

NEWS AND VIEWS

Christmas Message

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 thus elevates our humanity. Let's therefore celebrate ourselves and one another this Christmas. Let's also reach out in love to affirm the dignity of those dehumanised by adversity. We thank you all for your solidarity with us during this passing year. Thanks for the loads of Christmas gifts which we have received (but there is still room for more!) Wishing you a merry Christmas & many happy returns for the New Year!

Fr. Moses Fr. Isah Fr Martin & Seminarian John

Parish Office Christmas Break: The Parish Office will close for Christmas Break on Tuesday 23rd to re-open Monday the 5th of Jan.

Parish '100 Club: The January draw will take place after the First Friday Service on 2nd January. Subscriptions should be handed in at church by the weekend of 28th/29th Dec At the latest. New members welcome. Application forms at the back of the church.

Christmas Day Mass at 9am & 11.30am (No evening Mass).

Masses There will be Mass at 11.30pm on Wednesday the 31st to cross over to the New Year. New Year Day Mass will be at 12noon the normal time for weekday Masses. Masses during the period will be held as usual and the priests will be available for essential services. We want to thank our Parish Office Team (POT) for their gracious and selfless service through the year. **In January, the office will be open to callers till 1pm.**

Christian Stewardship: 14th December 2025

Envelopes: £155 **Loose:** £459.37. 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.



December / January Diary

Wednesday 31st at 11.30pm: **New Year's Eve Cross Over Mass**

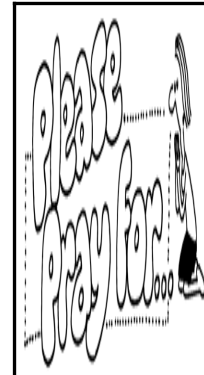
Friday 2nd at 12noon: **1st Friday Healing Mass/Holy Hour/Benediction.**

Mass Times & Intentions 25th – 27th December 2024

Thurs 25th The Nativity of the Lord 11:30am: Ann Fitzgerald (RIP)

Fri 26th St Stephen 12 noon: Margaret Togher (RIP), Veronica Kennedy, Marie Brophy, Altar Servers (INT)

Sat 27th St John 12 noon: Margaret Togher (RIP), Ann & Patrick Quinlan (ANN)



Rebecca Campbell, Ella Humphreys, Rita Avanzi, Jarlet Fallon, Christopher Jerome, John Bruno, Mary Burton, Frank Gibbons, Maria Kuozwatski, Philip Mayne, Bridget Munnelly, 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, Artoro Davila, Mary Brady, Teresa McDonagh, Dee-Arn Sewell, 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, Chinye Ema Ndon, Daniella

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



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Be there for others, but never leave yourself behind."

"Enjoy being yourself and you'll feel no need to copy others."



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
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+ The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas)

25th 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



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 any different ways! It is a most powerful metaphor that it is love that will win the war!

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

Parish Priests: Fr. Moses Enehizena 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 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

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
 'All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of
 our God.'

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of hap-
piness, who publishes salvation, who says to Sion,
'Your God reigns.' The voice of your watchmen —
they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to
Sion. Break forth together into singing, you waste
places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his
people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has
bared his holy arm before the eyes 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.

O 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 deliverance to the nations.
He has remembered his merciful love
and his truth for the house of Israel. **R**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song,
and sing out your praise. **R**

Sing psalms to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
raise a shout before the King, the LORD. **R**

SECOND READING Hebrews 1: 1-6

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’? Or again, ‘I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son’? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, ‘Let all God’s angels worship him.’

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
A hallowed day has shone upon us.
Come, O nations, and adore the Lord;
for today a great light has come down to earth.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'" For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one

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has ever seen God; the only begotten God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

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

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.

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	Readers	Eucharist Minsters
9.00am	Paula Zanre	Innocent Teme
11.30am	Mark Renner	June Gray

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 NICENE CREED

believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of 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 our men and for our salvation He came down from heaven, (*all bow*) and 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 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,
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☐ 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