

NEWS AND VIEWS

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.**

Christmas Liturgy

Wednesday 24th 6.30pm: **Vigil Mass/Children's Christmas Liturgy** followed by Santa's visit/party
- 11.30pm: **Carols/Lessons leading to Christmas Midnight Mass**
Sunday 25th **Christmas Day: Masses at 9am & 11.30am.**
No evening Mass

Prayer Candles Flash Sales!!! Starting this weekend our large candles will be sale for £4 which is normally £7.50. This will go on till the end of December. Each candle makes a thoughtful gift for loved ones. Contactless payment is available with the **QR CODE provided. REPOSITORY SHOP!!!!**

Donations of Food items for the less privileged: As we approach Christmas, there is increasing demand on us for food handouts from the less privileged. We count on our parishioners for the generous donations of non-perishable food items; tins, beverages, confectioneries, cereals, grains etc. A plastic container is made available for these under the desk for Mass sheets at the back.

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.

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

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.**

DIARY DATES

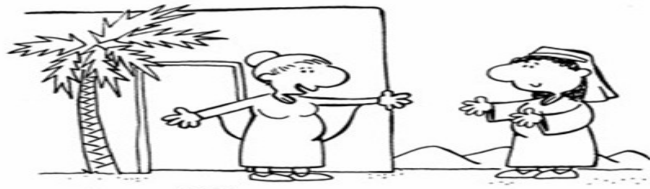
21st December:
Nativity Rehearsal starts. 10.15am - 11.15am
22nd -9.30am-10.15am
23rd—10am—11am
24th— 10am—11am
Dress Rehearsal—5pm
Mass at 6.30pm

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MARY
ELIZABETH
WOMB
MOTHER

JUDAH
CHILD
BLESSED
JOY

ZECHARIAH
LEAPT
FRUIT
PROMISE



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Kindness changes everything"

"Being kind is never wasted."



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 Year A
21st December 2025

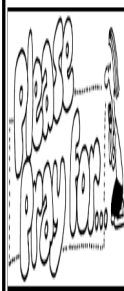
We welcome all to today's mass especially visitors who are celebrating with us for the first time. Please take this bulletin home with you for further reflection on this week's celebration and to follow the activities in the Parish during the week.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

"All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel'" (Mt 1,22-23). The readings of today understand the virginal conception of Jesus as a divine work that surpasses all human understanding and possibility. "That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit" (Mt, 20), said the angel to Joseph about Mary his fiancée. The Church sees here the fulfilment of the divine promise given through the prophet Isaiah. This can only be understood through faith which connects the mysteries in the totality of Christ's mysteries, from his Incarnation to his Passover. "Mary's virginity and giving birth, and even the Lord's death escaped the notice of the prince of this world: these three mysteries worthy of proclamation were accomplished in God's silence" (CCC 498). Jesus came to "save his people from their sins. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus" said the angel to Joseph. The name "Jesus" means "Yahweh sets free", "God saves", "God helps". To save means to set free from evil. Jesus Christ is the saviour of the world since he came to free the human person from that fundamental evil which has invaded man's inner being throughout the whole course of his history, after the first breach of the covenant with the Creator. The evil of sin is precisely the fundamental evil which comes between humanity and the realization of the Kingdom of God. A mother tells of her daughter complaining that she was afraid to be alone in the dark. The mother said, "Remember that Jesus is with you." The child replied, "I know, but I want someone with some skin on them." In Emmanuel God has taken on our skin. God becomes skin of our skin and flesh of our flesh. God shares with us our trials, pains, temptations, disappointments and fears. So let us rejoice and welcome Jesus our SAVIOUR.

Mass Times & Intentions 21st – 27th December 2025

Sat 20th Vigil Mass 6:30pm: Barran family, Joan Fitzgerald (INT)
Sun 21st 9:00am: Baby Arthur Gregory, Margaret Togher, Val Klein, Mary & Jimmy Kelly (RIP), Essien-Oku family, Chiara Tekle & family, (INT)
11:30am: Baby Arthur Gregory, Margaret Togher, Brendan Nelson, Winifred (Winnie) Gallagher (RIP), Francis Usanga & family, Remigus Orji & family (INT)
6:30pm: Baby Arthur Gregory (RIP)
Mon 22nd 12 noon: *Funeral Mass of Margaret Togher*
Tue 23rd 12 noon: Margaret Togher, Baby Arthur Gregory (posthumous birthday) (RIP), Agnes & family, Irma Gomez, Jossie Meehan, Sr. Monique, Sr. Ann, Sr. Ursula (INT)
Wed 24th Christmas Eve 12 noon: Priests and Parishioners 6:30pm: **Children's Christmas Mass**
11:30pm: Carols followed by **Midnight Mass of the Nativity of the Lord –**
Thurs 25th The Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Day
Masses at 9:00am and 11:30am No evening Mass
Fri 26th St Stephen: 12 noon: Margaret Togher (RIP), Veronica Kennedy, Marie Brophy (INT)
Sat 27th St John:12 noon: Margaret Togher (RIP)



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 Ikhwuka, 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 L, 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, Artoro Davila, Mary Brady, Teresa McDonagh, Christine Cheah, Valentine Olayemi, Mary Mullee, 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 Enchizena CSSp, Fr Augustine Isah Katuka CSSp, Fr Martin Goba CSSp, John Duong CSSp
Parish Office Team: Patricia Essien-Oku, Maureen Tayler, Mary Ahern, 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 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

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 the Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 7: 10-14

In those days: ‘The LORD spoke to Ahaz: ‘Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’ But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.’ And Isaiah said, ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.’

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 24(23))

R. *Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.*

The LORD’S is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm. **R**

Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things. **R**

Blessings from the LORD shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 1: 1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel —
which means, God with us.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 1: 18-24

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel’ —which means, God with us. When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

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.

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 Minster | Stewards |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sat. 6.30pm | Carmel Cannon | Debra | Joan Fitzgerald/Jeanette Fayers |
| Sun. 9am | Paula Zanre | Olga M | Essien Ekpenyong-Oku |
| Sun 11.30am | Mark Renner | June G & Mary A | Bernie Shevlin/Joseph Baffoe |
| Sun 6.30pm | Anna Renner | Michelle C | Joseph Ogbonna |

The third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, is so called from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon at Mass, ‘Gaudete’, i.e. ‘Rejoice’. The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks, and by the twelfth century the fast had been replaced by simple abstinence. St. Gregory the Great was the first to draw up an Office for the Advent season, and the Gregorian Sacramentary is the earliest to provide Masses for the Sundays of Advent. Gaudete Sunday, signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming. In both Office and Mass throughout Advent continual reference is made to our Lord's second coming, and this is emphasised on the third Sunday by the additional signs of gladness permitted on that day. Gaudete Sunday is further marked by the Church no longer inviting the faithful to adore merely "The Lord who is to come", but calling upon them to worship and hail with joy "The Lord who is now nigh and close at hand". The Epistle again incites us to rejoicing, and bids us prepare to meet the coming Saiour prayers and supplication and thanksgiving, whilst the Gospel, the words of St. John Baptist, warns us that the Lamb of God is even now in our midst, though we appear to know Him not. The spirit of the Office and Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the Christmas feast as well as for the second coming of Christ. Penitential exercises are suspended on Gaudete Sunday in order to symbolise that joy and gladness in the Promised Redemption which should never be absent from the hearts of the faithful.

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.

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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