



## Saint Bartholomew's Catholic Church, Norbury

**Fathers Deodat Msahala & Innocent Ezeonyeasi and Deacon Ged Perkins**

159 Ellison Road, London SW16 5DE

Telephone: 020 8679 3545

Email: parish.office159@virginmedia.com

Website: stbartsnorbury.co.uk

The Parish Office is open from 9.30am - 3.30pm Monday to Friday (except for Bank Holidays)

*A parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO – Registered Incorporated Charity No. 1173050*

**SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER 2017**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**YEAR B**

Today we light the first and second of the candles on our Advent Wreath, increasing its brightness. Hopefully this action will be mirrored in wreaths we have made at home with our Children as, in our families, we talk and pray about the Coming of our Saviour. You will find plenty of faithful Catholic material, explaining the wreath's symbolism and suggesting appropriate Prayers which will appeal to both Parents and Children, on this website:

<https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/the-advent-wreath-tradition-meaning/>.

Advent, the beginning of a new *Liturgical Year*, is a good opportunity to begin, should you not be doing this already, to prepare as a Family for each week's Mass by looking together, at home, at the readings. Perhaps a New Year's Resolution is called for here. A renowned educational psychologist, Jerome Bruner, made clear that anything can be taught to any child, whatever their age, as long as the content is properly thought out beforehand. Children should not be underestimated in their capacity to be challenged and to understand the Mysteries of their and our Faith! They may well challenge us to expand our horizons!

By the time Christmas Day dawns, how long will the decorations have been up? How many Christmas dinners and parties will have left some people feeling somewhat jaded once the actual time for festivities arrives? Might we feel 'shopped out'? This week's readings hold a message of hope at a time when, in the news, things look pretty grim and even the bright lights cannot mask reality! :



**The Entrance Antiphon**  
(cf Isaiah 30:19, 30) proclaims that  
'...the Lord will come to save all nations...'

**In the First Reading**  
(Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11) we hear the words,  
"Console my people...says your God...  
Prepare in the wilderness a way for the  
Lord..." , a joyful proclamation of the  
impending coming of our Saviour Who,  
alone, can set things right!

**The Response to the Psalm**  
(Psalm 84:9-14, response v8) echoes last  
week's Alleluia verse, calling again for  
God's '...Mercy and...Saving Help...'

**Saint Peter**, our first Pope, (2 Peter 3:8-14) reminds us that, while time may stretch out for us, God sees all in an instant. We must continually prepare for the Second Coming, live '...*holy and saintly lives...do your best to live lives without spot or stain...*' This message is echoed in the **Alleluia Verse (Luke 3:4-6)**. Be always ready and so come to, '...*see the Salvation of God...*'

In his **Gospel (Mark 1:1-8)** Mark continues this theme, quoting Isaiah and introducing the last of the Prophets, Saint John the Baptist, who would announce the promised arrival of the *Lamb of God*. John himself was a sign of contradiction who would give his life for challenging Herod's immorality.

***Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen!***

## Thank you for your generosity

Last week's collection came to **£2106.00** (£1461.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders)

### CATHOLIC BIBLE SUNDAY

This takes place today. The theme is "Welcome the Word". The Bishops' conference of England and Wales is making available Scripture-focused materials to help us all explore Advent, Christmas and beyond. The Bible is a precious resource, which can be all too easily neglected. The following links are suggested to help us to welcome the Word into our lives: [www.facebook.com/cbcew](http://www.facebook.com/cbcew); [twitter.com/catholicew](https://twitter.com/catholicew); [www.flickr.com/photos/catholicism/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/catholicism/); [www.catholicnews.org.uk/rss/feed/cbcew-news](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/rss/feed/cbcew-news).

**Sick and Housebound:** *If you know of anybody who is sick or housebound, or in a local care home, who is unable to come to Mass, and who would like to receive Holy Communion, Reconciliation, an Anointing or a Blessing, please contact the parish office. Dedicated chaplains meet the pastoral needs of Catholic patients in hospitals.*

### Please pray for our Sick and Housebound parishioners:

Jessica Anane, Lilian Armstrong, Mrs Austin, Juliette Blake, Alan Blaquiére, Anita Blaquiére, Barry Breese, Erna Breese, Frances Caulfield, Audrey Draude, Teresa Florek-Smail, Raffaella Forte, Giovanni Franco, Rachel Gadd, Eamon Gillespie, Elaine Gunther, Anne Harris, Agnes Healy, Evelyn Hyland, Mary Kenny, Elsie McCleave, James McDonald, Breda McDonagh, Michael Madigan, Ajitha Mahatantila, Gerard Mascarenhas, Mary Meyern, Janina Miller, Edgar Ming, Maria Parnis, Marion Robertson, Parwar Saib, Frederic Saint-Rose, Alice Scott, Elizabeth Scott, Maggie Sunich, Edythe Thirlwall, Monica Vergara, Mary White, Ethelda Williams, Carole Winch, John Windsor, Charmaine Wise, Georgette Yoo Foo, Tony Zammit.

