

NEWS AND VIEWS

Volunteers Thanksgiving Mass will take place during the 11.30am Mass today, refreshment will be immediately after Mass in the meeting room. The Mass will be live streamed, please share the link and subscribe to the channel. You can also scan with the QR Code below.

<https://bit.ly/3NfhrLq>



Parish Advent Retreat: Begins on Friday 15th at 5pm, Saturday 16th @ 5pm with Penitential Service and end after the 11.30am on Sunday 17th.

First Holy Communion dates: Dec. 3rd (Enrolment Mass), 17th..more dates after Christmas. **First Holy Communion celebration 2nd June, 2024.** Please enter the meeting through the parish car park. Nativity rehearsal begins 17th @ 10am, 22nd, 23rd @ 10am, 24th @ 12.45pm-1.30pm and 5pm.

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.

Fr. Oliver's Farewell: We shall have the opportunity to thank him for all his contributions to our parish while also serving as the Chaplain at Whittington hospital for many years. He will concelebrate Masses during the weekend of 16th/17th December. As usual please we will bring and share all refreshments after the 11.30am Mass. We will also continue to keep him in our prayers.

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 December 10th,** to secure booking of flights and hotel reservations. 3rd instalment 25% **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: 3rd December 2023
Envelopes: £181 **Loose:** £386.23 **Contactless:** £183.
 We also receive £500 weekly from standing orders. Thank you for your continuous support for our parish.

December Diary

Sunday 24th: **6.30pm : Children's Mass with Nativity play**
11.30pm: Midnight Mass
 Monday 25th: **11.30am (Only Mass for the day)**
 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

- Fri. 15th-17th- Advent Parish Retreat
- Nativity Rehearsal: 17th @ 10am, 22nd @ 10am, 23rd @ 10am, 24th @ 12.45pm -1.30pm & 5pm

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



RIVER
 ISAIAH
 MESSENGER
 WILDERNESS
 BAPTISM
 REPENTANCE
 CAMELSKIN
 LOCUSTS
 HONEY
 STRAP
 SANDALS
 SPIRIT

Food For Thought

Isaiah 52:7

How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

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



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

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+2nd Sunday of Advent Time B 10th 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

Fixing the highway within

This Sunday's First Reading is set in the context of their return from Babylonian exile which happened with the destruction of their first Temple (586 BC). The prophet Isaiah therefore announces liberation to them at last: "Comfort, comfort my people", the Lord charged him. "Speak to the heart of Jerusalem... that her time of service is ended ... Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, here is your God." Yet, they must "Prepare the way for the Lord: every valley must be filled in and every mountain laid low, every cliff must become a plain, then, the glory of the Lord shall be revealed!" The Messiah's ultimate mission and destination is the human heart. It is therefore the road to the heart that they are called to fix. They are to straighten the crooked ways of infidelity. Moreover, they would have become dispirited in exile, lacking in religious fervour. Hence, they must rise from the ravines of moral laxity and spiritual despondency. John the Baptist's call of Isaiah in the Gospel, calling people out into the open desert. This reinforces the need for them to come out of their sulking and dark places into the open for God to find them. Yes, God actively searches for us. He always makes the first move. That's the primacy of grace. By calling the people into the desert, John was also calling them to let go of their false hopes and securities and learn to hope and trust in God alone. It is a call to let go of our grip on the goods of this world. Advent is the time for us to make way for the Lord who comes to be born in us, in our hearts. We prevent the coming of the Lord by not opening ourselves to the radical implications of the message of Isaiah and John the Baptist which is essentially a call to repentance.

Mass Times & Intentions 10th – 16th December 2023

Sat 9th Vigil Mass 6:30pm: Elaine Marshall (Month's Mind), Muriel & George Roberts, Lorraine Constantinou (RIP), Mary Barrett (Doohoma) (4th) (ANN), Joan Fitzgerald (INT)
Sun 10th 9:00am: Peggy Green (RIP), Andrew Panayiotou, Michael Kelly, Ella Humphreys, Olga Monpeke (INT)
11:30am: Patrick Gillespie (RIP), John Rooney (51st) (ANN), Joan Kirwan, Etukudoh family (INT)
6:30pm: Philip & Tunu, Ekanem & Uche, Amy & Laurence, Udoh family, Emo & Paddy, Essien-Oku family, Effy Inam & family, Manny, Lillian & family, Larry & family (INT)
Mon 11th St Damasus 12 noon: James Doherty, Thomas McKenna, Patrick Gillespie (RIP), Sofia & Charlie McFadden, Gerald Walsh (71st) (ANN), Erna Joy, John & Lucie Thompson, Ella Humphreys (INT)
Tue 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe 12 noon: Thomas McKenna (RIP), Alan & Felicity Harrison, Maureen Tayler, Tracey, Joan & Sade, Ella Humphreys, Tuesday Social Club, Andrew Panayiotou, Panayiotou family (INT)
Wed 13th St Lucy 12 noon: Mary McNamara, Joseph Mannion, Peter & Kathleen Hart (RIP), Andrew Panayiotou, Panayiotou family (INT)
Thur 14th St John of the Cross 12 noon: Bridget Moran, Kathleen Moran, Christina Moran (RIP)
Fri 15th 12 noon: People of the Parish **5pm: Parish Advent Retreat day 1**
Sat 16th 12 noon: Mary Duffy, Theresa Bannerman, Katherine Conway, Sr. Ina Conway (RIP) **5pm: Day 2/ Confessions**



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 Munnelly, Brian Coleman, Shiela Farrell, Mary Theresa Madigan, Christopher Nelson, Paddy Essang, Padra Williams, Phillip Duggase, 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

Parish Projects

1. Replacing expired Church meeting room roof (Abbey Roofing) £20,000 + VAT
 2. Refurbishing 722 Holloway Road, Church reclaimed property (Ozzy Home Repairs Ltd) £17,900 + VAT
 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 **£3,038.69** 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. Oliver Ugwu 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

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 40:1-5,9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God." Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 84)

R. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and faithfulness have met; Justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **R**

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3: 8-14

There is one thing, my friends that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

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 Mark 1:1-18

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: 'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight', and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, "Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

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.

Mass

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

Readers

Bridget O'Dea
Rachel McGonigal
John Obligar
Maureen Tayler

Eucharist Minister

Jackie O'Shea
Innocent Teme
June G. & Joyce.
Roxanne C

Stewards

Joan Fitzgerald/Jeanette Fayers
Essien E-Oku/ Gabriel E-Oku
Bernie Shevlin/Joseph Baffoe
Joe Ogbonna

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