

NEWS AND VIEWS

Know Your Faith

Join us via Zoom for profound spiritual reflections on our faith throughout the four Sundays of Advent. We are excited to present four dynamic speakers, each delving into unique and thought-provoking topics. This is not just a time for listening; it's also an opportunity for you to engage and ask questions about the issues that matter most to you. We are honoured to welcome Bishop Nicholas Hudson, one of the esteemed Area Bishops of the Westminster Archdiocese, as our special guest speaker this Sunday, 1st December. Don't miss this chance to deepen your faith and connect with others in our community. Everyone is warmly invited to participate—time: 7:30 pm - 9 pm. To join in, scan the QR Code. See there.



Parish & Community Christmas Carol

Concert. This will take place on the 13th of Dec @ 6.30pm. Please invite your family and friends to join us. Raffle tickets are on sale.

Christmas Decoration Helpers are needed on the 9th/10th December from 10am. please contact the Parish Office.

1st Holy Communion sessions at 10.15am: December 8th.

Children's Nativity Rehearsals Dates:

Saturday 14th December @ 10am

Saturday 21st December @ 10am

Sunday 22nd December @ 10am

Monday 23rd December @ 10am

Tuesday 24th December @ 10.30am

Dress rehearsals @ 5pm. Mass @ 6.30pm

December Diary

Every Last Saturday of the month: **Baptism** (always confirm in the parish office)
 Every Saturday at 10.30am: **Faith Sharing/RCIA** sessions in the main Sacristy
 Every Saturday evening after Mass: **Bingo** in the meeting room
 Every Tuesday after the noon Mass: **Parish social forum** in the Meeting Room
 Every 1st Friday: 12 noon **Healing Mass / Holy Hour / Benediction** followed by 100 Club in the Meeting Room 7.45pm **Parish Quiz** in the Meeting Room

Mass Intentions entries for the bulletin will close for the year on Friday 20th December. Parish Office closes from 24th December– 3rd January 2025.

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TIBERIUS
 PILATE
 JUDEA
 HEROD
 PHILIP
 ITURAEA
 LYSANIAS
 ABILENE
 ANNAS
 CAIAPHAS
 JOHN
 ISAIAH



Death of Catherine Goba It is with great sadness that we inform the parish of Fr Martin Goba's mum's demise. We will be having a requiem mass in her honour on **Monday 9th December at 6.30pm**. Please keep Fr Martin in our prayers, being the only child, he will be travelling back to Sierra Leone for the funeral. Let us support him.

Fr Remy will be returning to his home country at the end of this month. We have all shared in the life and ministry of Fr Remy in the past year. A farewell socials for him will take place on Sunday the 15th of December after the 11.30am Mass, this will be a joint annual Mass of thanksgiving for volunteers as well. Feel free to thank Fr Remy and reach out to him. May God continue to guide him in this mission.

Parish Pilgrimage 2025: FATIMA 27th—31st October 2025. £960 per person, shared room. Enrolment is ongoing. Details of the itinerary has been pasted in the porch notice board. The first instalment of £300 from each pilgrim will be paid by Tuesday 10th December.

Confirmation Classes 6.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Dates for subsequent Confirmations Classes are the following Wednesdays **Dec. 11th, January 15th, 29th, February 12th, 26th, March 12th, 26th, Easter break. April 23rd, May 7th, 21st, June 4th, 18th, July 2nd, Saturday 5th (Rehearsal for the ceremony).** Bishop Hudson will celebrate the **Confirmation Mass on 6th July at 11.30am Mass**

Food Donations: Thank you to those who always respond. We are still taking in food items for our friends at the door, such as biscuits, soups, fizzy drinks, tea & coffee, sardines, pot noodles and any food on the go. We appreciate this donations. Thank you and God bless.

Christian Stewardship: 1st December 2024
Envelopes: £195.10 **Loose:** £447.07 **Contactless:** £0.00 We also receive £700 weekly from standing orders. Thank you for your continuous support for our parish. Parish account details below:

WRCDT St Gabriels Upper Holloway Sort Code: 40-05-20
 Acct No: 01097024

Important Diary Dates

- **Dec. 13th @ 6.30pm** -Parish Carol Concert
- **Dec. 15th @ 11.30am** – Volunteers annual Mass/ Fr Remy's Sendforth Mass
- **Dec. 17th @ 7pm**—Penitential service



St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Archway

Contact: 15 St John's Villas, N19 3EE Tel: 02072728195 Mobile: 07533726467 (text only)

