

# NEWS AND VIEWS

## Thank You, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Beloved Parishioners of St. Gabriel's Archway, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." (Matthew 1:23; cf. Isaiah 9:6). The mission of this new born child, Jesus Christ, the Anointed One of God, whose coming we awaited in Advent, is to give good news to the poor and homeless, to open the eyes of the blind, to set captives free, to bind up hearts that are broken, to comfort those who mourn especially during this yet another tough year of covid-19 pandemic, 2021. Indeed, it is a time like this that Jesus the Christ came into the world, and thus, an apt time to celebrate the nativity of the Messiah of all mankind.

As followers of Jesus, we share His mission. The clergy and staff here at St Gabriel's, wish to thank you all for your collaboration with us in this same mission of Christ during this passing year.

Thank you for your generosity to our priests at Christmas and to our parish throughout the year.

We wish you a very holy, joyful and peaceful Christmas and we extend this wish for the New Year.

Fr David                      Fr Ben                      Fr Oliver

**Parish Office** is now closed for Christmas break to re-open on Tuesday the 4th of January. The priests will be available for essential services. Masses during the period will be held as usual. We want to thank our Parish Office Team (POI) for their gracious and selfless service through the year.

**Diocesan Guidelines On Covid (Latest):** With respect to the current situation with the omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

- That people displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at

home and not travel to church or participate in person.

- That hand sanitiser is available to those attending the Church.
  - That there is a strong recommendation for people to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) during the act of worship.
  - That there is good ventilation and air throughout in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to remind people to wrap up well in church!
  - That a positive message encouraging people to get vaccinated and have the booster jab when able is delivered whenever possible.
- That people who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS. There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of transmission is through breath and nasal aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. As such, the strict regimes of church cleaning that were recommended at the beginning of the opening of churches for public worship are no longer necessary. General church cleaning is sufficient. If these guidance points are supported, then the churches will continue to be safe places for people to gather for acts of public worship, including over the Christmas period.

**100 Club January draw:** is on Friday 7 January after the Parish Quiz on Zoom. There will be 5 prizes, with the first prize reduced to 25% and a 5th prize of 5%. January subscriptions should be handed in at the weekend Masses of 1/2 January or at the presbytery by Wednesday 5th January. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

**First Holy Communion 2021/2022 diary dates:** Jan. 9th at 10.15am. Please enter through the parish car park.

**Christian Stewardship:** (19th December 2021)

**Envelopes:** £278 **Loose:** £300.38. We also receive £500 weekly from standing orders. Thank you for our continuous support of our parish.

## December / January Diary

**Saturday 25th (Christmas Day):** Masses at 9am and 11.30am. No evening Mass

## January

**Friday 7th 12 noon:** 1st Friday Healing Mass / Holy Hour / Benediction

**Friday 7th 8pm:** Parish quiz on Zoom, followed by 100 Club draw

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

**PARENTS FEAST TEMPLE CHILD**      **PASSOVER CARAVAN DOCTORS FATHER**      **TWELVE RELATONS MOTHER BUSY**



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



The wise old Mother Superior from county Tipperary was dying. The nuns gathered around her bed trying to make her comfortable. They gave her some warm milk to drink, but she refused it. Then one nun took the glass back to the kitchen. Remembering a bottle of Irish whiskey received as a gift the previous Christmas, she opened and poured a generous amount into the warm milk. Back at Mother Superior's bed, she held the glass to her lips. Mother Superior drank a little, then a little more. Before they knew it, she had drunk the whole glass down to the last drop. "Mother", the nuns pleaded, "Please give us some wisdom before you die." She raised herself up in bed with a pious look on her face and said, "Don't sell that cow."



spiritans

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

Contact: 15 St John's Villas, N19 3EE. Tel: 02072728195 (option 2) 07533726467 (text only)

Email: [archway@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:archway@rcdow.org.uk) Website: [www.stgabes.uk](http://www.stgabes.uk)

## + Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Year C 26th December 2021

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.

## PASTORAL LETTER OF CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,  
Our concentration on the birth of Jesus embraces Joseph and Mary too. We easily forget that, at the birth of Jesus, the animals were not at all cuddly and probably very smelly; and that the manger was filled not with soft hay, but scratchy straw. Yet these were the circumstances into which the Eternal Word, through whom all things are made, chose to enter our world. We can hold this Holy Family to be a model, an inspiration, for our family life precisely because it is thoroughly human, thoroughly immersed in the same realities as ours, and thoroughly dependent on the goodness of its members, strengthened by the all-present grace of God. In this past year, we have been giving additional thought and attention to Joseph. He emerges as a parent full of tender love. This love does not overlook weakness and failings in a child. But it does mean never humiliating, or belittling a youngster because of his or her struggles. The quiet, steadfast love of Joseph is part of what makes his family holy and is a model for holiness in our own homes too. Parental love is not only full of wonder at the uniqueness of the new life in their child, but also knows that the child is given as a gift to be cared for, and not a possession to be managed. In this sense, human parenthood is about letting go. Our Heavenly Father entrusted us to our parents. In turn he entrusts your children to you, yet always remaining Father of us all, and forever. Boxing Day is also and always the Feast of St Stephen, the first martyr. In the account of his martyrdom we read that, as he gave his testimony, he cried out: 'I can see heaven thrown open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God' For this truth, heard by his audience as gross blasphemy, he was stoned to death. As we celebrate the birth of Christ and the entry into heaven of St Stephen, we see again the contours of our lives and the destiny that lies before us. The Holy Family marks out our route. Boxing Day teaches us the greater joy of giving than of receiving. St Stephen proclaims the new and heavenly birth that our Saviour comes to give us. A happy and joyful Christmas to you all and a happy New Year. Yours devotedly, † Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster