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of: **Richard Cottom**, brother of Anna Weddell. Richard died in Ireland on Sunday 3rd December 2017, after a long illness. Also **Bernardine Warren**, who died on Friday 24th November 2017 in Coventry, being the mother of Bernardine Warren - Ukadike.

Our prayers and thoughts as a parish go out to the families.

### PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD AND CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Please take away with you one of our Parish Christmas cards, which you will find in all porch areas. They carry greetings from all the clergy. Inside you will find a complete list of all Masses and services commencing next Sunday, the 3rd Sunday in Advent, right through to Christmas Day itself. Please don't forget our Advent Day of Penance on Tuesday 19th December. You should also find some Christmas Offering envelopes in which you are invited to make your traditional Christmas Offering to your priests, Father Deo and Father Innocent. Please would all those with Gift Aid Boxes use the special blue envelope marked for this purpose. If you give by Standing Order, kindly take your box from the Gift Aid office. In any event, if you wish to use one of the unmarked envelopes provided, and you wish to Gift Aid your offering, just write your Gift Aid number clearly on the front

### CHURCH CLEANING IN THE COMING WEEK - GROUP 6 PLEASE:

Ann Marie Charles, Islay Cowlin, Susan D'Souza, Susan Flatts, Linda Johnson, Agatha Kyere-Amoako, Obi Ohen, Gloria Osiobe, Carol Thompson, Julie Thompson. To join a cleaning group, please contact the Parish Office.

### READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The next rota will run for the four weekends of 3rd/4th February to 24th/25th February 2018.

Please check these dates and kindly contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.

### TRANSPORT REQUIRED

Can you bring an elderly gentleman to 6:15 Mass on Saturday evenings? Please contact the parish office.

### UCM

Special Christmas meeting on Monday 11th December in the upper hall from 2pm- 4pm

### AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK

Please join us for an EXTRA day of prayer and fasting, on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> December, the vigil of the Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives. **Please also pray especially that politicians and councillors won't hinder the pro-life presence outside abortion clinics and that buffer zones won't be introduced.** For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting see: [www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com)

### THE PILGRIM

The December edition of our diocesan newspaper should be available in the main porch. Whilst we make available no charge, please consider making a donation in the newspaper wall box, in order to help keep our costs down.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Please note that there are no further Masses available for Mass Intentions in 2017.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND READINGS WITH THE POLYPHONY CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE NOW FROM CHOIR MEMBERS AND IN THE REPOSITORY**

This annual event, an integral part of our parish preparation for Christmas, will take place next Sunday 17th December 2017 at 2.30pm in the church. Entry will be by Programme at a cost of just £3.00. Choir members will be selling programmes after all Masses this weekend. Programmes are also available from the Repository and may be purchased on the door before the concert begins. Do come along to hear the choir singing, and take in the wonderful sound of the instruments of the orchestra; listen to the Word of God in the readings. This event provides a wonderful opportunity for you to immerse yourself prayerfully in the true meaning of Christmas. A retiring collection will be taken on behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). Please be as generous as possible.

### **ADVENT**

There will be a Day of Penance on Tuesday, 19th December, when Confessions will be available all day, until 7pm, followed by Benediction, giving you a great opportunity to prepare for Christmas. Each Sunday during Advent, a candle will be lit on our Advent Wreath, as we look forward with great longing for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World at Christmas.

### **ALTAR SERVERS CHRISTMAS ROTA**

The sign-up sheet for Altar Serving at Christmas may be found in the Sacristy. In particular we need Servers for the Christmas Eve Family Mass at 6.00pm as well as Midnight Mass. Please note that there will be NO 5pm Mass on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The usual Morning Masses will take place on Christmas Day.

Practice for Family Mass - Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm (30 minutes)

Practice for Midnight Mass - Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm (30 minutes)

### **CHILDREN'S NATIVITY TABLEAU: ACTORS, ACTRESSES AND SINGERS NEEDED!**

The Children's Liturgy Group are producing their annual Nativity Play for Christmas Eve, before the 6.15pm Vigil Mass on Sunday 24th December 2017. Please note that the rehearsal will now take place on Saturday 23rd December 2017 at 11.30am (**not 4.00pm as previously advised**) in the church, at which roles will be allocated and costumes provided. Children of all ages from school nursery upwards are welcome. If you would like your child to be involved, please contact Linda Harries on 07770 623230 by 11th December at the latest.