Email: archway@rcdow.org.uk Reg. Charity No.233699 Website: www.stgabes.uk

+ 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C
 8th December 2024

We welcome all to today's Mass, especially visitors who are celebrating with us for the first time. Please take this bulletin home with you for further reflection on this week's celebration and to follow the activities in the Parish during the week.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

Luke in this Sunday's Gospel is preparing us for the announcement of the most important news in the history of the world - God coming among us as a human being. He therefore provides the exact time this is going to happen (Fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign); the political situation (Palestine was a colony of the Roman Empire with Pilate as Governor); the religious situation (Annas and Caiaphas were High Priests) and the place (Judea, a small province in the eastern part of the Empire). These can all be verified. While myths like the many fables about the gods of Greece, Rome and Babylon or story-book-tales do communicate some truths about life, the projection of the ideal we desire. But Luke is rather telling us that something real happened in history to turn things around. This breaking of God into human history was significant for the people of God at the time (the Jews) who have reached the climax of their fall both socially and spiritually following their long history of suffering; 430 years of slavery in Egypt, tortuous 40 years journey through the desert to get to the Promised Land, subsequent fall to invading enemies leading from one captivity to another. John the Baptist was chosen to announce this coming of the Messiah. His message was they should: "Prepare a way for the Lord and make His paths straight. Every valley should be filled in, every mountain and hill be levelled; crooked ways should be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God!" It is the road to their hearts that they are called to fix. Having suffered protracted exile and slavery, bitterness must have 'mounted' in their hearts against their captors and even against God who allowed such to happen to them. The mountain of bitterness and resentment would constitute obstacle to opening of their hearts to the Messiah who comes. On the other hand, they would have become low in spirit and down in faith hence they must rise from the valleys of moral laxity. Only so disposed can they have the fullness of encounter with God that would turn things around, restoring the peace that has eluded them. These are the dispositions we are called to cultivate as we await the coming of the Messiah this Christmas.

Mass Times & Intentions 8th – 14th December 2024

Sat 7th 6:30pm: Muriel & George Roberts (RIP)

Sun 8th 9:00am: Donal O'Riordan, Mary O'Connell (RIP), Patricia Etim-Bassey (4th) (ANN), Essien-Oku family Rita Avanzi & family, Lina Piroli & family (INT)

11:30am: Mary O'Connell (RIP), Brian Robinson (1st) (ANN), Maria Renner (blessing for Maria's work & studying), Margaret Reilly (INT)

6:30pm: Manny Ekong & family, Uche & Ekanem, Tunu & Phillip, Amy & Laurence (INT)

Mon 9th Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 12 noon: Ann Prior (RIP)

6:30pm: Requiem Mass for Catherine Goba

Tue 10th 12 noon: Gerald Walsh (ANN), Martin Aherne (birthday) (INT)

Wed 11th 12 noon: Charlie & Sophia McFadden (RIP)

Thurs 12th 12 noon: Johnny Duhan (Month's Mind) (RIP), John, Anne Baker & family, Margaret O'Grady (INT)

Fri St Lucy 13th: 12 noon: Jane Baker (INT)

Sat 14th St John of the Cross 12 noon: Bridget Moran, Catherine & Christina (ANN), Carol Baker & family (INT)



Rebecca Campbell, Ella Humphreys, Rita Avanzi, Jarlet Fallon, Christopher Jerome, John Bruno, Mary Slow, Isabella King, Derek Gomes, Mary Burton, Frank Gibbons, Maria Kuozwatski, Philip Mayne, Bridget Munnely, Brian Coleman, Shiela Farrell, Christopher Nelson, Paddy Essang, Padra Williams, Phillip Duggase, Terry Earley, Elizabeth Earley, Mary Mullarkey, Bernadette Ikwuaka, Margaret Togher, Mary Dunne, Lina Piroli, Christy & Maria Christopher, Lourdes Sineros, Angela Fairbank, Emmanuel & Magdalene Debonne, Douglas Meyers, Sylvia Traynor, Frances Quinn, Tony Colbert, Kathleen Panayiotou, Maureen Walsh, Gabby Mehmet, Freda Glackin, Maureen Currie, Joan McGonigal, Emo Essang, Madeleine Hourihan, Stella Anakor, Jacinta, Marie Therese Tourette, Mary Gallagher, Gloria Munian, Teresa O'Dea, Percy Shackell, Eddy Renwick, Gino Avanzi, Nicholas Stephens, Anastasia Nervais, Margaret Foley, Prince Henshaw, Maureen Esspay, John Alan, Rashmi, Joan Fitzgerald, Savindra de Alwis, Innocent Teme, Winston Fernando, Lourdes Bastardo, Susie Burrows, Norman Wills, Cronin Hehir, Maura Eivers, Artoro Davila, Teresa McDonagh, Margaret Reilly

