

NEWS AND VIEWS

The Parish Office closes for Christmas on Wednesday the 23rd of December and re-opens on Monday the 4th of January. Masses and essential pastoral services continue as normal.

Fr Ugo's Annual Leave begins after Christmas till the end of January.

New Year's Eve Mass at 11.30pm: To usher in the new year in prayers and thanksgiving.

Winter Shelter for the Homeless: This has been cancelled due to the restrictions imposed on gatherings and movement of people as a result of the Covid19 pandemic. Food parcels will be given at the Presbytery door daily to cushion this effect.

First Holy Communion classes start in January after the Christmas break, dates will be communicated shortly.

Parish '100 Club: the next draw will take place after the Zoom quiz on 8th January. Please hand in your subscriptions by Sunday 3rd January. Good Luck!

Christian Stewardship: Many parishes survived the covid era because parishioners responded to supporting the parish steadily through standing orders. We got some support in that way too as our weekly income from standing orders moved from £120 to £400 which is good. But the honest fact is that we can do better. A lot of costs, both recurrent and capital, still go into the running of the parish at this time. So, could we please do more by standing orders. Here, we have the parish bank details for those who will be moved to set up standing orders for your Sunday offerings or freewill donations: Name: **WRCDT St Gabriels Parish, Upper Holloway.** Sort code **40-05-20** Acc. No. **01097024.** God bless you abundantly for your kindness.

December / January Diary

Thursday 31st at 11.30pm: **New Year's Eve Mass**
Friday 1st at 9.30am: **1st Friday Healing Mass/Holy Hour/Benediction**

T	H	E	R	A	Z	A	N	E	R	ANGEL	JOSEPH	DREAM
E	E	L	I	L	A	G	N	A	A	EGYPT	HEROD	MOTHER
M	H	P	E	S	O	J	E	R	L	ISRAEL	ARCHELAUS	JUDEA
E	A	E	R	D	R	O	L	C	E	AFRAID	GALILEE	NAZARETH
H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N	H	G			
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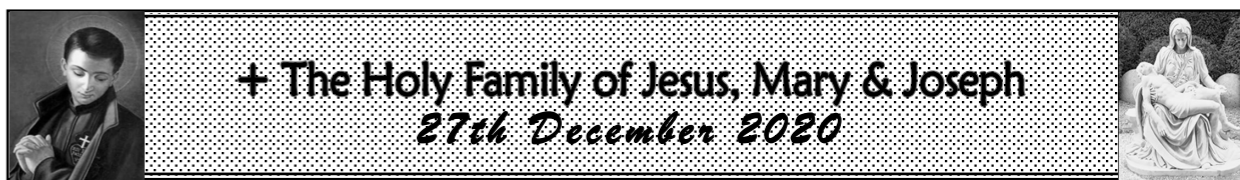
We wish those who celebrate their birthdays and anniversaries during this week a happy celebration



A tour bus driver is driving with a bus load of retirees when he is tapped on the shoulder by a little old lady. She offers him a handful of peanuts, which she gratefully munches up. After about 15 minutes, she taps him on the shoulder again and hands him another handful of peanuts. When she is about to hand him another batch he asks her: "Why don't you eat the peanuts yourself?" "We can't chew them because we have no teeth," she replies. "We just love the chocolate coating on them."



St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Archway
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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