## Mass Intentions 25th December 2021 - 1st January 2022

**Sat 25th:** No evening Mass

**Sun 26th 9:00am:** Sarah Slattery, Kathleen O'Brien, Martin McDonagh, Daniel Quaid (ANN), Winston Fernando, Ronnie Russell & family (INT)

**11:30am:** Tina McMahon, Tom Mehmet (RIP), Kathleen Panayiotou & family, Mehmet family, Mary Hansberry, Anna Marie Lydon & family (INT)

**6:30pm: People of the parish**

**Mon 27th St. John 12 noon:** John Doogan, Tom Mehmet (RIP), Anoja & Winston Fernando (INT)

**Tue 28th Holy Innocents 12 noon:** Florence Pinfield, Jack Walsh, Michael Joe McTigue, Ann Quinlan, Mary Slattery, Joe Brickley (RIP), Jerry Reilly(45th), John & Eileen Kane, Patrick Quinlan (9th) (ANN), Betty O'Neill (INT)

**Wed 29th St Thomas Becket 12 noon:** Carlo Avanzi, Pietro Piroli (RIP), Patrick Quinlan (9th) (ANN), Ann Moon (INT)

**Thur 30th 12 noon:** Kay McClean, Maria McAlvoy (RIP), Charmaine Girsham, Elsie Winskill (ANN)

**Fri 31st 12 noon:** Otuanwan Ekpenyong-Oku (posth b'day) (RIP), Claire Redmond-Burnside, Margaret Wilkes (ANN), Sam Haslam, Rica Coelho (INT)

**Sat 1st Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God 12 noon:** Marcel Guérin (RIP), (ANN), David Lavelli, Richard Hill (INT)



Rebecca Campbell, Babs Kavanagh, Ella Humphreys, Rita Avanzi, Nancy Olaiya, Jarlet Fallon, Nora Hoare, Ann Larkin, Mary Wallace, Christopher Jerome, John Bruno, Theresa Reilly, Mary Slow, Isabella King, Derek Gomes, Mary Burton, Cornelia Henshaw, Rebecca Ononogbo, Frank Gibbons, Maria Kuozwatski, Philip Mayne, Giovanna Spittle, Bridget Munnely, Brian Coleman, Shiela Farrell, Augustina Okelue, Mary Theresa Madigan, Maria Cecile Perine, Christopher Nelson, Paddy Essang, Padra Williams, Phillip Duggase, Terry Earley, Elizabeth Earley, Mary Mullarkey, Mary O'Connell, Bernadette Ikwuka, Margaret Togher, Geraldine McKeaney, Mary Dunne, Lina Piroli, Pilar, Christy & Maria Christopher, Lourdes Sisneros, Angela Fairbank, Emmanuel & Magdalene Debonne, Douglas Meyers, Sylvia Traynor, Danielle, Lilian Montague, Fr Kevin, Frances Quinn, Tony Colbert, Kathleen Panayiotou, Fr. Aodh, Maureen Walsh, Gabby Mehmet, Freda Glackin, Maureen Currie, Joan McGonigal, Debbie Whitehed, Emo Paddy Essang

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

**Parish Priests:** Fr. David Atuanya CSSp, Fr. Benedict Baka CSSp, Fr. Oliver Ugwu 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](mailto:archway@rcdow.org.uk) **Web:** [parish.rcdow.org.uk/archway](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/archway) (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 (New time) 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

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

## OPENING PRAYER

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. 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. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING Samuel 1:20-22.24-28

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.' When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.' When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 83)

**R. They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.**

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
Lord, God of hosts.  
My soul is longing and yearning,  
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my soul ring out their joy  
to God, the living God.

**R.**

They are happy, who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.  
They are happy, whose strength is in you;  
they walk with ever growing strength.

**R.**

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,  
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,  
look on the face of your anointed. **R.**

## SECOND READING John 3:1-2.21-24

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Open our heart, O Lord,**  
**to accept the words of your Son.**  
**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL Luke 2:41-52

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

## PRAYER 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 the earth, and lived among us.

## PRAYER 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

Sun. 9.00am  
Sun. 11.30am  
Sun. 6:30pm

## Readers

Rachel McGonigal  
Mark Renner  
Joanna Hemingway

## Stewards

Raiza/ Gabriel E-Oku  
Bernie Shevlin / Ignatius Etukudoh  
Joseph 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 Team:** Maria Okereafor 07830000919, Jeanette Fayers 07738929756, Joan Fitzgerald 07811419531

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