

# NEWS AND VIEWS

**Sunday 31st—9am, 11.30am, No 6.30pm Mass**  
**11.30pm cross over to New year Mass**  
**Sunday Mass streaming link:** You can also scan with the QR Code below. <https://urlvn.net/mtroyx> **January:** Sunday Masses will be streamed during 9am



**National Lottery Fund:** Great news for us all to share, we applied for the lottery and we were granted **£20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Pounds)** to go toward our refurbishment of the 722 Holloway property. We were given the opportunity to applied for the **Trinity Fund** for the parish meeting room roof replacement, we have also been granted **£8,000.00 (Eight Thousand Pounds)** which is going towards offsetting some of the quoted amount. We thank the team that worked hard to put all the applications together. We will begin work as soon as practical and the parishioners will be carried along on each progress made. In the new year, the Fund-raising team will be organising different activities to help us fundraise for our parish.

**First Holy Communion dates:** more dates after Christmas. **First Holy Communion celebration 2nd June, 2024.**

**100 Club December draw:** The next draw is on **Friday 5th of January after the 1st Friday Service.** Subscriptions due in the weekend of 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> December. New Members Welcome!

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

**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 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:** 24th/25th December 2023  
**Envelopes:** £497 **Loose:** £943.80 **Contactless:** £143  
 We also receive £500 weekly from standing orders. Thank you for your continuous support for our parish.

## December Diary

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**

## January Diary

Weekend of 13th/14th January: **Columban Missionaries Appeal Weekend.**  
 Weekend of 27th/28th: **Parish Project Collection**

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O	A	R	P	U	W	N	O	R	E
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D	U	A	R	S	R	N	L	N	V
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PURIFIED LAW SIMEON MARY PARENTS ANNA JERUSALEM SCARIFICE TEMPLE WISDOM JERUSALEM PIGEONS SERVANT WISDOM



## 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."

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

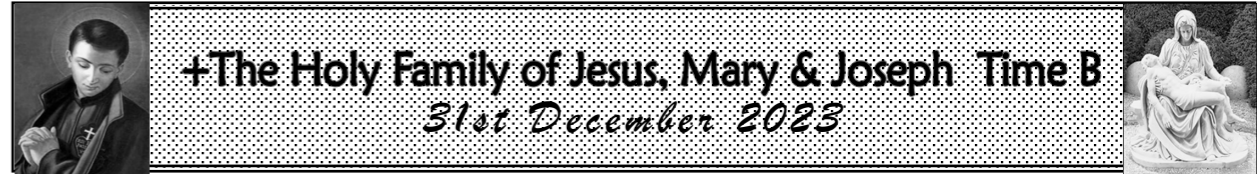


spiritans

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

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**+The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Time B**  
**31st 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

As an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more "dramatic" events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today's Gospel reminds us (especially in the shorter version), there were also the so-called "hidden years" - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. The family is a basic unit of our Christian society, despite coming under threat nowadays. Our celebration of this feast, and the Word of God we proclaim, announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Mass Times & Intentions 31st December 2023 – 6th January 2024

**Sat 30th Vigil Mass 6:30pm:** Steve & Concilia Amalikwu family (INT)  
**Sun 31st 9:00am:** Otuanwan E.-Oku (RIP) thanksgiving for Essien-Oku family, Manny/Lilian & family, Roxanne Carter & family (INT)  
**11:30am:** Maureen & Jim Cleary, Walter Conway, Imelda Lesperance(RIP), Christy Columb, Jerry Riley, Eileen Kane, John Kane (ANN), Margaret Nelson, Etukudoh family, Mary Aherne & family, Maura O'Leary, Margret Togher (INT)  
**6:30pm:** Margaret Keohane (16th), Helen Francis (3rd) (ANN), Mary Hayes (INT)  
**Mon 1st Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God 12 noon: People of the Parish**  
**Tues 2nd Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen 12 noon: Moses Ebow Dennis (ANN)**  
**Wed 3rd 12 noon:** Georgina Ulaeto, Winnie Elkins, Deceased members of Reaney family (RIP)  
**Thur 4th 12 noon:** Alf Humphreys (RIP), POT & PAT Archway (INT)  
**Fri 5th 12 noon:** *First Friday Healing Mass/Holy Hour/Benediction*  
**Sat 6th 12 noon:** Christie Columb (ANN), Spiritans & Marists Communities, Archway



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 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, Sr Joseph,

## Parish Projects

1. Replacing expired Church meeting room roof (Abbey Roofing) £17,900 + VAT= bal. £9,900. **Trinity Fund £8,000 granted**
  2. Refurbishing 722 Holloway Road, Church reclaimed property (Ozzy Home Repairs Ltd) £20,000 paid in full by **National Lottery Fund**
  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 **£31,288.69** 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 Taylor, 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](mailto:archway@rcdow.org.uk) Web: [www.stgabes.uk](http://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

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 2:22-40

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

Carmel Cannon

Isaac Biblian

Mark Renner

Anna Renner

## Eucharist Minister

Jackie O'Shea

Innocent Teme

June & Mary

Michelle 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