Pastoral Letter for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph 26/27 December 2020
These days we hear a great deal about ecology, and rightly so. We must take care of the created world in its beauty and resources. Interestingly, the word 'ecology' comes from a Greek word meaning 'home' or 'place to live'. So, it is a word that can be applied not only to the natural world but also to our homes and to the Church. It is a good word to have in mind as we celebrate this Feast of the Holy Family. This year has been so difficult for many families. Homelife has been tested, and financial worries burden many. Separation from loved ones has been painful and many have lost loved ones in death, with little chance to grieve them fully. So, the Prayers of the Mass today are vital. In them, we seek God's blessing on our families and homes, that they may be places of kindness and joy. The reading from St Paul to the Colossians spells out what that means in practice: compassion, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness. Then he added, 'Over these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love.' But St Paul is applying these words first of all to the Church, to us, chosen by God to be a witness in the world to God's love and compassion. St Paul adds: 'And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful' (Colossians 3:15). Today, then, we can think and pray not only about our own families but also about the family of the Church. We can ask for God's blessing on this family, this 'ecology' in which we live, the 'ecology' of the Church. Over these last months, the life of the Church has been under strain. We have been unable to come together to express our faith as a full community. Often, we have not been able to enter into the mystery of Christ celebrated in the sacraments. We pray that slowly this will return as the threat of the COVID-19 virus is overcome. Over these last months, the life of the Church has been stained by the emergence of the picture of the abuse inflicted on children and vulnerable people in the Church over the last fifty years. We know, with the benefit of hindsight, that bishops and leaders, including myself, have made mistakes. I deeply regret them. We are continually learning from them. In this moment of strain and stain, we take our lead from the Gospel. Like Anna and Simeon, we fix our eyes on the Lord, on the child Jesus. With them, we say: 'My eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see' (Luke 2:30). We know that the Lord never forsakes the Church, his own Body. He remains with us always. Our strength, our renewal, comes from him. There is a quotation of which I am very fond: 'Christ dwelt for nine months in the tabernacle of Mary's womb. He dwells until the end of the ages in the tabernacle of the Church's faith. He will dwell forever in the knowledge and love of each faithful soul' (Blessed Isaac of Stella). This is our reassurance. In turning every day to him, in welcoming him into our lives with humility and love, we rise from our prayer refreshed and renewed, wanting to do his will and to give him our thanks. There is another figure on whom we can fix our eyes: St Joseph. He is there, in the background, protecting the child entrusted to his care. We turn to him as protector of the family of the Church, too. Pope Francis has declared a year dedicated to St Joseph, from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021. He says: 'Each of us can discover in Joseph - the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence - an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble' (Patris Corde - With a Father's Love - Pope Francis). Let's do that. Let's ask St Joseph to keep a watchful eye on this family of the Church, to intercede on our behalf. A tradition I treasure is that of always having a statue of St Joseph in the kitchen, so often the heart of the home. I recommend this to you. Bring St Joseph into your kitchen. Then he will be before your eyes each day, as protector and guide in these difficult times. Pope Francis writes: "Joseph teaches us that faith in God includes believing he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture". As we come to the end of this year, a year of such pain and difficulty, try to see this 'bigger picture': that our lives are in the hands of God; that our Church is constantly consoled by the presence of the Holy Spirit; that our world is God's work of art.

Mass Times & Intentions 27th December 2020— 2nd January 2021
Sat 26th Vigil 6:30pm: People of the parish
Sun 27th 9:00am: Edward McGuigan (RIP), Ian & Marion Crosby, Sylvia Traynor, Fr Kevin, Jackie O'shea (INT)
11:30am: Brenda Reilly, Eileen Rock, Rita Rattigan, Joan Mehr, Augustina Dias, Deceased members of Dias & Pires family (RIP), Jerry Reilly, Maureen & Jim Cleary (ANN), Fr Kevin, Sr Joseph, Mary Bryne, Anoja & Winston Fernando, Alan Harrison & family
6:30pm: Connie O'Leary, John Curran (Co. Donnegal, formerly London) (RIP), Jackie O'Shea & family, Sue O'Keane & family
Mon 28th The Holy Innocents: Florence Pinfield, Edward McGuigan, Celia Cunney, Jim Haines, Nancy Howard (RIP), Agnes Quainoo, Betty O'Neill (INT)
Tue 29th St. Thomas Becket: Carlo Avanzi, Pietro Piroli, Edward McGuigan (RIP), Patrick Quinlan (ANN), Ann Moon (INT)
Wed 30th: Hugh Munro (Month's Mind), David Wales (Month's Mind), Kay McLean, Elvra Mota, John Gaffney, Yvone Kennedy (RIP), Charmaine Girsham, Elsie Winkill (ANN), Essien-Oku family (INT)
Thur 31st: Pietro De Michiel, Claire Redmond-Burnside, Margaret Wilkes (ANN), Sam Haslam, Rica Coelho (INT)
Fri 1st: *First Friday Healing and Benediction Mass*
Sat 2nd: Marcel Guérin (RIP), Cara Brett, Jim Ryan (ANN), Richard Hill, David Lavelli (INT)

