http://www.staelreds-york.org.uk/>



St Aelred's Church

### ST THERESE, INGLEBY BARWICK

A prayer card has been designed and has gone to print. The team will be distributing the card to all parishioners and will be seeking to encourage the housebound and all parishioners in general to pray for the success of the evangelisation programme by saying the parish prayer daily. The prayer will also be said at the end of Mass.

The parish is also using this project as an opportunity to make a new commitment to ensuring that the housebound and the sick are able to receive Holy Communion regularly.

The parish organised a 'Carols by Candlelight' at 5.30pm on Sunday 21 December. All parishioners were asked to bring friends and relatives to this service and a special booklet was produced in order to help those who might be unfamiliar with liturgical celebration. Hospitality in the form of mince pies and mulled wine was served and copies of the parish prayer card were also made available to give to visitors. <http://stthereseingleby.org.uk/welcome>

#### Photograph: Team formation day in Thornaby in September



## TEAM NEWS CONT...



Leaflet

ST GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, YORK  
WWW.STGEORGESCHURCH-YORK.ORG.UK

The prayer teams are in place and prayer cards are being printed now. At the moment the prayer is on the bulletin and is said after each Mass.

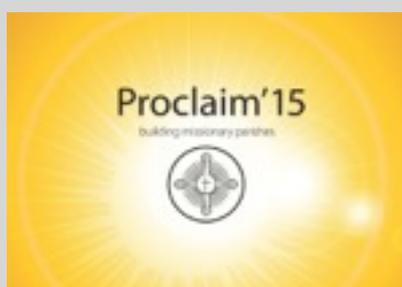
The parish has earmarked its traditional Candlelit Carol Service as its main Christmas focus. This has always been a successful venture but this year more effort will be going into increasing numbers and participation.

To this end the team has had some very eye-catching banners made. One faces the street and the other the car park so they are highly visible. The team has requested (and received) more active participation from the parish primary school - special flyers have been printed for the children to take home with their school newsletter so as to ensure a wider distribution of the invitations.

Special Christmas cards have also been printed to invite all of those who have been involved in any way sacramentally with the church throughout the year (i.e. the families of the newly-baptised, first communicants, the confirmandi and the newly weds.) These have been sent through the post to give a special invitation.

Much thought has been given to ways of improving the 'welcoming' aspect of the service – for example, the team is experimenting by changing the place where refreshment are offered in order to be potentially more welcoming.

<http://stgeorgeschurch-york.org.uk/crossing-the-thresholdopen-door/>



### NATIONAL NEWS

#### Proclaim'15: New Initiative In 2015 To Support Parish Evangelisation

'Proclaim '15: BUILDING MISSIONARY PARISHES' is the name of a new national Bishops' initiative being launched in 2015 to support the development of parish evangelisation. It is inspired by Pope Francis' writings and has five parts which include: the provision of free parish small group materials; the organisation of a National Catholic Evangelisation Conference in Birmingham on 11 July 2015 for 850 evangelisation representatives from across England and Wales; an invitation to parishes to host a parish Prayer Vigil on the night of 11 July 2015 with free prayer materials provided; the invitation to dioceses, deaneries and parishes to have their own Proclaim '15 event in autumn 2015; the publication of new evangelisation resources as a fruit of the National Conference to equip local evangelisers. Please do get involved in what is a significant new step in service of the proclamation of the Gospel in our area. Website: [www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15) Email: [proclaim15@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:proclaim15@cbcew.org.uk) Diocesan contact: Deacon Vince

## ST MARY & ST ROMUALD, YARM

A prayer card has been printed and will be distributed to all parishioners including the sick, the housebound and the residents of care homes along with a Christmas card prepared by the children of the parish.



For Advent and Christmas outreach a joint Yarm Churches Christmas card has been delivered to all homes in Yarm inviting everybody to all the Christmas services in all the churches. The team attended too the lighting of Yarm Christmas Tree in order to hand out invitations to a Candlelit Carol Service on 21st December.

The Parish has also been working with Yarm Traders to participate in an 'Around Yarm Advent Calendar.' The parish is looking after the 21st December when a special picture (made by Children's Liturgy Group) was displayed in church. This was also the day of the candlelit Carol Service. People were signposted from the Hall notice board into the church. This was open from the end of Mass until after the Carol Service. Refreshments were available after the Carol Service. The children participated in a Nativity tableau at the Carol Service and brought a Christmas gift for a child given out by SVP.

## CHRIST THE KING AND ST PATRICK'S, THORNABY

Prayer cards have been printed and every parishioner encouraged to take one and pray for the venture during the following weeks. The prayer has been said at Mass, and Ministers are taking copies to the sick and housebound, asking them to join their prayers and so be a vital supporting part of the mission



A 'Light a Candle for Christmas' event was launched on the first Sunday of Advent. Invitations to attend were prepared and every parishioner was encouraged to take at least three, and personally invite someone who might not normally participate in the Christmas festivities. The day was advertised in the local press, the Catholic Voice and by putting up posters in local shops, churches, schools and libraries, A banner was displayed on the side of the Church during the day itself, inviting passers-by to come in. The church was decorated with Advent symbols and there were tables with ceramic holders where people could place lit candles, and a book was available for people to enter prayer petitions (taken up during the Christmas Masses). Leaflets have been printed featuring various prayers for each visitor to take into church with them, and take home if they wish. The afternoon concluded with an Advent liturgy and visitors were given the times of the Thornaby Christmas Masses with an invitation to come along.

Before, during and after tea/coffee/mince pies were served in the hall. People were invited to stay and chat – the team wishes to stress that forming friendships is the most important outcome of this event. A large illuminated Nativity scene has also been made for the gable end of the Church. This faces the main road and looks "stunning."

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD - RUN IN PARTNERSHIP BY THE HOME MISSION DESK, CBCEW AND MIDDLESBROUGH DIOCESE  
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**MORE NEWS TO FOLLOW IN THE NEW YEAR! PLEASE DO SEND VINCE YOUR PHOTOS AND STORIES RELATED TO CHRISTMAS OUTREACH. WHO DID YOU MEET?**