

NEWS AND VIEWS

Christmas Mass Times:

Sunday 24th 6.30pm– Children’s Nativity/Mass
11.30pm– Midnight Mass/Carols
Monday 25th 11.30am– Only Mass for the day
Sunday 31st—9am, 11.30am, No 6.30pm Mass
11.30pm cross over to New year Mass

Sunday Mass streaming link: You can also scan with the QR Code below. <https://urlvn.net/mtroyx>



National Lottery Fund: Great news for us all to share, we applied for the lottery and we were granted **£20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Pounds)** to go toward our refurbishment of the 722 Holloway property. We were given the opportunity to applied for the **Trinity Fund** for the parish meeting room roof replacement, we have also been granted **£8,000.00 (Eight Thousand Pounds)** which is going towards offsetting some of the quoted amount. We thank the team that worked hard to put all the applications together. We will begin work as soon as practical and the parishioners will be carried along on each progress made. In the new year, the Fundraising team will be organising different activities to help us fundraise for our parish.

First Holy Communion dates: more dates after Christmas.
First Holy Communion celebration 2nd June, 2024.

Faith Sharing/Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Every Saturday at 10am in the Meeting Room. While candidates to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church (RCIA) will be supported in their faith journey.

The Parish Office closes for Christmas on Fri. the 22nd of Dec. and re-opens on Mon. the 8th of Jan. Masses and essential pastoral services continues as normal.

Fr Moses’s Annual Leave begins after Christmas, please keep him in your prayers.

100 Club December draw: The 1st prize of £190 went to no.21, 2nd prize of £76 to no. 69, 3rd prize of £38 to no.62, the 4th prize of £38 to no. 99, 5th prize of £38 to no.37. £380 was raised for parish funds. The next draw is on **Friday 5th of January after the 1st Friday Service.** Subscriptions due in the weekend of 30th/31st December. New Members Welcome!

Prague/Poland in 25th-31st May 2024: Cost **£870.** including flight, lodging (sharing), breakfast and dinner. **for 7 days.** Please find the full details on the display glass board in the porch.

- **Next instalment of 25% by March 31st 2024,** Final instalment by **May 10th 2024.** Those who need visa to travel will sort it out by themselves; the tour company will provide hotel reservations to support visa application. Travel insurance will also be gotten by individuals for themselves.

Christian Stewardship: 17th December 2023

Envelopes: £214 **Loose:** £418.40 **Contactless:** £83
 We also receive £500 weekly from standing orders.
 Thank you for your continuous support for our parish.

December Diary

Sunday 24th: **6.30pm : Children’s Mass with Nativity play**
11.30pm: Midnight Mass
 Monday 25th: **11.30am (Only Mass for the day)**
 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**

PARISH DECEMBER DIARY DATES

- Nativity Rehearsal: ,
- 24th @ 12.45pm -1.30pm & 5pm
- New Year's eve Mass 11.30pm

G	A	B	R	H	E	S	U	O	H
A	J	O	S	T	N	O	S	T	A
B	A	R	R	E	N	N	E	M	N
R	C	E	E	R	D	B	D	A	D
I	O	C	J	A	A	I	A	Y	M
E	B	H	O	Z	S	L	V	R	A
L	N	I	I	A	E	U	I	A	I
O	S	L	C	N	G	O	S	M	D
R	E	D	E	N	A	N	G	E	L
D	A	V	I	H	P	E	S	O	J

ANGEL MARY LORD ELIZABETH
 GABRIEL REJOICE JESUS BARREN
 JOSEPH SON CHILD HANDMAID



spiritans

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



+4th Sunday of Advent Time B 24th December 2023



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.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

The prayer that works marvels

As Mary is called to be the mother of God in today’s Gospel, so does Jesus desire that he be reborn in the purity of believers’ hearts. Yes, both men and women, can give birth to Jesus in and through their hearts. Jesus shows how this works when he was told that his mother and his brothers were looking for him and he replies: “Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother” (Mark 3:31-35). To reproduce Jesus in and through our hearts, we therefore need to make the prayer of Mary in today’s Gospel our own: “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.” Mary had yet to learn what her “Yes” to God would involve but it was made unconditionally and was never withdrawn. Through a life of trials and tribulations right up to those terrible moments as she stood beneath the Cross and saw her only Son die like a public criminal, in agony and shame, she never once withdrew that “Yes”. That “Yes” eventually proved to be the greatest prayer ever said. It led to the greatest event in human history – the Word of God taking flesh through her and dwelling in the womb of a lowly maiden - God becoming human in Jesus. That same Word of God whispers into our ears, calling us to cooperate as Mary did, in the mission of making the Saviour real to those who long for his presence. How disturbing that this prayer is so different to our own everyday prayer whereby we present our own intentions and seek that God do our will. Saying “Yes” to God (Thy will be done) is the one prayer that is sure to be answered and with the best outcome, for God wills the best for us. But we can frustrate God’s plans and purposes for us as we push our own selfish agenda.

