



## Saint Bartholomew's Catholic Church, Norbury

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

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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 24th DECEMBER 2017**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS**

**YEAR B**



**ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS, (DETAIL)**

National Gallery, Bologna,  
Giovanni Battista Ramenghi,  
16th Century.  
© Godong / Alamy

Secularism in our society pervades every aspect of our lives, and seems determined to eradicate Christmas if it possibly can. We see charities no longer selling Christmas cards with nativity scenes, as well as the replacement of the word “Christmas” itself by phrases such as “the winter festive season”. People are urged to avoid using religious terms in case they should somehow “upset” others. Father Deo, Father Innocent, Deacon Ged and the entire Parish Team hope and pray that you will have a wonderfully holy and happy Christmas and that the New Year will be full of all the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Once again, amid the bustle of life, the preoccupation of the advertising media with material gain and, it would seem, amid an unending stream of news reports of poverty, crime, and death in various parts of our world, we have journeyed through Advent and are celebrating Christmas. The Crib, centrepiece of this Season, is displayed in our homes and in our Parish church; church and homes are brightly decorated, Christmas trees abound and, somehow, the gloom of winter is shut out.

Once more we pray, at Midnight Mass, the Christmas Night hymn of the Angels, “*Glory to God in the Highest...*!” Father wears white (or, indeed, gold-coloured) vestments, Carols are sung, calling us to contemplate the Birth of our Saviour. Our **Entrance Antiphon** echoes the Father’s Words, ‘... *You are my Son; this day have I*

*begotten you...*’ (Psalm 2:7). We hear, in the **First reading**, of the ‘... *great light...*’ that has dispelled the darkness of Original Sin (Isaiah 9: 1-7). In the **Response to the Psalm** we proclaim, ‘*Today a Saviour has been born to us...*’ (Psalm 95: 1-3, 11-13 response Luke 2:11). Saint Paul joyfully cries out that ‘...*God’s Grace has been revealed...*’. (Titus 2:11-14). In the **Gospel** we hear of that journey in Faith made by Our Lady and Saint Joseph to Bethlehem and of the subsequent Angelic Proclamation of the ‘...*news of great joy...*’ of Jesus’ Birth to the humble shepherds (Luke 2:1-14).

In our homes presents are exchanged. Our gifts, given with Love, put us in mind of Love Himself and the greatest Christmas Gift ever, Love Incarnate, Jesus, Emmanuel (‘*God is with us!*’). Our earthly enjoyment of Christmas takes its meaning from the knowledge that this little child, born in a humble stable, grew and restored hope in an Eternity of inconceivable Happiness for those who ‘... *endure to the end...*’.

For some, sadly, the whole point of the Season is passed over. It is therefore, as ever, up to us to be 'counter-cultural', showing, by word and example, the true significance of this celebration, as Saint Peter says, ‘...*the hope that is in you...*’ (1 Peter 3:15). On that first Christmas night, Jesus, the Word Who “...*was made flesh...*” at His Conception nine months earlier in the Womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is setting out on His 30 year mission to Save humanity, atoning for Original sin and all sins committed until the end of time and putting us back, with the means to get there, in the Church, on the road to Heaven. How can we not rejoice knowing this!?! May we be inspired to spread this “...*news of Great Joy...*” in the year ahead!

## **Thank you for your generosity**

Last week's collection came to **£1649.00** (£1004.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders)

**The SVP** thank all those who contributed **£355.00** to the retiring collection at the Christmas Concert.

**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 Blaquiere, Anita Blaquiere, 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, Kathleen Lawrence, 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.

### **PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD AND CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

In the porch areas, you will find some Christmas Offering Envelopes, in which you are invited to place 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, which is contained in your boxes and is specifically marked for this purpose. If you give by Standing Order, kindly take your box from the Gift Aid office, so that you may use the special envelope. In any event, if you wish to use one of the unmarked Christmas Offering envelopes provided, and you also wish to Gift Aid your offering, please just write your Gift Aid number clearly on the front.

