



St. Gregory's School Nativity Scene.

On the evening of Thursday the 13th December along with other guests some parishioners enjoyed the wonderful Carol Service given by the school & staff choirs of St. Gregory's. The service was organised by Jane Ireland the school Chaplain and a parishioner of St. Augustine's. The stable was also created by another parishioner Martin Walker. Why not attend the service next Christmas?

Thanks to all who took part in the service.

*On behalf of the parish we would like to say
thank you to our priests*

Christmas is one of only two occasions in the year when we are able to demonstrate in a tangible way our appreciation and gratitude to our priests for all their unfailing help and support. They are ordinary men with an extraordinary calling which they fulfil with zeal every day of the year as they proclaim God's message. They do this wherever, whenever and in whatever situation, ministering to us and supporting us through the highs and lows of our everyday lives.

May God Bless them all this Christmas

And may the Lord also bless our deacon as he continues to support the priests and us in his ministry – may he continue to have the strength and fervour of his calling.

The newsletter team.

A CHRISTMAS READING AND REFLECTION

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

For today in the city of David a Saviour has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.

And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Luke 2

On this holy night, gathering in darkness, a choir sings the songs of our faith.

There is something altogether tangible in the air: a gathering energy, special clothes, and that music which sings out the true meaning of this feast. A church fuller than it usually ever is, testifies to our hunger for the good news of this blessed evening.

Everything we believe about the mystery of darkness and light, death and life, the grand and the small, are summed up tonight.

My Saviour - you are here with me on this day, bringing life to the waiting world. Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

*The Clergy Wish
Everyone
A Happy and Holy
Christmas*

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Year C Psalter Week 4
PARISH MASS BOOK
Readings: from page 90
Preface: from page 65

THIS WEEK

**SUNDAY 23rd Fourth Sunday of Advent
Yr C Ps Wk 4**

**7.15pm Reconciliation Service with
several priests**

**Outreach: Southwark Diocese Action
against Human Trafficking group**

The Pope describes trafficking as "...an open wound on the body of contemporary society". Latest official estimates are that the UK has 13,000 victims, unofficial estimates are well over double this. Led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the church is responding through the Santa Marta group and other church agencies.

MONDAY 24th Christmas Eve

**5.30pm First Mass of Christmas with
carols**

**9.30pm Carols and Readings followed by
10.00pm Mass with carols**

NO MIDNIGHT MASS

**Children at all Masses celebrated on
Christmas Eve will be asked to bring the
Infant Jesus from their cribs for blessing**

TUESDAY 25th Christmas Day

8.00 am Mass

9.30 am Family Mass

11.30 am Mass with carols

6.30 pm Confessions in Polish

7.30 pm Mass in Polish

MSZA SW godz 19.30

**NO OUTREACH TODAY All Offerings at
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses
are a gift to our three Priests. Please use
envelope provided if you have a box.**

**No early morning Masses until Wednesday
2nd January.**

**No Adoration or Morning Prayer until
Thursday 3rd January.**

WEDNESDAY 26th St Stephen

**11.00am Servers' Mass to welcome new
servers and rededicate our current
servers. All parishioners welcome. Note
later Mass time.**

THURSDAY 27th St John the Apostle

FRIDAY 28th The Holy Innocents

10.00am Funeral Mass Stefanie Donovan

SATURDAY 29th St Thomas of Canterbury

No reconciliation today

**SUNDAY 30th The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph Yr C Ps Wk 1**

Outreach: Today is our annual general outreach for the many small, usually local, charities that ask for help but are too small for an outreach of their own. So we ask you to be generous. Thank you.

OFFERTORY

Offertory	£1,918.70
Outreach	
Christmas lunch	£1,576.90
CAFOD	£5
Mitapeeap	£34

Thank you for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

As last year, the Christmas Vigil Mass will be at 5.30 p.m., and admission to the church will be limited to 500 people Reserving of seats will not be permitted. Once this limit has been reached, those arriving later will be directed to the Hall where they will be able to participate in the Mass by means of a video/audio link; they will also be able to receive Holy Communion in the Hall. Because of the high numbers expected at this Mass only the host will be offered to those receiving Holy Communion, whether in the church or in the hall. IF NECESSARY THIS OVER-CROWDING PROCEDURE WILL BE FOLLOWED AT OTHER CHRISTMAS MASSES.

"MIDNIGHT" MASS

Also as last year, there will be no Mass at Midnight. Instead there will be Mass at 10 p.m. preceded by carols from 9.30 p.m.

Parish Reconciliation Service

7.15pm 23rd Dec

Advent is a particularly fitting time to celebrate Reconciliation as we prepare to celebrate once again the mystery of God made man.

We will, as usual, be having our Reconciliation service on the

23rd December at 7.15 p.m. when the Sacrament is celebrated in a community setting with several priests available.

On Saturday 22nd there will be **extended times for reconciliation from 10.30a.m - 1p.m. and from 4 to 5p.m.**

GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Parishioners will notice two envelopes for the Christmas period:

- A green envelope dated 23rd December 2018
- This is for your 'normal' weekly offering
- A yellow envelope which is incorrectly dated 23rd December - this is marked 'Christmas offering' and is the annual collection taken on Christmas Day for the clergy of the parish. Please use this yellow envelope on all Christmas Day (or Eve) Services

2019 dates of Polish Masses

Masses are usually on the 4th Sunday of the month at 7.30pm and are preceded by confessions from 7pm.

Filipino Sta Nino

Thanksgiving Mass & Fatima Service
Jan.1st 2019 at 2pm

And reception afterwards in the hall
Further information from
Lollett & Jaime Vidamo

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness."

Pope Benedict XVI



NO EARLY MORNING MASS DURING CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Until Wednesday 4th JANUARY. Mass is at 10.00 am. The Office will be open during this time and for an hour afterwards. The Church will open shortly before Mass and then closed after Mass. Adoration and Rosary restarts Thursday 5th January.

**Funeral Mass -
Stefanie Hugh Donovan
Will be held Friday 28th - 10am**

BIBLE READING GROUP

Lenten Term

January 9th & 23rd

February 6th & 20th

March 6th



SEND A CARD?

Two Reuters journalists, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, have been jailed for 7 years for seeking to expose how security forces massacred Rohingya villagers last year. These 2 journalists and their families are paying a terrible price for making sure the world knows what is going on in Myanmar. **THEY NEED OUR SUPPORT.** Please see poster in the porch for details.

Douglas Jenner

My heartfelt thanks to everyone for the wonderful tributes and kind sentiments attributed to our Beloved Douglas. For the countless prayers, candles and Masses for him during his illness, and also the Masses yet to be said, for the Repose of His Soul.

It has been quite overwhelming. Douglas would have been very humbled that you felt about him in such a special way. The family and I gather great strength and comfort knowing this.

Our sincere thanks to you all.

Ann-Pauleen and Family

ROSARY INTENTION

That families may experience peace and joy during the Christmas Season and be renewed in faith and love.