





### **Prayers for the Sick and Housebound:**

Please keep in your prayers the wellbeing of: D.H, Adelaide Cotter, Paul Fairhall, Amy Bradbury (nee Mckenzie), Marie Goti, Michael Christou, John Rosenow, Mary Silva, Michael Hoskins & Dorothy Upton.

**Home Visits** If you, a relative or neighbour is housebound, home visits can be arranged via Fr Ben to receive Holy Communion. It is important Pastoral Care is maintained and/or for the Sacrament of the Sick.

**Christmas Break** The parish office is closed for the Christmas break until Monday 5th January 2026. Please email any notices for the parish newsletter by Wednesday 7th January 2026 to [northcheam@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:northcheam@rcaos.org.uk) Calls to the Presbytery should remain as cases of emergency only until 5th January.

**The Crib Offering** Our crib offerings this year will go to support three chosen charitable organisations: UK based Crown of Thorns, The Catholic Children's Society and for our selected international charity Friends of the Holy Land.

**Christmas Offering** The Christmas offering is our personal gift in gratitude for our clergy and is a major part of their personal income. Our Catholic priests do not receive a paid salary in the traditional way. Please ensure your gift is clearly marked for our priest so it is received as intended. Remember, pray for our priests.

**With Thanks and Gratitude to Everyone** who gives so much of their time, commitment and efforts to keep our parish running smoothly not just at Christmas but throughout the whole year. To everyone who turns up regularly when they are supposed to, at the time they are supposed to and does what they do. To those who assist: liturgically; with the music ministry; cleaning; gardening; with finances; parish events; communications; with the practicalities of maintaining, decorating and keeping the church, Presbytery, offices, parish room, church hall and surrounding grounds, safe and usable spaces for us all.

Also a special thank you to everyone who contributed and took part in St Cecilia's Christmas Concert on the 14th December, and to all the parents and children who participated in the Christmas Vigil Mass Nativity, thank you for making both such a success. An array of photographs capturing the essence of our Christmas Concert can be viewed. A huge thank you to Andrea for all the work that went into producing the Concert Photographs. <https://photos.andrearodrigues.co.uk/CHURCHCONCERT25>

I thank you all for coming together in Jesus' name, in unison and harmony.

Your kindness and generous Christmas gifts are received with great appreciation. I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones all the peace and joy that the Christ Child brings at Christmas and throughout the coming year.

*Fr Ben*

Archbishop John Wilson's Christmas Message  
[rcaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025](http://rcaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025)

### **St Cecilia's Christmas Concert!**



There are still raffle prizes to be collected. If you have any of the following ticket numbers please claim your prize. All prizes must go.

The Raffle Prize tickets are: **Red** Ticket numbers: 161 to 165; 171 to 175; 551 to 555; 741 to 745; 776 to 780; 851 to 855; 876 to 880; 936 to 940; 946 to 950

On the Yellow Ticket numbers: 76 to 80; 111 to 115 226 to 230; 341 to 345; 351 to 355; 766 to 770

To claim your prizes please go to the Narthex after Mass.

To date we have raised a total of £3001 less any expenses from the Christmas Concert.

### ***Hymn for the Jubilee Year 2025***

**Chorus:** *Like a flame my hope is burning  
may my song arise in you:  
Source of life that has no ending,  
on life's path I trust in you.*

**Every nation, tongue, and people  
find a light within your Word,  
Scattered fragile sons and daughters,  
find a home in your dear Son.**

**Chorus:** *Like a flame my hope is burning  
may my song arise in you:  
Source of life that has no ending,  
on life's path I trust in you.*

**God so tender and so patient,  
dawn of hope, you care for all.  
Heaven and earth are recreated  
by the Spirit of Life set free.**

**Chorus:** *Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,  
For our God is born in time.  
Son made man for You and many  
who will find the way in Him.*

**Chorus:**

### **Urgent Meeting for the Parents of First Holy Communion Candidates 2026**

We will be holding a meeting on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January** in the Church Hall at **7pm** for all parents whose children are due to make their First Holy Communion in the Summer of next year.

