

NEWS AND VIEWS

Thank you, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Beloved parishioners, the Son of God became the Son of man, so that the sons of men could become the sons of God. In taking our human form, God elevated our humanity. Indeed it is a time like this that Jesus came. Let us also reach out in love to affirm the dignity of those dehumanised by affliction. The infant Jesus was the first homeless person as there was no room for his birth in the inn. It is a judgment on how we treat refugees. We thank you all for your solidarity with us during this passing year. Thanks for the Christmas cards and gifts ! Wishing you a merry Christmas and many happy returns for the New Year!

Fr Moses Fr Remy Fr Isah Francis Son (Seminarian)

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

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

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.

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!

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.

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

Monday 25th: **11.30am (Only Mass for the day)**
 Monday 31st: **New Year's eve Mass 11.30pm**
 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

- **New Year's eve Mass 11.30pm**

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

CHRISTMAS TREE
 DECORATIONS
 HOLLY
 REINDEER
 TINSEL
 MANGER
 BABY
 JOSEPH
 JESUS
 SHEPHERD
 KINGS
 STAR
 STABLE
 SANTA CLAUS

ADVENT
 CAROLS
 ANGEL
 CRIB
 HOLY
 NOEL
 MARY
 BALTHAZAR
 MELCHIOR
 CASPAR
 GOLD
 FRANKINCENSE
 MYRRH



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

+ The Nativity Of The Lord Year B 25th 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 baby God

The Gospel passage for our Christmas day Mass affirms Jesus as the beginning and culmination of creation. It starts with: "In the beginning was the Word" This reflects the very first words of the Bible (the Book of Genesis) as God created the world: "In the beginning God 'said' 'let there be....'" Jesus was thus the "Word" (of God) through which everything was "spoken" into existence. The verdict, following creation, was that "God saw all that He made and indeed it was very good". Finally, man was created and given the stewardship of creation, to advance its purposes. But man rather wanted to play God. That is the whole idea of coveting the tree of good and evil. The Devil had planted it in his head that "...God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God..." (Genesis 3:5). Sin is thus a rebellion; claiming to ourselves the prerogative of God. But it always goes with a price. For the people of God (the Jews at the time), it was socio-political and spiritual darkness following centuries of oppressive foreign rule. But they kept alive the promise God made to their ancestor David that the Messiah (saviour) will come from his line (2 Samuel 7:1-29). Indeed, the whole history of salvation is Israel's great quest for a true, just and Holy King who will live out the true and proper vocation of Adam, the compromised king of Eden. Christmas is the fulfilment of that promise of a saviour. However, while the popular belief was that the Messiah would drop suddenly from the skies, fully grown, to establish His reign by destroying the enemies of Israel with the spectacle of the Superman, Jesus came rather inconceivably as a tender child in a manger. But that was a masterstroke as the presence of a child disarms everybody and elicits love. It was therefore in this form of pure love that God chose to appear to save his people, standing against all violence and bringing a message that is peace at a time when the world is threatened in so many places and in so many different ways! It is a most powerful metaphor that it is love that will win the war!



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 Munnely, Brian Coleman, Shiela Farrell, Mary Theresa Madigan, Christopher Nelson, Paddy Essang, Padra Williams, Phillip Duggage, 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 (Ozy 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 **£31,788.69** 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 Isah Katuka CSSp
Parish Office Team: Patricia Essien-Oku, Maureen Tayler, 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

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

TODAY'S READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

A child is born for us and a son given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and he shall be called Messenger of great counsel.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, "Your God is king!" Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 97)

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.

R

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel.

R

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord.

R

SECOND READING Hebrews 1: 1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of

God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word: the word was with God and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that every one might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born, not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man, but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: "This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me". Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day, when you manifested the reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O merciful God that, just as the Saviour of the world, born this day, is the author of divine generation for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Mass

Sun. 11.30am

Readers

Joe Baffoe

Eucharist Minister

June Gray

Stewards

Bernie Shevlin/Joseph Baffoe

NO MORE MASSES FOR THE DAY

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