

# NEWS AND VIEWS

The Parish Community Christmas Carols Concert is scheduled for **Thursday the 11th of December beginning 6.30pm**. Tickets for Raffles to be drawn on the night are on sale. Prizes to be won include; a Christmas hamper and many consolation prizes. Donations of the prizes would be highly appreciated. All are welcome.

**First Holy Communion 10.15am Lesson Dates in Dec.** 7th, 14th. All should please register before 30th November, no one will be taken after the enrolment Mass.

**Nativity:** All children, aged 4 -11, please come to the Sacristy next Sunday, 14th Dec. at 10.15 -11.15am.

**Faith Sharing/Initiation of Adults (RCIA):** Every Saturday at 10.30am in the Meeting Room. While candidates to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church (RCIA) will be supported in their faith journey, it will be an opportunity for existing Catholics to share and grow in faith. All who want to join in are welcome.

**Legacy:** A gift in your will, left to a registered charity such as the Church, is exempt from inheritance tax and reduces your overall residual tax rate. Legacies may be left either for general purposes or for a specific use. On that note we announce that one of our parishioners Mrs Giovanna Spittle who passed away three years old, left in her will a £20,000. legacy for the church. We will continue to remember her and her loved ones in our prayers

**Parish Pilgrimage 2026** Discussions are ongoing towards realising another faith growing and spiritual trip to either one of the following pilgrimage places; Assisi, Rome or Medjugorje. It is being proposed for next autumn half term. More details to be provided before Christmas. Those who might be interested should please indicate in the Parish Office.

**Donations:** Thank you to those who always respond. We are now 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.

**Death of Margaret Togher** who was one of our long standing parishioners and during her retiring years volunteered to serve her parish community in different capacities. Margaret will be sorely missed and we pray for her family in this grieving time. May her soul rest in peace. Her funeral will take place on **Monday 22nd December here in our parish at 12noon.**

**Job Vacancy: Legal Administrative role:**

- Previous experience in a law firm or legal administrative role required but not necessary.
- Strong document management skills, including preparation of legal documents, filing, scanning, and use of case management systems. Excellent communication skills for handling client calls, emails and liaising with courts and external agencies. Competent in diary management, scheduling, and general office administration. Proficient IT skills, including Microsoft Office. Understanding of confidentiality, GDPR, and compliance procedures. Highly organised with strong attention to detail and the ability to work in a fast-paced environment.

If any member in the community will be interested, please contact: Mr Simeon Nzeadi Tel: **0207 112 8314** M: **079 3282 6366** Email: [anaegboka@alphaspringssolicitors.com](mailto:anaegboka@alphaspringssolicitors.com)

**Christian Stewardship:** 30th November 2025

**Envelopes:** £175 **Loose:** £499.37. We also receive £700 weekly from standing orders. Thank you for your continuous support for our parish. In the meantime, anyone who wants to make a donation can pay into the parish account with the details provided below.

**WRCDT St Gabriels Upper Holloway**  
Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account No: 01097024  
**OR**

Scan this QR Code here on the newsletter, the ones on the benches and on the doors.



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](mailto:archway@rcdow.org.uk) Reg. Charity No.233699 Website: [www.stgabes.uk](http://www.stgabes.uk)

**December Diary**

Thursday 11th @ 6.30pm: Parish Community Carol Concert  
Sunday 14th @ 11.30am: Volunteers Thanksgiving Mass  
Thursday 18th @ 7pm: Christmas Penitential Service/Confessions  
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.

**THE MAKE A WISH ENVELOPES FOR THE TREE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN REPOSITORY SHOP!!!!**

**DIARY DATES**

**11th December @ 6.30pm:** Parish Community Carol Concert  
**14th December @ 11.30am:** Volunteers Mass  
**21st December:** Nativity Rehearsal starts. 10.15am - 11.15am  
**22nd -9.30am-10.15am**  
**23rd-10am-11am**  
**24th- 10am-11am**  
Dress Rehearsal-5pm  
Mass at 6.30pm

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JOHN PREACHED WILDERNESS MESSAGE REPENT VOICE PREPARE BELT LOCUSTS HONEY SANDALS RIVER