Mass Times & Intentions

24th – 30th December 2023

Sat 23rd Vigil Mass 6:30pm: Assunta Turin, Mary, Peter & Brendan Hehir, Con O’Leary, Phil Cummins, Ann McGoldrick, Theresa Reilly, Alan Mullee, Mary & Andy Brady, Deceased members of the Mullee family (RIP), Nora Maloney (INT)
Sun 24th 9:00am: Philip & Tunu, Ekanem & Uche, Amy & Laurence, Udoh family, Emo & Paddy, Essien-Oku family, Effy Inam & family, Manny, Lillian & family, Larry & family (INT)
11:30am: Etukudoh family (INT)
6:30pm: Children’s Mass with Nativity Play **11:30pm: Midnight Mass**
Mon 25th The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) 11:30 noon (only Mass of the day) **No evening Mass**
Tue 26th St Stephen 12 noon: Ann Doyle, Richard Doyle, John Butterfield (RIP)
Wed 27th St John 12 noon: James Condrom (1st) (ANN), Godwin Ogowche (Thanksgiving), George Rego, Bianca Gammellari, Josie Meehane, Mary Aherne, Bruna’s family (INT)
Thur 28th The Holy Innocents 12 noon: Eugene O’Mahony (RIP), Sr. Ursula, Sr. Anna, Agnes Quainoo (Birthday), Sr. Claire, Emily Buggy, Margaret Togher (INT)
Fri 29th St Thomas Becket 12 noon: Denis Brosnan, John Danaher, Anne Quinlan (RIP), Dittoria Vicente, Patrick Quinlan (ANN)
Sat 30th 12 noon: Sat 30th 12 noon: Mary Duffy, Denis Brosnan, John Danaher (RIP), Josie Stone, Joe Breen, Christina Danaher, Fr. Oliver (INT)



Rebecca Campbell, Ella Humphreys, Rita Avanzi, Jarlet Fallon, Nora Hoare, Ann Larkin, Mary Wallace, Christopher Jerome, John Bruno, Mary Slow, Isabella King, Derek Gomes, Mary Burton, Frank Gibbons, Maria Kuozwatski, Philip Mayne, Bridget Munnelly, Brian Coleman, Shiela Farrell, Mary Theresa Madigan, Christopher Nelson, Paddy Essang, Padra Williams, Phillip Duggase, Terry Earley, Elizabeth Earley, Mary Mullarkey, Mary O’Connell, Bernadette Ikwuka, Margaret Togher, Mary Dunne, Lina Piroli, Christy & Maria Christopher, Lourdes Sisneros, Angela Fairbank, Emmanuel & Magdalene Debonne, Douglas Meyers, Sylvia Traynor, Danielle, Lilian Montague, 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, Brian Robinson, Teresa O’Dea, Percy Shackell, Ola Gam-Ikon, Private Intention, Eddy Renwick, Ralph Nwosuh, Gino Avanzi, Nicholas Stephens, Anastasia Nervais, Margaret Foley, Sr Joseph,

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 **£31,288.69** Thanks.

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

Parish Priests: Fr. Moses Enchizena CSSp, Fr. Remigius Ndubuisi CSSp, Fr. Oliver Ugwu CSSp, Fr Isah Katuka CSSp
Parish Office Team: Patricia Essien-Oku, Maureen Taylor, Mary Aherne, Joan FitzGerald, Seminarian Francis Hoang Son
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)
Pastorals/Devotions: Confessions Sat.11am, 6pm, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/Meditative Rosary: Sun. 10.30am **Healing Mass/Holy Hour/Benediction:** First Fridays 12noon **Legion of Mary:** First Wed. 6.30pm **Monday Prayer Group:** 1st & 3rd Mon. 6.30pm
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

Isaiah 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

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

TODAY'S READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

OPENING PRAYER

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14-16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you." But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: "Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on Earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a house. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (88)

R. I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R**

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages." **R**

He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man Joseph, of the House of David: and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, "Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you." She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, "Mary, do not be afraid: you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end." Mary said to the angel, "But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?" "The Holy Spirit will come upon you" the angel answered, "and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too, your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God." "I am the handmaid of the Lord," said Mary "let what you have said be done to me." And the Angel left her.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Mass

Sat. 6.30pm
Sun. 9.00am
Sun. 11.30am
Sun. 6.30pm

Readers

Ann Heekin
Rachel McGonigal
Joe Baffoe
Children's Liturgy

Eucharist Minister

June G
Innocent Teme
Joyce & Mary
Michelle C

Stewards

Joan Fitzgerald/Jeanette Fayers
Essien E-Oku/ Gabriel E-Oku
Bernie Shevlin/Joseph Baffoe
Joe Ogbonna

The Prayer Of the Synod: Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

Attributed to St. Isidore of Seville (560-636), it has been traditionally used at Councils and Synods for hundreds of years. The version below was specifically designed for the Church's Synodal journey from 2021 to 2023.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen.

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 07811419531, Maria Okerefor 07830000919, Jeanette Fayers 07738929756, Evette Parnell-Ogu

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