

## MI Sheffield Bulletin – December 2014



“It was through the Blessed Virgin Mary that Jesus came into the world, and it is also through Her that He must reign in the world.” – St Louis de Montford

### The First Saturdays of the month

During Her apparition at Fatima in July 1917, the Infant Jesus said to Lucia: “**Have pity on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother. It is covered with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it with every moment, and there is no one to remove them with an act of reparation.**” Then Our Lady said: “Tell them that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the first Saturday of five successive months, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of Rosary, and keep Me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary”.

**Following Our Lady’s request, The First Saturdays of the months are held in Our Lady of Lourdes Church:**

**9am – Rosary**

**9.30am – Mass**

**10.00am - 15 minutes’ meditation of all Rosary mysteries**

**10.15am Confession**

All are welcome. Please join us every First Saturday of the month. Let us be generous in our response to Our Lady’s urgent request.

### Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – 8 December



“The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of Her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.” (Pius IX, *Ineffabilis Deus*, 1854).

“The Mother of God did not say to Bernadette at Lourdes: I am Immaculately Conceived, but *I am the Immaculate Conception*. This is comparable to the difference between white and whiteness. This truth that the Mother of God from the first moment of Her

existence had no stain of original sin was generally known to all the faithful from the beginning of the Church. It was included in the doctrine that the Blessed Mother was the most pure, purer than the angels, without the slightest stain of sin. From Her divine Motherhood flow all graces which are given to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The first of these is Her Immaculate Conception. This privilege must be very pleasing to Her as She said of Herself: *I am the Immaculate Conception*. By this name so dear to Her heart we delight to call Her. To understand more precisely who is Mary Immaculate, it is necessary to acknowledge our own nothingness; to make an effort to pray humbly in order to gain the grace of knowing Her; and to experience in ourselves the effect of Her goodness and power. To all of us Mary is and has always been, and will always be, the most tender Mother in life, in death and throughout eternity. Let us often meditate about this truth, especially when we are faced with external difficulties and, even more especially, when our interior life is troubled.” – words of St Maximilian Kolbe

*On this day, all Crusaders can obtain Plenary Indulgence.*

### Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!



*“O marvellous humility, O astonishing poverty! The King of angels, the Lord of Heaven and earth, is laid in a manger!”  
(St Francis of Assisi)*

**May all of you have a peaceful and blessed Christmas!**

**May Jesus be born in your heart! May the New Year be full of God's graces and opportunities to show God and Mary your love!**

**Become a Crusader and consecrate yourself to Mary**

*Mary Immaculate invites you to become Her Crusader and bring more people through Her Heart to the Heart of Jesus. For more information see the website:*



[www.mi-sheffield.com](http://www.mi-sheffield.com)

The Crusade of Mary Immaculate is a worldwide Catholic Church movement founded by St Maximilian Kolbe, which promotes personal consecration to Mary. By joining the Crusade, members become willing instruments of Our Lady and work for the Church and salvation of others. The visible sign of that is wearing Her Miraculous Medal.

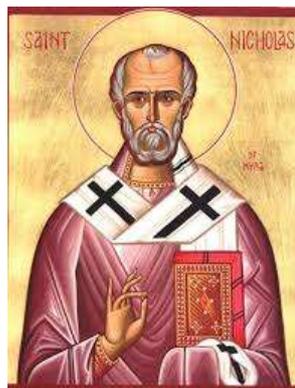
**How to enroll in the Crusade?**

- 1) Select the date on which you want your name recorded in the official register of the MI, preferably a Marian feast day
- 2) On the day of your enrolment recite the official act of consecration
- 3) Complete the enrolment application and post to The Crusade Centre in Manchester  
**(National Crusade Centre, Redclyffe Road, Urmston, Manchester, M41 7LG, UK).**
- 5) Wear the Miraculous Medal that you will receive.
- 6) Renew your consecration daily by praying: *"O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you and for all who do not have recourse to you, especially the enemies of the Church and those recommended to you"*.

**Dates to remember in December**

- 05** – 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month
- 06** – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month; St Nicholas
- 08** – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 10** – Our Lady of Loreto
- 12** – Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 24** – Adam and Eve – Vigil of Nativity of the Lord
- 25** – Nativity of the Lord
- 26** – St Stephen
- 27** – Mary of the Miraculous Medal
- 28** – The Holy Family Sunday
- 31** – St Sylvester I

**St Nicholas of Myra – the real Santa Claus**



St Nicholas was born in around the year 280 in Lycia, Asia Minor, now Turkey. Nicholas was a sensitive child and always wanted to help everyone. When his parents died, he inherited great wealth, which he used to help people in need. One of the most famous stories says that Nicholas helped a nobleman who was so poor that he had to sell his three daughters to prospective husbands. When Nicholas found out about it, he tossed a pile of coins through an open window into the nobleman's house late at night. On the third night, the coins landed in the youngest girl's stocking, which awakened the father.

When he managed to catch Nicholas, he fell to the ground thanking him. Nicholas asked the nobleman never to reveal his identity until after his death. It is believed that this was the beginning of the tradition of St Nicholas leaving gifts for children in stockings or shoes. Nicholas travelled a lot. On one of his journeys, he was chosen Bishop of Myra. He remains to this day the youngest man ever to be made a bishop. Nicholas worked many miracles, one of which was calming a violent storm at sea near the coast of Lycia. From then on, Nicholas became the patron and protector of seafarers and anyone who worked on the sea. Nicholas loved children and is also the patron and protector of children. Very often Nicholas protected children from harm and saved them from death. On one occasion Nicholas revived a young boy named Dmitri who was swimming and drowned in the Dnieper River. He was pronounced dead but the following morning, to everybody's astonishment, Dmitri was found alive and well, sitting and playing on the steps of Nicholas's cathedral in Myra. It is said that Nicholas performed no less than twenty miracles during his lifetime. The cult of St Nicholas continuously grew and now he is one of the most popular Saints. During the Middle Ages in Europe, his Feast Day on 6 December was a time of great joy and gift giving. Dutch Protestants brought their traditional beliefs in the gift-giving Sinter Klaas (Santa Claus) with them when they founded New Amsterdam, now New York. They popularized the belief in the generous, child-loving figure throughout America, who is now called "Santa Claus".