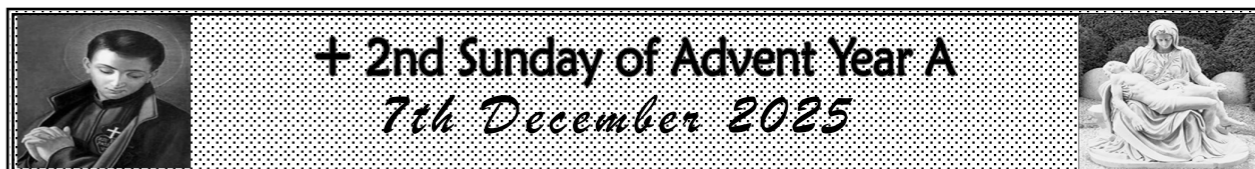


**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**"Kindness changes everything"**

**"Being kind is never wasted."**

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



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**

The constant desire of God to save his people is actually realized in the Root of Jesse – a humble beginning but a firm foundation which has its climax in the birth of Jesus Christ. His [Jesus] qualities are already laid bare in the prophecy of Isaiah (Cf. Is. 11:1-2). They are very contrary to the expectation of God's chosen people, Israel. In their thinking and conviction, both Jesus' coming and presence amongst them is linked with a rebellious quality. For them, he is coming to put up a fight against the Roman authorities and completely free them from bondage. However a rebel's presence brings about tension, suspicion, hatred and of course wars. A rebel never bridges the gap but creates a vacuum through his acts. Jesus Christ comes to bridge gaps through the power of the Holy Spirit so he is filled with wisdom, insight, counsel, power, knowledge and the fear of the Lord. As a judge, he does not convict his children but then he acquits them through the gradual unfolding of his teaching on love... 'I was hungry and you gave me to eat, thirsty and you gave me to drink, a stranger and made me welcome, naked and you clothed me, sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me' (Mt. 25:35-36). Jesus comes to bridge the gap through his acts making it possible for enemies to come to understanding and live together as friends. This comes out clearly in the vision of Isaiah; 'the wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, the calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.' (Cf. Is. 11:6). We need love, our families need love, our Christian communities need love, and so do our countries and our world too. To love is to drop all our selfish interests and put others first. Our faith journey demands that we take a leap from the teachings of Christ so that we would constantly bridge gaps instead of creating vacuums wherever we are. This advent season is yet another opportunity whereby through our positive reception of the Lord's teaching and those of the Church, we too will be people of contradiction in the sight of our brothers and sisters through our refusal of accepting the 'wrongs' that have been institutionalized by our society thereby making them ordinary acceptable norms.

**Mass Times & Intentions 7th – 13th December 2025**

**Sat 6th Vigil Mass 6:30pm:** Ann-Marie Lydon (RIP) Barran family, Joan Fitzgerald (INT)  
**Sun 7th 9:00am:** Mary McCarthy, Sally Staple, Lina Piroli (RIP) Patricia Etim-Bassey (5th) (ANN), Ahano Aroko-Ekhaton, Essien-Oku family, Odeyemi family, Inwang family (INT)  
**11:30am:** Mary Glynn, Margarita Innés, Anastasia Olowu, Margaret Reilly (RIP), Mary Aherne & family, Jide Maduako & family (INT)  
**6:30pm:** Priests and People of the Parish  
**Mon 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 12 noon:** Maria Louisa Mena, Irma Gomez (posthumous birthday) (RIP), Brian Robinson (2nd) (ANN)  
**Tue 9th 12 noon:** Miranda Avanzi, Carlo Avanzi, Margaret Togher (RIP), Mary Barrett (6th) (ANN), Noel Hacket, Michael Quirke, Bingo Club members (INT)  
**Wed 10th 12 noon:** Gerald Walshe (ANN)  
**Thurs 11th 12 noon:** Cronan O'Donogh (RIP), Sophia McFadden (ANN), McDaid family (INT)  
**Fri 12th 12 noon:** Essien-Oku family (INT)  
**Sat 13th St Lucy 12 noon:** Volunteers of the Parish

