



HOLY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

21st December 2025

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The Church is open all day, every day
for private prayer

Admin Assistance (Parish Room)

Wed: 10.15am - 12.15pm

Fr Malachy (Parish Room)

(Meetings by appointment)

Sat: 9.00am - 12.00Midday

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	20th December	5.00pm Vigil holy Mass	Jean Mary Ritchie
Sunday	21st December	9.00am 11.00am	Alex, Bosco, Marianne, Diego Fernandes (Regina & Patrick) People of the Parish
Tuesday	23rd December	12.30pm	Funeral Holy Mass of Elizabeth Bennett

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Wednesday	24th December	6.00pm	Vigil 1st Holy Mass of Christmas Day
		12.00 Midnight	2nd Holy Mass of Christmas Day
Thursday	25th December	10.30am	3rd Holy Mass of Christmas Day

**THE HOLY SEASON OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS TODAY AND
CONTINUES UNTIL THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
ON THE 11TH JANUARY**

Friday	26th December	9.30am	Nonna Margherita (Giannina)
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH			
Saturday	27th December	5.00pm Vigil holy Mass	Jean Mary Ritchie
Sunday	28th December	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Souls People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY; 4.00pm - 4.30pm

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The word 'Christmas' means 'Christ's Mass'. Christmas Day is the beginning of the Season of Christmas. On Christmas Day, we celebrate Christ's Holy Mass in which we receive from him the beginning of Life after Death and the strength and wisdom we all need to understand our lives and to live meaningfully and well our brief time in this world. Let's resist the secular culture which tends to take this sacred day as an opportunity to make it into solely a time of pagan worship of empty self-indulgence. Enjoy Christmas Day in every way but let's put Christ first.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO ARE UNWELL

Please pray for, Jill O'Donnell, Manuel Rodrigues, David Palmer and everyone who is in any kind of distress. May the good Lord give them peace and patience in their moments of need "May the gifts of illness and old age bring our sisters and brothers the gift of wisdom and help them to be closer to the Lord."

HOLY COMMUNION AND THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE HOUSE-BOUND

I hope to bring Our Blessed Lord in Holy Communion and offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to our house-bound parishioners on Monday morning this week from about 9.30am onwards.

PRAYERS, PLEASE

Please remember in your prayers, Elizabeth Bennett and Catherine Pattison who have died recently. May their Souls, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Please also pray for the families and friends of Elizabeth and Catherine who are suffering the awful pain of bereavement and loss

THANK YOU

Everyone who kindly gave time and energy to clean and tidy our church, last Saturday in preparation for Christmas, our celebration of the Lord's coming into our world. This was nothing short of a beautiful prayer to the Lord.

THANK YOU

To everyone who provided Christmas Gift Bags, on Christmas Day, for people held in HMP Wandsworth. We provided over 170 bags.

CHILDREN, PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS - HELP TO BUILD OUR CRIB AND DECORATE OUR TREE, - MONDAY at 11.00am

One of the most inspiring moments in the early lives of children is when they take part in the building of a crib and the decoration of a tree in preparation for the great Feast of the Lord's birth. Dear Parents and Grandparents bring your children to church on Monday morning at 11.00am and encourage them to join in the building of the crib and the decorating of a tree in our church. The memory of such a moment will stay with your children in the years that lie ahead and could well keep them close to the Lord especially in the difficult moments of life.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

It would be lovely to decorate our church with flowers and potted plants. Please could you bring flowers and potted plants to our church any time on Monday or Tuesday this week or on Wednesday morning. Flowers or potted plants you have bought or even from your own garden, would be great. Please leave them in the porch of the church.

CRIB OFFERINGS

The Crib Offerings this year will be for 'The Manna Society', an organisation working in Central London which provides food, clothes, medical care and much more to homeless people living on the streets of our capital city.

CHRISTMAS DAY - A MOMENT OF GRACE

Christmas is always a time when hearts are more open to God than at any other time in the year. Please invite members of your families, your friends, your neighbours and your colleagues to join you for one of our three Christmas Day holy Masses. God can work powerfully through your words and your invitation, helping people we love and know, to discover the life-giving presence of the Lord Jesus in holy Mass.

Just to remind you:

Wednesday 24th December:

5.30pm Christmas Carols

6.00pm First holy Mass of Christmas Day

11.30pm Christmas Carols

12.00 Midnight Second holy Mass of Christmas Day

Thursday 25th December:

10.00am Christmas Carols

10.30am Third holy Mass of Christmas Day

Friday 26th December:

9.00am Morning Prayer and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Holy Mass of the Feast of St. Stephen

CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY MASSES, OFFERINGS

The Offertory Collection of our three holy Masses of Christmas Day are your personal gift to your Parish Priest. Thank you for your generosity.

HOLY COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS; SIGN OF PEACE; HOLDING HANDS

We can be truly proud of the fact that we have been fully following the teaching of the Second Vatican Council by making it possible for everyone to receive Our Blessed Lord in Holy Communion exactly as he gave himself to us, under the forms of bread and wine. To receive Our Blessed Lord under just one kind is to receive him fully, but to receive him under both kinds is much more faithful to the way he gave himself to his friends at the Last Supper.

There are warning signs that a very serious strain of 'flu is around. With this in mind, I think it would be wise if we suspend receiving Our Lord in Holy Communion under the form of wine, during these winter months. If you feel you can receive Our Lord in the sacred host, in your hand, please do so. That way is more hygienic than receiving the sacred host on your tongue. However, if you feel it is best for you to receive on the tongue, please do continue to do so.

It would also be sensible to simply bow to each other at the Sign of Peace in holy Mass rather than shake hands. So too, it's probably best not to hold hands during the Our Father in the holy Mass.