Parish Projects

1. Replacing expired Church meeting room roof (Abbey Roofing) £17,900 + VAT – bal. £9,900. **Trinity Fund £8,000 granted**
2. Refurbishing 722 Holloway Road, Church reclaimed property (Ozzy Home Repairs Ltd) £20,000 paid in full by **National Lottery Fund**
3. New Security Gate around Parish Carpark/ Exit on Holloway Road (Harling Security Solutions) £25,522 + VAT

Donations towards the projects would be highly appreciated. Donations so far received **£40,201.83** Thanks.

WRCDT St Gabriels Parish, Upper Holloway Sort Code– 40-05-20 ACCT: 91099450 (Church Development Fund Acct)

Parish is served by the **Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans) Congregation of the Holy Spirit**

Parish Priests: Fr. Moses Enehizena CSSp, Fr. Remigius Nduhuisi CSSp, Fr Isah Katuka CSSp, Fr Martin Goba CSSp

Parish Office Team: Patricia Essien-Oku, Maureen Tayler, Mary Aherne, Joan FitzGerald, Jerrico Luna CSSp

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri. -(9am – 3pm). Tue, Thur. - (9am-1pm)

Contact: 15 St. John's Villas, Archway, London N19 3EE. Tel: 020 7272 8195, M: 07533726467 - (TEXT ONLY)

Email: archway@rcdow.org.uk Web: www.stgabes.uk (Reg. Charity No.233699)

Confessions Sat.11am. 6pm, before Masses **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/Meditative Rosary:** Sun. 10.30am

Healing Mass/Holy Hour/Benediction: First Fridays 12noon **Prayer/Faith Group:** Sat. 10am

Mission Statement: To animate a loving multicultural Christian community

We wish those who celebrate their birthdays and anniversaries during this week a happy celebration



Food For Thought

"We all have ability. The difference is how we use it."

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started."

Gentle reminders: Please turn off your mobile phones. You have the right to remain silent ...

TODAY'S READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the crown of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendour every Where under heaven. For your name will for ever be called God; 'Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness.' Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and Look towards the east and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went Forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high Mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy in the light of Glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 125)

R. What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

When the Lord brought back the exiles of Sion, We thought we were dreaming. Then was our mouth filled with laughter; on our lips there were songs of joy.

Then they said among the nations, 'What great deeds the Lord worked for them!'

What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **R.**

Bring back our exiles, O Lord, as streams in the Negeb. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap **R.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears bearing seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, with a song, bearing their sheaves. **R.**

SECOND READING Philippians 1:3-6.8-11

Brothers and sisters: I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight, all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill be shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which come to you from God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Mass	Readers	Eucharist Minister	Stewards
Sat. 6.30pm	Ann Heekin	June G	Jeanette Fayers / Joan Fitzgerald
Sun. 9.00am	Paula Zanre	Olga Monpeke	Essien E-Oku/ Gabriel E-Oku
Sun. 11.30am	Joseph Baffoe	June G & Mary A	Bernie Shevlin/Joseph Baffoe
Sun. 6.30pm	Eugenia Ackah	Roxanne C	Joseph Ogbonna

The Spiritual Communion Prayer (For Online Mass) ONLY

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise You,
We bless You,
We adore you,
We glorify You,
We give You thanks for Your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, the almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us; You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord.
You alone are the Most High. Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Parish Safeguarding Officers: Tracey Mullett 07957158861 **Email:** archwaysg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk,
Joan Fitzgerald 07811419531 **Email:** archwaysg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Sade Afolabi 07943565430 **Email:** archwaysg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

- Minors **MUST not** go to the toilets, rooms, or outside the church during services unaccompanied.
- There **MUST be** at least 2 adults present at any ministry to minors e.g. Children's Liturgy, Catechism and Youth Club.
- Vulnerable people **MUST be** accompanied in the Church.

Parish Health and Safety: Joan Fitzgerald, Maria Okerefor 07830000919, Jeanette Fayers 07738929756, Evette Parnell-Ogu 07985256344

Parish Security Reps: Essien Ekpenyong-Oku 07305608832 and Maurice Richards 07904021798