

NEWS AND VIEWS

Sunday Mass streaming link: You can also scan with the QR Code below. <https://bit.ly/3NfhrLq>



Fr. Oliver's thank you and farewell Mass: We shall have the opportunity to thank him personally for all his contributions to our parish while also serving as the Chaplain at Whittington hospital for many years. He will concelebrate Masses this weekend of **16th/17th Dec.** 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.

First Holy Communion dates: Dec. 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.

The Parish Office closes for Christmas on Fri. the 22nd of Dec. and re-opens on Mon. the 8th of Jan. Masses and essential pastoral services continues as normal.

Fr Moses's Annual Leave begins after Christmas, please keep him in your prayers.

Donations for Christmas Flowers for church decoration would be highly appreciated. Thank you to the family that has made their yearly contributions for flowers. God bless.

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: 10th December 2023
Envelopes: £244 **Loose:** £359.40 **Contactless:** £70
 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

- Nativity Rehearsal:
- 17th @ 10am,
- 22nd @ 10am,
- 23rd @ 10am,
- 24th @ 12.45pm -1.30pm & 5pm

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

PRISON
 BLIND
 LAME
 LEPERS
 CLEANSED
 LIFE
 HAPPY
 CLOTHES
 PALACES
 PROPHET
 SCRIPTURE
 WOMEN



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



Food For Thought

Isaiah 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."



spiritans

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

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+3rd Sunday of Advent Time B
 17th 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

Having come thus far in our journey, the Church says to us as the prophet Nehemiah said to the Israelites: "Go and enjoy... Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength" (Neh 8, 10). However, after today, we must continue our journey with a new zeal and expectation. Therefore, for Gaudate Sunday to be truly meaningful, it must provoke a great feeling of joy and thankfulness, while still strongly preserving, and keeping us focused on our journey and duty this glorious season of Advent. It is not the end our journey. Today our gospel is about the prophecy and clarion call of the "Prophet of Prophets," John the Baptist. The major difference between today's gospel and that of last week rests simply on the fact that they are accounts from different writers Mark and John. The message remains functionally and ontologically the same. It is still from: "The voice that cries in the wilderness, make a straight way for the Lord." Why is this reading and call being repeated this joyful Sunday? It is for the purpose of emphasis. It is to remind us that, though we are given a little time to relax and rejoice today, that the clarion call is still there: "Make a straight way for the Lord." In order words, our preparation continues. So, it is a way of keeping us alert so that we do not lose focus of where we are actually going to: "It is NOT Christmas yet!" The joy of this Sunday foreshadows the fullness of joy that Christmas brings.

Mass Times & Intentions 17th - 23rd December 2023

Sat 16th Vigil Mass 6:30pm: Peter & Kathleen Hart (RIP), Andrew Panayiotou (INT)
Sun 17th 9:00am: Mary Bresford (RIP), Lina Piroli & family, Margaret Riley, Andrew Panayiotou, Gabby Mehmet (INT)
11:30am: Brendan Nelson, Deceased members of the Nelson & Murphy families, Theresa Gray, Kenneth Gray, Gerald Walsh, John O'Neill, Brian Robinson (RIP), Margaret Dunne, Kellie Dunne (ANN), Mary McKinney, Joan Kirwan, Etukudoh family, Ella Humphreys (INT)
6:30pm: Philip & Tunu, Ekanem & Uche, Amy & Laurence, Udoh family, Emo & Paddy, Essien-Oku family, Effy Inam & family, Manny, Lillian & family, Larry & family, Maureen Tayler, Rosemary Ekanem (INT)
Mon 18th 12 noon: Colin Restall (8 months' mind), Elizabeth Hickey (RIP), Sr. Monique, Mary Aherne, Maura O'Leary, Joyce McDaid, Andrew Panayiotou, Arwell Davies (Get well) (INT)
Tue 19th 12 noon: Canon Gerard King, Sr. Dolores, Sr. Roisin, Sr. Patricia, Patricia Oku & family, Maureen & Gabby, Michael Quirke, Bridie Ronan, Mary Ryan, Andrew Panayiotou, Ekpenyong Cobham (INT)
Wed 20th 12 noon: Christie Carabine, June Hunter, Fr. Terry Murrey (RIP), Andrew Panayiotou, Sr. Stella, Sr. June, Sr. Paul Marie, Sr. Cecilia King, Margaret Murphy, Sandra Turner (INT)
Thur 21st St Peter Canisius 12 noon: Christie Carabine, Peggy Green (RIP), Ronaldina Fernandes (1st) (ANN), Essien & Patricia Oku & family, Andrew Panayiotou, Tunu Etim-Bassey (INT)
Fri 22nd 12 noon: Margaret O'Halloran, Ann O'Keeffe (RIP), Nora Maloney, Ella Humphreys, Jol (INT)
Sat 23rd St John of Kanty 12 noon: Mary Duffy, Peggy Green, Christie Carabine (RIP), Mary Murphy (ANN), Ann McCarthy (INT)



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 Munnely, Brian Coleman, Shiela Farrell, Mary Theresa Madigan, Christopher Nelson, Paddy Essang, Padra Williams, Phillip Duggane, 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 **£3,288.69** 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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. "I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. "For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Luke 1: 46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

R

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

R

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel his servant, remembering his mercy.

R

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:6-8,19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, "I am not the Christ." "Well then," they asked "are you Elijah?" "I am not" he said, "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No," So they said to him, "Who are you?" We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?" So John said, "I am as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord." Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, "Why are you baptizing if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?" John replies, "I baptize with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal strap." This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Mass	Readers	Eucharist Minister	Stewards
Sat. 6.30pm	Joanna Hemingway	Debra	Joan Fitzgerald/Jeanette Fayers
Sun. 9.00am	Maureen Tayler	Innocent Teme	Essien E-Oku/ Gabriel E-Oku
Sun. 11.30am	Ignatius Etukudoh	June G. & Roxanne.	Bernie Shevlin/Joseph Baffoe
Sun. 6.30pm	Eugenia Ackah	Michelle C	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,
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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