



# The Parish of St Fidelis

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Dear Friends,

The "holiday season" can be a welcome break from the usual routines of life. We can find ourselves with some extra time to relax. Perhaps you may consider using a little of this time for your spiritual life.

You might like to consider: 5 minutes of scripture reading; a small amount of quiet time in prayer; Praying the Rosary; getting to an extra Mass; reading a spiritual book or doing a good deed for another.

Thank you to all those who assisted in many ways with our Christmas celebration at St Fidelis. May the Lord reward your generosity.

Fr Michael Kong and I wish you and your loved ones a peace-filled New Year.

*Fr David Cartwright.*

## Christmas Offerings

Thank you for your generosity with your Christmas Offerings. This is an important source of support for the priests of the parish. Christmas Offerings envelopes can be placed in the collection at Mass.

## First Friday Adoration

There will be no Adoration on 5th January

**Parish Office:** will be closed until Wednesday 7th January.  
Bookings for Baptisms, Weddings will be attended to after this date.

New Years Day. On Wednesday January 1, there will be one Mass at 10am. There will be no 9.15am Mass this day. This is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and the World Day of peace. Mass is the best way to start the new year of 2020 !

**29th December**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**Entrance Antiphon:**

*The shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.*

**Responsorial Psalm: :**

*Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
and the fullness of his message live within you.  
Alleluia!*

**5 January**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Entrance Antiphon:**

*Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East  
and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.*

**Responsorial Psalm:**

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord,  
Alleluia!*

**Anniversary Mass:**

Deceased Anniversaries: Romano Manlio, May Longley

## **Trust in Christ, not in psychics, sorcerers, pope says at audience**

VATICAN CITY - Pope Francis scolded people who consider themselves practicing Christians, but who turn to fortunetelling, psychic readings and tarot cards.

True faith means abandoning oneself to God “who makes himself known not through occult practices but through revelation and with gratuitous love,” the pope said Dec. 4 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

Departing from his prepared remarks, the pope called out Christians who seek reassurance from practitioners of magic.

“How is it possible, if you believe in Jesus Christ, you go to a sorcerer, a fortuneteller, these types of people?” he asked. “Magic is not Christian! These things that are done to predict the future or predict many things or change situations in life are not Christian. The grace of Christ can bring you everything! Pray and trust in the Lord.”

At the audience, the pope resumed his series of talks on the Acts of the Apostles, reflecting on St. Paul’s ministry in Ephesus, a “famous center for the practice of magic.” In the city, St. Paul baptized many people, and drew the ire of the silversmiths who made a business of crafting idols.

While the uprising of the silversmiths eventually was resolved, the pope recounted, St. Paul made his way to Miletus to deliver a farewell speech to elders of Ephesus.

The pope called the apostle’s speech “one of the most beautiful pages of the Acts of the Apostles,” and he asked the faithful to read chapter 20.

The chapter includes an exhortation of St. Paul to the elders to “keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock.”

Francis said that priests, bishops and the pope himself must be vigilant and “close to the people to guard them and defend them,” rather than being “disconnected from the people.”

“Let us ask the Lord to renew in us his love for the Church and for the deposit of the faith which she preserves, and to make us all co-responsible in the care of the flock, supporting in prayer the shepherds so that they may manifest the firmness and tenderness of the Divine Shepherd,” the pope said.

*from Catholic News Service*

### **A New Year’s Resolution ?**

Dear friends,

Over the years it has become popular to speak of a ‘resolution’ for the new year. How will I make this year different ?

What will I do differently this year ?

Will I give up some habit ? Will I take up exercise ? Will I go on a diet ?

Often these ‘resolutions’ focus on ‘me’ and my health or appearance. Which is not a bad thing, to want to be healthier.

However, perhaps we can consider a ‘resolution’ that would involve other people .

Can I resolve to do an act of kindness more often ?

Can I resolve to do some work of charity to help someone, some organisation or my parish on a semi-regular basis ?

Can I be more generous to others with my time and my gifts ?

These resolutions may not make a difference to our health or our waistline, but they will make difference to our soul, and to the lives of others.

Over the past year, Pope Francis has had the habit of observing ‘Mercy Fridays’. On most Fridays, he will visit a hospital, place of care or do an act of charity for those in need.

Maybe this can be an example for us to follow.

Once a week, can I resolve to do an act of charity for others, or help some organisation ?

For those who use electronic diaries or reminders, you can place something in there to remind you. For those of us still stuck in the era of paper diaries, we can write something on a calendar or a diary to remind us.

A ‘resolution’ is a good thing. We can make it even better by applying to help another.

*Fr David Cartwright*