### **CHURCH CLEANING IN THE COMING WEEK - GROUP 2 PLEASE:**

Barbara Baichu, Jackie Byrne, Mary Duah, Doris Fosua, Helen Igbedion, Mary Odusanya, Victoria Okonko.  
**After Christmas, Group 3; After New Year, Group 4.**

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2018**

First Holy Communion Masses for 2018 have now been allocated. The list is posted on the notice board in the main porch. Please note the date allocated to your child. Please check carefully the spelling of names. If any amendments are required, please let the parish office know. There will be a very important meeting for all parents at 8pm on Tuesday 9th January 2018, in the lower hall. At this meeting, vital information will be given to you.

### **CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2018**

Bishop Patrick Lynch will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, 20th May 2018, at 12 Noon. This will be for **students currently in Year 8 and above**. Please would all potential candidates take an application form from the main porch. Please return your form to the parish office no later than 7th January 2018. Please would all parents, guardians and candidates note the date of the Introductory Meeting, in the lower hall on Wednesday 17th January 2018 at 7.30pm, lasting about an hour. Please be prompt. Please diarise all sessions.

### **CRIB OFFERINGS**

This year, your offerings will go to the Southwark Crisis Fund. Please place your offerings in the basket provided.

### **HOLIDAYS**

Fr Innocent is off to Nigeria for a well - earned break. He will be away from Wednesday 27th December 2017 until Wednesday 24th January 2018. We wish him a happy and refreshing holiday. During his absence, we welcome Father David Standley, who will be saying the 10am & 11.30am each Sunday.

### **PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office will not now be fully manned until Tuesday 9th January 2018.

### **MIDNIGHT MASS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE & NOON MASS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Join us to welcome in the new year at Midnight, with Mary, the Holy Mother of God, to which the first day of the new year is dedicated. There will also be Mass at 12 Noon only on New Year's Day itself. (No 7.30am or 10am).

### **LONDON SW CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS**

Meets Saturday 6th January 2018 at 7.30pm, at The Alexandra pub, Wimbledon. Contact Miles on 07790 441242.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE & CONGRESS 2018**

In preparation for this great event, please find a prayer card in the main porch, which contains a Prayer for the Church in Southwark. Please pray for the success of this event. More details will follow in the new year.

### **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.

This event will involve the use of both our upper and lower halls as well as the Church itself.

## A WORD OF THANKS

To all those who have had some part in preparing for and celebrating this great Feast of Christmas, our sincere thanks. To all those responsible for decorating the church, the crib and the presbytery; maintaining the lighting, putting up the Christmas trees both outside and in; the floral displays. Thanks to our servers; those who sang in the choir and those who played instruments; readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; the children who took part in the Nativity Tableau; Thank you for giving so freely of your talents and time. You are too numerous to name. Thank you, and God Bless you all for making our remembrance of the

Birth of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ so memorable and so meaningful.

May the blessing of the Christ Child enrich your life this Christmas and through the coming year.

## BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES 2018 AND ARRANGING BAPTISM

The first course takes place on both Saturdays 13th and 20th January 2018. Please complete a form to join.

## READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The next rota runs from 3rd/4th February - 24th/25th February 2018. Please advise availability to the parish office.

## TRANSPORT REQUIRED

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

## LIVING FAITH

Available free of charge, please consider making a contribution of £1 in the wall box in the main porch.

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - Monday January 1st 2018 to Sunday January 14th 2018

**Monday 1st January**, Mary the Holy Mother of God (Solemnity) - **12 Noon Mass (only)** - People of the parish

**Tuesday 2nd January**, Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church (Mem)

7.30am Welfare of Michael Menezes (birthday); 10am Margaret Jones RIP

**Wednesday 3rd January**, The Most Holy Name of Jesus (Memorial)

7.30am Welfare of Sarah Menezes (birthday); 10am Mervyn Dessa RIP

**Thursday 4th January** - 7.30am Welfare of Celsa Menezes (birthday); 10am Thomas Corr RIP

**First Friday 5th January** - 7.30am Julieta Vilia D'Sa RIP; 10am Welfare of Imelda Franklin

*Adoration after 10am Mass, finishing with Benediction at 2pm.*

**Saturday 6th January** - 10am Holy Souls

**Sunday 7th January - The Epiphany of the Lord** - *Parish Mass Book p118 (Readings p115)*

6.15pm (Saturday 6th January) Mr & Mrs Heaps RIP

8.30am Donald Sanders RIP; 10am Jacob Fernandes (90th Birthday)

