

**Nine Lessons and Carol Service:** on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 4.00 p.m. in the Cathedral. Main celebrant, Bishop Alan Williams. A service of readings, carols and beautiful choral music from the Cathedral choir. The perfect way to reflect on the radiant meaning of Christmas. All welcome.

**The Diocesan Vision Document:** A key milestone in the Steward of the Gospel process as the Vision Document: Shaping Our Future is published. Bishop Alan has recorded a video message to all parishioners We urge everyone wherever possible to read the document online –*it has been uploaded on our Parish Website under the Newsletter tab.*

**Parish Christmas Bazaar:** another £20 has been raised. This brings the total to **£1791.70. Thank you everyone.**

WEEKLY ROTAS				
Date	Mass	Reader (BP)	E M	Sick Rota
Sat 22	5.30pm	Brian	Brian	A) Lauren
Sun 23	8.30am 10.00am	John Jane/ Patrick	Lauren Jo / Hope	B) Jim C) Mary C D) Sheena
<b>Mon 24</b>	<b>5.30pm 10.00pm</b>	<b>Maggie/Errol Stanley</b>	<b>Lorraine/Dolores Sally</b>	<b>A) Lauren B) Jim</b>
<b>Tue 25</b>	<b>8.30am 10.00am</b>	<b>Bill R Brendan/</b>	<b>Lillie Mary C / Jim</b>	<b>C) Mary C D) Sheena</b>
Sat 29	5.30pm	Bill T	Pauline	A) Peggy
Sun 30	8.30am 10.00am	José Graham/ Jane	Peggy Jo / Hope	B) Amanda C) Jim D) Pauline
Sat 5 Jan	5.30pm	Rosemary	Sally	A) Dolores
Sun 6 Jan	8.30am 10.00am	Bernard H Bernard A / John	Dolores Lorraine/Jo	B) Jane/ Peter C) Lauren D) Lorraine

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (C)**  
**30th December 2018**

**1Sam 1.20-22, 24-28 ; Psalm 83 ; 1John 3.1-2, 21-24; Luke 2.41-52.**  
Hannah is the second wife of Elkanah , but she has no children, and is mocked by her husband’s other wife. Like so many women in Scripture, Hannah’s barrenness is seen as a rejection by God. She turns to prayer, and entreats the Lord, but God’s priest, Eli, thinks she is drunk and scolds her. However, when her entreaty is heard she does give birth to Samuel, whom she had promised to give over to the Lord should she bear a son. This story gives a picture of the harshness of Hannah’s life and the struggle she has. From that struggle however, comes the great Prophet Samuel who has a significant role in God’s plans for God’s people. Given to us on the Feast of the Holy Family, it is a reminder that the unfolding of God’s plan may not be seen by those who are participants, but their fidelity and obedience in the face of great odds are essential.

**St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) Annual appeal:** Thank you to everyone that donated in response to the annual appeal made at all masses last weekend. The total amount raised was **£387.80.** Members visited Howard Lodge and Dudbrook Hall on Tuesday to deliver gifts to approximately 100 residents. These and the prosecco and mince pies shared were gratefully received. Anyone who missed the collection but would like to donate can do so via any SVP member or Father Emile. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Big Shareable Christmas Card:** A wonderful way to save time and money this Christmas. Best of all, every penny you save will help some of the world's most vulnerable children. Why not use this card to send your Christmas wishes to all your fellow parishioners. Grab a pen and write your message, then donate whatever you would have spent on a card. Rejoice and share this Christmas. There is a ‘BIG’ card at both St Helen and St Margaret. Thank you.

**Parish Office :** Will be closed from **Thursday 20th December 2018** for the Holidays. We open on **Friday 4th January 2019.** Any urgent requests can be directed to Fr Emile.