

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 Ignatius Fr. Oliver & Seminarian Raphael

Parish Office Closed on Friday 23rd December and will re-opens on Tuesday the 3rd of January.

Christmas Day Masses at 9am and 11.30am (No evening Mass). Masses are as usual during the week at 12noon. There will be additional Mass at 11pm on Saturday the 31st to cross over to the New Year. New Year Day Mass will be at 12noon the normal time for weekday Masses.

Help At Home: The give away is still ongoing till the 31st of December for **registered parishioners only**. Thank you all who are still supporting this thoughtful cause. God bless

1st Holy Communion sessions at 10.15am: Christmas break Please could you all enter the meeting room via the door in the car park and ensure the catechists are present before leaving your child/children.

Dates for Confirmation Sessions: Christmas break. **Jan.** 11th, 25th, **Feb.** 8th, 22nd, **Mar.** 8th, 22nd, Easter break. **Apr.** 19th, **May** 3rd, 17th, **June** 7th, 21st, 28th -(Rehearsal in the Church). **Confirmation Ceremony Sunday July 2nd at 11.30am Mass.**

Parish '100 Club: the next draw will take place after the 1st Friday Healing Mass on the 6th January. Please hand in your subscriptions by Sunday 1st of January. Good Luck!

Christian Stewardship: (18th December 2022) **Envelopes:** £181.10 **Loose:** £486.58 **Contactless:** £62 **Parish Project- (Help At Home-** £1677.97 so far - We also receive £500 weekly from standing orders. Thank you for your continuous support for our parish.

December Diary

Saturday 31st at 11pm: **New Year's Eve Mass, followed by refreshments in the Meeting Room**

Every Saturday at 10.30am: **Faith Sharing/RCIA sessions**

Every Last Saturday at 12noon: **Baptism**

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

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CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS
HOLLY
REINDEER
TINSEL
MANGER
BABY
JOSEPH
JESUS
SHEPHERD
KINGS
STAR
STABLE
SANTA CLAUS

ADVENT CAROLS
ANGEL
CRIB
HOLY
NOEL
MARY
BALTHAZAR
MELCHIOR
CASPAR
GOLD
FRANKINCENSE
MYRRH



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



A church minister received a Christmas card with a note in it from a lady in his congregation. He said she was very complimentary about his preaching, & compared him with Billy Graham. She finished by writing, "I think you are one of the really great preachers of all time." Later that day, when he showed the note to his wife, she asked, "Who is that woman?" He replied, "She is a very intelligent woman in the congregation who loves great preaching." He then asked his wife, "How many great preachers do you suppose there really are in the world?" She replied, "One less than you think."



spirits

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 Website: www.stgabes.uk



+ Midnight Christmas Mass
24th December 2022



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

Your Light has come: Arise and shine

It is a very powerful imagery. Light guides us on our way. Light warms and comforts. It supports life and promotes growth; plants always gravitate towards light to get life. Light prevents crime. The birth of Jesus brought light into a dark world. Jesus came at a time the people of God were mired in spiritual and socio-political darkness: compromised religion and oppressive foreign rule. Thus, in anticipation of his birth, the Prophet Isaiah aptly acclaim: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone!" Jesus came as the Light that illuminates, the Light that clarifies, the Light that reveals the truth. He came to reveal the face of the true God. God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness. Jesus unequivocally declared: "I am the Light of the world." And he makes an even more audacious claim: "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life". That is where you and I come in as Christians: people who follow Christ. We are called, not only to follow this light, but to bear and reflect it wherever we are. Speaking to his followers, Jesus directly charged them: "You are the light of the world. You are like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden" (Matt. 5:14). As bearers of this light, you and I as Christians have a decisive role to play in combating the darkness that pervades the nooks and crannies of our world today; the oppressive systems and ideologies, the raging violence and wars, the social inequality and injustice. The prophet Isaiah charges us to "Arise and shine for our Light has come." How much are we doing as individual Christians and as a Church to reflect the light of Christ so as to dispel the pervading darkness in our world? In his short period of public ministry, Jesus practically set the world on fire with his light, championing the cause of justice and peace, calling out oppressive systems and ideologies and liberating people both materially and spiritually. Jesus will feel so betrayed that the light is being extinguished in our world today through the selfishness and greed of some that bring untold hardship and misery on the many. The light is being extinguished in the self-invention that has peaked in man's rebellion to play God. Jesus said "Let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Mass Times & Intentions 25th - 31st December 2022