# SUNDAY Plus

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph **Divine Office Week I** Year A



## The reality of family life

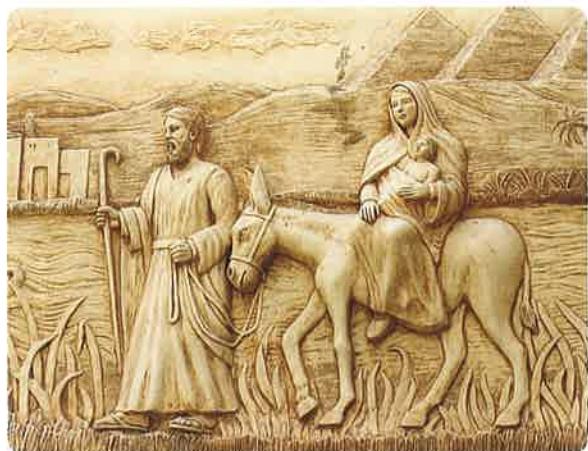


Image: *The Flight into Egypt*, Cairo, Egypt © Sr Janet Fearn

The artistic imagination has often been kindled by the flight into Egypt. Usually, Our Lady is shown as seated in

God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! All of us are in God's hands. So, let us move forward, without fear, together, hand in hand with God and with one another other!

Pope Leo

### Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalised find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

Pope Francis

Holy Family of Nazareth, watch over, protect and bless families everywhere, in all their joys and struggles. Bring them closer to you and to each other. I pray in a special way for my own family. You know their needs. Be with them. Amen.

a meadow, feeding her child with the fruit that St Joseph is industriously pulling down from the trees. Around them flit small and engaging angels. Or, in more serious mode, we may see Mary on a donkey, orderly and composed, while her faithful Joseph either lingers behind or leads the donkey by its reins... But this is really to make light of what must have been a harrowing experience...

Both adults are small-town Jews, running away from an armed pursuer into unknown territory. They have little money. They know nobody in Egypt. All they have is an anguished determination to guard the child who has been entrusted to them. How anxious they must have been, how ashamed by their lack of resources, how profoundly aware of their dependence on God...

Joseph and Mary had a rocky start to their marriage. He, quite naturally, suspected her

of betraying him, both a great sorrow and a scandal. She, on the other hand, must have been wounded that he did not trust her. Then there was the difficult journey to Bethlehem, the astounding events there; and now there is this dangerous crisis. It must have been a time of real growth in marital love for both of them. Each had to trust the other. Only as true partners could they nourish and protect their son.

All relationships go through difficult periods, but God can help us make those very difficulties a source of deeper understanding and love. The example of the Holy Family encourages us to accept the reality of family life, which may at times be a painful reality. They are a source of hope and courage.

Sr Wendy Becket, *The Art of Christmas*

### READINGS

Today:  
Ecclesiasticus  
3:2-6, 12-14  
Colossians  
3:12-21  
Matthew  
2:13-15, 19-23

Monday:  
1 John 2:3-11  
Luke 2:22-35

Tuesday:  
1 John 2:12-17  
Luke 2:36-40

Wednesday:  
1 John 2:18-21  
John 1:1-18

Thursday:  
Numbers 6:22-27  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:16-21

Friday:  
1 John 2:22 - 28  
John 1:19-28

Saturday:  
1 John 2:29-3:6  
John 1:29-34

Next Sunday:  
Ecclesiasticus  
24:1-2, 8-12  
Ephesians  
1:3-6, 15-18  
John 1:1-18

### Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

#### Welcome the stranger

Signs of hope should also be present for migrants who leave their homelands behind in search of a better life for themselves and for their families. Their expectations must not be frustrated by prejudice and rejection. A spirit of welcome, which embraces everyone with respect for his or her dignity, should be accompanied by a sense of responsibility, lest anyone be denied the right to a dignified existence. Exiles, displaced persons and refugees, whom international tensions force to emigrate in order to avoid war, violence and discrimination, ought to be guaranteed security and access to employment and education, the means they need to find their place in a new social context.

May the Christian community always be prepared to defend the rights of those who are most vulnerable, opening wide its doors to welcome them, lest anyone ever be robbed of the hope of a better future.

Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 13