11.30am People of the parish (Polyphony Choir singing)

(4pm Benediction) 5pm Peter & Patrick O'Hara RIP;

**Monday 8th January - The Baptism of the Lord** - (Feast) - *Parish Mass Book p119*

7.30am Jim Corcoran RIP; 10am Welfare of Chris & Aidan Maloane

**Tuesday 9th January** - 7.30am Ciss Neylon RIP; 10am Elizabeth Kilduff RIP

**Wednesday 10th January** - 7.30am Holy Souls; 10am Hervé Yoo Foo RIP

**Thursday 11th January** - 7.30am Holy Souls; 10am Mark O'Malley RIP

**Friday 12th January** - 7.30am Holy Souls; 10am Welfare of Paddy Looney (90th Birthday)

**Saturday 13th January** - St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church (mem) - 10am Oliver MacCormack RIP

**Sunday 14th January (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B)** - *Parish Mass Book p127*

*SPUC White Flower Appeal at all Masses*

6.15pm (Saturday 13th January) Eddie Carr RIP

8.30am People of the parish; 10am Welfare of Jonathan D'Souza-Walker (Birthday)

11.30am Anita Donadio RIP; (4pm Benediction) 5pm Holy Souls

**The next newsletter will appear on Saturday evening of 13th January 2018.**



## Parish Masses This Week

Sunday Masses:	Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm	
	<b>Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.90; Christmas 6.15pm vigil p 94; Midnight Mass p 97; Christmas Day p102</b>	
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 ( <i>Rosary &amp; Benediction in May &amp; October</i> ) <i>On First Fridays - Adoration after 10am Mass, closing with Benediction at 2pm</i>	
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 24th December 2017</b>		
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	6.15pm (Sat 23rd December)	Christopher Nawrat RIP
	8.30am	Welfare of Delphine Desa on her 80th birthday
	10am	Welfare of Margaret Mensah
	11.30am	John Armstrong RIP
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	<b>6pm Carols</b>	
Children's Nativity Tableau	<b>6.15 pm Christmas Vigil Mass</b>	People of the parish
	<b>11.30pm Carols with Polyphony Choir</b>	
	<b>12 Midnight Christmas Mass</b>	People of the parish
<b>Monday 25th December 2017</b>	8.30am	John Joseph Murphy RIP
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	10am	Shirley & Francis D'Souza RIP
	11.30am	People of the parish
<b>Tuesday 26th December 2017</b>	7.30am	Welfare of Kathleen Lawrence
St Stephen, the First Martyr (Feast)	10am	Thanksgiving for Michelle Jouan-Luger
<b>Wednesday 27th December 2017</b>	7.30am	Dominic Cu Van Tran RIP
St John, Apostle & Evangelist (Feast)	10am	Dominic Mascarenhas RIP
<b>Thursday 28th December 2017</b>	7.30am	Welfare of Sara & Kevin Woods & family
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Feast)	10am	Daryl Desa RIP
<b>Friday 29th December 2017</b>	7.30am	Salus Fernandes RIP
St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr		
Patron of Pastoral Clergy (Feast)	10am	Abraham Ghandi RIP
<b>Saturday 30th December 2017</b>	10am	Elizabeth Kilduff RIP
<b>Next Sunday 31st December 2017</b>		
<b>FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY</b>	6.15pm (Sat 30th December)	Antoine Chung Ming Kan RIP
	8.30am	Welfare of Rita Bethune
	10am	Thomas Warwick RIP
	11.30am (Hymn Choir singing)	John Armstrong RIP
	5pm	Welfare of the Gallagher family
<b>Mass to welcome the New Year</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b>	People of the parish