Please Pray for:
Rebecca Campbell, Babs Kavanagh, Ella Humphreys, Tess McNaney, Rita Avanzi, Nancy Olaiya, Jarlet Fallon, Nora Hoare, Anne Quinlan, Ann Larkin, Philip O'Connor, Mary Wallace, Christopher Jerome, John Bruno, Theresa Reilly, Mary Slow, Isabella King, Derek Gomes, Mary Burton, Cornelia Henshaw, Rebecca Ononogbo, Magdalene Koronyo, Frank Gibbons, Maria Kuozwatski, Philip Mayne, Giovanna Spittle, Bridget Munnely, Tom Rochford, Brian Coleman, Shiela Farrell, Augustina Okelue, Mary Theresa Madigan, Maria Cecile Perine, Christopher Nelson, Paddy Essang, Padra Williams, Phillip Duggase, Terry Earley, Elizabeth Earley, Caroline de Vasconcelos, Mary Mullarkey, Mary O'Connell, Bernadette Ikwuka, Margaret Togher, Diane Sewell, Geraldine McKeaney, Mary Dunne, Lina Piroli, Pilar, Christy & Maria Christopher, Lourdes Sisneros, Angela Fairbank, Emmanuel & Magdalene Debonne, Special intention, Douglas Meyers, Sylvia Traynor, Danielle, Lilian Montague, Fr Kevin

Parish is served by the Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans) Congregation of the Holy Spirit
Parish Priests: Fr. Dr Ugo Ikwuka CSSp, Fr. Benedict Baka CSSp, Fr. Oliver Ugwu CSSp
Parish Office Team: Patricia Essien-Oku, Maureen Taylor, Mary Aherne, Joan FitzGerald, Karen Birot
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:** parish.rcdow.org.uk/archway (Reg. Charity No.233699)
Pastorals/Devotions: Confessions Sat. 11.30am & 6pm, **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/Meditative Rosary:** Sun. 10.30am, **Healing Mass/Holy Hour/Benediction:** First Fridays (New time) 9.30am - 10.45pm. **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

The shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in a manger.

OPENING PRAYER

Father, help us to live as the holy family, united in respect and love. Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home.

FIRST READING Genesis 15:1-6;21:1-3

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 104)

R. **He, the Lord, is our God.**

He remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
Make known his deeds among the people.

O sing to him, sing his praise;
Tell all his wonderful works!

R.

Be proud of his holy name,
Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
Constantly seek his face.

R.

Remember the wonders he has done,
His miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O son of the Jacob he chose.

R.

He remembers his covenant for ever,
His promise for a thousand generations,
The covenant he made with Abraham,
The oath he swore to Isaac.

R.

SECOND READING Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the

grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia

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.

Alleluia

GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

PRAY OVER THE GIFTS

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Our God has appeared on earth, and lived among them.

PRAY AFTER COMMUNION

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mass

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

Readers

Bridget O'Dea
Rachel McGonigal
Mark Renner
Tracey Shevlin

Stewards

Joan Fitzgerald/Bernie Shevlin
Gabriel Essien-Oku/Essien E-O
Bernie S /Ignatius E/Keisha H
Mary Hansberry

FEAST OF THE WEEK



The Holy Innocents, Matyrs Feast Day: 28th December

The Holy Innocents saved the Child Jesus from death by King Herod by the shedding of their own blood. The Holy Innocents are the special patrons of small children, who can please the Christ Child by being obedient and helpful to parents, and by sharing their toys and loving their siblings and playmates. The feast of the Holy Innocents is an excellent time for parents to inaugurate the custom of blessing their children. From the Ritual comes the form which we use on solemn occasions, such as First Communion. But parents can simply sign a cross on the child's forehead with the right thumb dipped in holy water and say: May God bless you, and may He be the Guardian of your heart and mind—the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. 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.

Key Notes:

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Juliea Ballantyne 07985694199 Email: archwaysg@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 Team: Maria Okereafor 07830000919, Jeanette Fayers 07738929756, Joan Fitzgerald 07811419531

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