I feel sad that we have to suspend these aspects of our celebration of holy Mass for a little while. We will reinstate them as soon as possible in the Spring when the threat of this very serious strain of the 'flu has diminished.

BEQUEST, IN A WILL

It is wise to write a Will so that the resources you have when the time comes for you to leave this world, goes to the people and organisations you wish. May I suggest that you might consider leaving a Bequest in your will to our parish or to our diocese or to our priest as well as to other causes. A gift in your will can enable us to continue to help people to know the Lord Jesus and his saving love. What a wonderful legacy you would be leaving behind.

PROGRAMME OF PREPARATION FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, FOR CHILDREN

Our programme to help parents to prepare their children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist will begin early in the New Year. Meetings for Parents and meetings for their children will be on Friday evenings at 5.00pm. The parents will meet with Fr Malachy in the Parish Room and the children will meet with our Catechists in the Sacristy of the church, at the same time. Each meeting will last just 30 minutes. The dates of the meetings are flexible but we are planning to have the first six meetings on:

16th, 23rd, and 30th January 2026, then the 6th, 13th and 20th of February 2026. First Reconciliation for Children and their parents will be during the Season of Lent 2026 and First Holy Communion during the month of June 2026.

If you have a child who you think is ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in 2026, please let me have details as soon as possible so that we can begin our planning.

INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CATHOLIC FAITH?

If you are not a Catholic or if you are already a Catholic but haven't yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation, please let me know

RCIA MEETINGS AND THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

The final meetings for adults preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist and Confirmation will be the 21st and 28th of November, then the 12th and 19th of December. First Reconciliation will be on the 5th December and First Holy Communion, during the 11.00am holy Mass on the 21st December. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated during 11.00am holy Mass on Sunday 4th January 2026. Please pray for Sarah and Sian as they prepare to receive the fullness of the Lord's saving gifts for the first time in their lives and as they become adults in Faith

ADULT ON-GOING FAITH FORMATION MEETINGS - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We will shortly begin again our meetings for everyone who is ready to grow in Faith and who wishes to have a grown-up Faith. For many people, opportunities to move from a childish Faith to a mature Faith have been very limited or even not available at all! These meetings are moments to talk about any aspect whatsoever of human life and to receive a little help to see how our loving Lord is so close to us in everything and to see how he is trying to draw us all into a genuine adult Faith relationship with him and his Church.

We will meet on Saturday mornings, at 12.00midday for one hour, in our Parish Room. Owing to other commitments, we can only have 4 meetings before Christmas, on the 22nd and 29th November and the 13th and 20th December.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD DURING 11.00am SUNDAY HOLY MASS

We began again our 'Liturgy of the Word' for children of Primary School age on Sunday November 2nd and will continue on the following consecutive Sundays. Dear Parents please bear these dates in mind when you bring your children to holy Mass. During these 'Liturgy of the Word' sessions, our children will have opportunities to understand and enjoy God's loving Word during the 11.00am holy Mass.

OLDE FORGE CAFE - FREE COFFEE AND CAKE FOR OUR VISITORS

Please do your best to bring members of your family, your friends, neighbours and colleagues who normally have little, if any contact with our Catholic parish, to the Olde Forge Cafe. Please remember that those you bring with you DO NOT give a donation for their coffee and cake. Only us, who are regular members of our parish, are asked to give a donation, each time, to cover the cost of the Coffee machine, coffee beans, heat, light etc. Dear Bakers and those who provide milk, please remember to take your expenses from the donations received.

CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT CONSULTATION RESPONSE.

Thank you to the thousands of people who took part in the Called to Bear Fruit consultation. We are grateful to you all for sharing so openly your hopes for the life of the Church in our Archdiocese. The consultation response, which includes 15 actions points for renewal, is available at <https://rcaos.org.uk/calledtobearfruit> and hardcopies will be sent to every parish. The consultation revealed a burning desire within our parishes to be missionary and evangelising disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, who work together to help people encounter His love. So, as we move forward on the next steps together, let's build up the Body of Christ in Southwark with faith and confidence, becoming ever more a community of missionary disciples filled with joy and hope for the future. As an Archdiocese, we will continue to discern the process of renewal, and further updates will be provided in due course.

There are hard copies of the 'Report on the Consultation', in the porch of the church. I'm afraid they are rain-damaged but hopefully still readable.

LECTORS FOR WEEKDAYS THIS WEEK

24: 6.00pm Paul; 12Midnight Lisa
25: 10.30am Patricia
26: Richard
27/28: 5pm Collette; 9am Maggie; 11am Jim

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS

24: 6.00pm: Linda; Midnight: Lorenza;
25: 10.30am: Maggie
27/28: 5.00pm David; 9.00am Angela; 11.00am Phil

ROTAS - JANUARY 2026

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

4/5: 5pm Margaret; 9am Simone; 11am Mary
11/12: 5pm Lisa; 9am Carolyn; 11am John
18/19: 5pm Jim; 9am Angela; 11am Marian
25/26: 5pm Gabrielle; 9am Giannina; 11am Lesley

LECTORS

4/5: 5pm Lisa; 9am David; 11am Paul
11/12: 5pm Phil; 9am Mike Guckian; 11am Chinwe
18/19: 5pm Patricia; 9am Gerry; 11am Mutsa
25/26: 5pm Claire; 9am Chris Mallows; 11am Lorenza

HOSTS

4: Jenny, Kelly-Ann
5: Marian, Collette
7: Gardening group
11: Maggie, Lesley
12: Patricia, Jim
14: Gardening group
18: David, Ross
19: Mary, Phil
21: Gardening group
25: Simone, Regina
26: Lorenza, Paul

BAKERS/PROVIDERS

3: Lizzie
10: Claire
17: Bridget
24: Sophie
31: Giannina