You may also contact Linda by email: [l.harries@gmail.com](mailto:l.harries@gmail.com)

### **A SERIOUS THREAT TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

**Do you support Catholic schools, and the right of Catholics to send their children to those schools?**

**Archbishop Peter Smith writes:** "We need you to make your voice heard. The government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. This cap was introduced by the Coalition Government in 2010. The present Government have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and indeed they promised to abandon it. Now we most urgently need you to tell them that they must not perform a U-turn on that public promise they made to Catholics. Please visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk> or search for Catholic Education in your search engine. There you will be able to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic Schools. If you don't have a pc, please write to the Secretary of State for Education, The Right Hon Justine Greening MP directly instead at: Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith St, Westminster, London SW1P 3BT . Thankyou."

### **BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES 2018 AND ARRANGING BAPTISM**

The first course is expected to be run on both Saturdays 13th and 20th January 2018. To join these sessions, and/or to book a date for your child's Baptism, please complete a Baptism Details Form, available from the Church porch, and hand this in to the parish office. Further sessions are planned for April and July 2018.

### **THE CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY (CTS )**

There is now a good stock of booklets relating to Advent and Christmas in the rack just outside the Repository. If there is anything you wish to obtain, please contact Ann Daniels via the parish office, so that your request might be fulfilled. You may even download CTS booklets onto many portable reading devices. See: [www.ctsbooks.org](http://www.ctsbooks.org)

### **THE REPOSITORY**

All Christmas stock is now on display and will soon run out. Demand is very high. When it's gone, it's gone!!.

### **IMPORTANT NEWS! A DAY WITH MARY IS COMING TO ST BARTHOLOMEW'S!**

This most popular day of devotion to Our Lady will take place here on Saturday 17th February 2018. Please watch out for further details of this event, which will be widely advertised and is sure to be very well attended. If you have a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, or would like to build upon your relationship with her, this will be an excellent opportunity for you. Please pray for the success of this event, that we may all reach Jesus through Mary!

### **THE PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office will not now be fully manned until Tuesday 12th December 2017.



## Parish Masses This Week

- Sunday Masses: Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm  
**Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.85**
- Weekday Masses: Mon - Fri: 7.30am; Mon – Sat 10am
- Morning Prayer of the Church: Monday - Saturday 9.15am
- Adoration and Benediction: Monday - Saturday 9.30am; Sunday 4pm (*Rosary & Benediction in May & October*)  
*On First Fridays - Adoration after 10am Mass, closing with Benediction at 2pm*
- Rosary: Monday - Saturday after the 10am Mass
- Confessions: Saturday, after the 10am Mass, until 11am; then in the afternoon from 5pm to 6pm

Date	Time	Intention
<b>Sunday 10th December 2017</b> <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	6.15pm (Sat 9th December)	People of the parish
	8.30am	Joey D'Souza RIP
	10am	Ernest Joseph Borgonha RIP
	11.30am	Patrick John Lacey RIP
<i>Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	SVP intention
 <b><i>Second Week of Advent</i></b>		
Monday 11th December 2017	7.30am 10am	Welfare of Onwuekwe & Ilobi families John & Anne Delaney & family RIP
Tuesday 12th December 2017 Our Lady of Guadalupe (Memorial)	7.30am 10am	Della Powell RIP Thanksgiving - Lucy Nwagwu
Wednesday 13th December 2017 St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr (Memorial)	7.30am 10am	Welfare of William Desa (Birthday) Welfare of Robert Asubonteng
Thursday 14th December 2017 St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church (Memorial)	7.30am 10am	Welfare of Tom & Mary Gannon and family Philip Cowie RIP (17th anniversary)
Friday 15th December 2017	7.30am 10am	Christopher Nwabueze RIP Funeral of James Matthew Conroy RIP
Saturday 16th December 2017 - Our Lady	10am	Welfare of Kenneth Aduhene
 <b>Next Sunday 17th December 2017</b> <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>		
	6.15pm (Sat 16th December)	People of the parish
	8.30am	Eugene Lopez RIP
	10am	Welfare of Fr Paul Antwi-Boasiako CSSp
	11.30am (Plainchant Choir)	Marie Savery RIP
<i>Carol Concert with Choir &amp; Orchestra</i>	2.30pm	
<i>Benediction</i>	4pm 5pm	Welfare of Elizabeth Power