Sat 24th Vigil Mass & Children's Christmas Liturgy 6:30pm: Sharon Gaudio, Brendan Nelson (RIP), Christie de Cruz, Margaret Nelson, Nelson family, Fr Moses Enehizena, Stella Anakor, William Conway (INT)

Sun 25th The Nativity of the Lord 9:00am: Deceased members of the Mullee family, Karen Brennan, Carmel Byrne, Alan Mullee (RIP), Ronnie Russell and family (INT)

11:30am: Assunta Turin (RIP) **No Evening Mass**

Mon 26th St Stephen 12 noon: Jeanette Ette, Alphonse Elogne, Michael & Agnes Heneghan, Mary Slattery, Mary Shevlin, Brendan Galvin (RIP), Michael, Ann and the Nevin family, Tony & Maureen Nevin & family, Teresa Shortall & family, Rita Avanzi & family, Essien-Oku family, Ella Humphreys (INT)

Tue 27th St John the Evangelist 12 noon: Michael McNicholas (RIP), Aferina & Rosario de Cruz (Wedding anniv)

Wed 28th The Holy Innocents 12 noon: Florence Pinfield, Bill Ronan, Babs Kavanagh (RIP), Betty O'Neill, Ann Moon, Mary Aherne, Maureen Taylor, Joan Fitzgerald & family (INT)

Thur 29th St Thomas Becket 12 noon: Carlo Avanzi, Pietro Piroli, Mary Barry-Murphy, Kevin Smullen, Alf Humphreys (RIP), Patrick Quinlan (9th), Ann Quinlan (ANN), Lina Piroli & family, Priests of the Parish, Volunteers of the Parish, Joyce McDaid, Brianna (INT)

Fri 30th The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 12 noon: Michael McNicholas (RIP), Charmaine Girsham, Elsie Winskill (ANN)

Sat 31st St Sylvester 12 noon: Ann Fitzgerald, Otuanwan Ekpenyong-Oku (RIP), Claire Redmond-Burnside, Margaret Wilkes, Leo Baker (ANN), Sam Haslam, Rica Coelho (INT) **11:00pm: New Year's Eve Mass**



Rebecca Campbell, Ella Humphreys, Rita Avanzi, Nancy Olaiya, Jarlet Fallon, Nora Hoare, Ann Larkin, Mary Wallace, Christopher Jerome, John Bruno, Mary Slow, Isabella King, Derek Gomes, Mary Burton, Frank Gibbons, Maria Kuozvatski, Philip Mayne, Bridget Munnally, Brian Coleman, Shiela Farrell, Tina Okelue, Mary Theresa Madigan, Christopher Nelson, Paddy Essang, Padra Williams, Phillip Duggase, Terry Earley, Elizabeth Earley, Mary Mullarkey, Mary O'Connell, Bernadette Ikwuka, Margaret Togher, Geraldine McKeane, Mary Dunne, Lina Piroli, Pilar, 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 Paddy Essang, Madeleine, Stella Anakor, Jacinta, Marie Therese Tourette, Mary Gallagher, Gloria Munian, Brian Robinson

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

Parish Priests: Fr. Moses Enehizena CSSp, Fr. Ignatius Quan CSSp, Fr. Oliver Ugwu CSSp, Seminarian Raphael Muendo

Parish Office Team: Patricia Essien-Oku, Maureen Taylor, 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:** 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

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world.

OPENING PRAYER

O God who has made this most sacred night radiant with the splendour of the true light, grant we pray, that we who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:1-7

The people that walked in the darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son is given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 95)

Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord. R

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth, O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R**

Proclaim his help day by day; tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **R**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. **R**

With justice he will rule the world; he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R**

Second Reading Titus 2: 11-14

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in the present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia

I bring you Good News of a great joy, a saviour has been born to us today, Chris the Lord

Alleluia.

GOSPEL John 1:1-18

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census- the first- took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger". And suddenly with the angel was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: "Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour".

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

May the oblation of this day's feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is united. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Word of God became flesh and we have seen his glory.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us we pray O Lord our God, that we, who are gladdened by participation in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity, may through an honourable way of life become worthy of union with him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Mass

Sat Midnight Mass
Sun. 9.00am
Sun. 11.30am

Readers

Jeanette Fayers/ Mark Renner
Rachel McGonigal
Joe Baffoe

Eucharist Minsters

Michelle Carr/Roxanne
Innocent Teme
June/Joyce

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