Rebecca Campbell, Ella Humphreys, Rita Avanzi, Jarlet Fallon, Christopher Jerome, John Bruno, Mary Burton, Frank Gibbons, Maria Kuozwatski, Philip Mayne, Bridget Munnely, Brian Coleman, Shiela Farrell, Christopher Nelson, Paddy Essang, Phillip Duggase, Terry Earley, Elizabeth Earley, Mary Mullarkey, Bernadette Ikwuka, Mary Dunne, Christy & Maria Christopher, Lourdes Sisneros, Emmanuel & Magdalene Debonne, Douglas Meyers, Sylvia Traynor, Frances Quinn, Tony Colbert, Kathleen Panayiotou, Maureen Walsh, Gabby Mehmet, Freda Glackin, Maureen Currie, Joan McGonigal, 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, John Alan, Rashmi, Joan Fitzgerald, Savindra de Alwis, Padra Williams, Winston Fernando, Lourdes Bastardo, Norman Wills, Cronin Hehir, Maura O'Leary, Arturo Davila, Mary Brady, Teresa McDonagh, Dee-Arn Sewell, Christine Cheah, Valentine Olayemi, Mary Mullec, Elizabeth Ortega, Gomes family, Agnes Quainoo, Hannah Conwell, Stephanie Kafari, Angela Gallagher, Errol Roberts, Louisa Carter, Doreen Timoney, Irada Fracassi

Parish is served by the Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans) Congregation of the Holy Spirit  
**Parish Priests:** Fr. Moses Enechizena CSSp, Fr Augustine Isah Katuka CSSp, Fr Martin Goba CSSp, John Duong CSSp  
**Parish Office Team:** Patricia Essien-Oku, Maureen Tayler, Mary Aherne, Joan FitzGerald  
**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](mailto:archway@rcdow.org.uk) Web: [www.stgabes.uk](http://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

*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.

## FIRST READING (Isaiah 11: 1-10)

On that day: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 72 (71))

**R. In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.**

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice, and your poor in right judgement.

**R**

In his days justice shall flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth.

**R**

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry, the poor who have no one to help. He will have pity on the weak and the needy,

and save the lives of the needy. **R**

May his name endure for ever, his name continue like the sun. Every tribe shall be blest in him, all nations shall call him blessed. **R**

## SECOND READING (Romans 15: 4-9)

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.**

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL (Matthew 3: 1-12)

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."' Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

## 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.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes 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.

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER (For Online Mass)

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.

Mass	Readers	Eucharist Minister	Stewards
Sat. 6.30pm	Bridget O'Dea	Debra	Joan Fitzgerald/Jeanette Fayers
Sun. 9am	Rachel McGonigal	Olga M	Essien Ekpenyong-Oku
Sun 11.30am	Ignatius Etukudoh	June G & Mary A	Bernie Shevlin/Joseph Baffoe
Sun 6.30pm	Joan Hemingway	Roxanne C	Joseph Ogbonna

## Feast Of Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary *December 8th*

The Immaculate Conception is the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary free from original sin by virtue of the foreseen merits of her son Jesus Christ. Mary was conceived by normal biological means in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne, but God acted upon her soul, keeping it "immaculate". The Immaculate Conception deals with the conception of Mary, not that of her Son. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was proclaimed as infallible by Pope Pius IX in the papal bull 'Ineffabilis Deus' in 1854, and thus is an important article of faith for Roman Catholics. Before proclaiming the doctrine the Pope took steps to see whether the Church as a whole agreed by asking 603 bishops whether he should proclaim the Immaculate Conception: 546 (90%) said that he should. The defined dogma of the Immaculate Conception regards original sin only, saying that Mary was preserved from any stain. Therefore, being always free from original sin, the doctrine teaches that from her conception Mary received the sanctifying grace that would normally come with baptism after birth. When defining the dogma in 'Ineffabilis Deus', Pope Pius IX explicitly affirmed that Mary was redeemed in a manner more sublime. He stated that Mary, rather than being cleansed after sin, was completely prevented from contracting Original Sin in view of the foreseen merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race. In Luke 1:47, Mary proclaims: "My spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour." This is referred to as Mary's pre-redemption by Christ. Mary revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception, when she appeared in a vision to Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes in 1858.

## THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God; begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven, (*all bon*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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
- Vulnerable people **MUST be** accompanied in the Church.

**Parish Data Protection Champion Officers:** Ann Waldron 07449110910 **Email:** archway@rcdow.org.uk Tom McDonnell

**Parish Health and Safety:** Jeanette Fayers 07738929756, Evette Parnell-Ogu 07985256344

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