



HOLY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM
(For the Greater Glory of God)

Monsignor Malachy Keegan
The Presbytery,
115 Limpsfield Road,
Sanderstead,
CR2 9LF

Admin Assistance (Parish Room)
Wed: 10.15am - 12.15pm

Fr Malachy (Parish Room)
(Meetings by appointment)
Sat: 9.00am - 12.00Midday

28th December 2025

Telephone

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

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 |
| Tuesday | 30th December | 11.00am | Holy Mass in Central London |
| Wednesday | 31st December | 9.30am | John Finnin |
| Thursday | 1st January | 9.30am | Fr Shaun Budden |
| Friday | 2nd January | 9.30am | Fr John Buckley |
| SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY | | | |
| Saturday | 27th December | 5.00pm Vigil holy Mass | Michael Connor (Patricia Connor) |
| Sunday | 28th December | 9.00am 11.00am | Molly and Paul Richards (Patricia Connor) People of the Parish |

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY; 4.00pm - 4.30pm

MORNING PRAYER AND EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WENESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY; 9.00AM

(Prayer book: Week 1 of the psalter)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

It is better to walk through darkness, the Lord guiding you, than to sit enthroned in a false light that radiates from yourself.

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."

PRAYERFUL CONGRATULATIONS

Our prayers of Thanksgiving to the Lord who gave himself in Holy Communion to Sarah and Sian for the first time in their lives, last Sunday.

FIRST HOLY MASS OF 2026

Our first Holy Mass of the New Year will be on Thursday 1st January at 9.30am, preceded by Morning Prayer at 9.00am and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 9.10am. There could not possibly be a better way to begin 2026 than to come to Holy Mass on the first day of the New Year and to allow the Lord to draw close to you, as he promises you his wonderful, all-healing, all-powerful love throughout the coming year.

PARISH OFFICE

Please note that our Parish Office, now closed on Wednesday mornings, will re-open on Wednesday 21st January from 10.15am until 12.15pm.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS - MEETING NEXT FRIDAY

We have our final meeting, next Friday at 5.00pm, for those preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 4th January.

PROGRAMME OF PREPARATION FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

Our First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation programme for children and their parents, begins on Friday 16th January, at 5.00pm in the Parish Room.

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

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.

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.

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.

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the lovely cards and gifts that you very kindly gave me for Christmas. Thank you also for your generosity in the Offertory Collections of Christmas Days. I feel honoured to be your Parish Priest.

THANK YOU

The children, parents and grandparents who came and built an inspiring crib and decorated our tree so beautifully. Congratulations and very well done to the children who designed the crib to represent the type of structure in which the people of Gaza are forced to live.

LECTORS FOR WEEKDAYS

31 December: Lizzie

1 January: Paul

2 January: Giannina

ROTAS - JANUARY 2026

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

3/4: 5pm Margaret; 9am Simone; 11am Mary
10/11: 5pm Lisa; 9am Carolyn; 11am John
17/18: 5pm Jim; 9am Angela; 11am Marian
24/25: 5pm Gabrielle; 9am Giannina; 11am Lesley

LECTORS

3/4: 5pm Lisa; 9am David; 11am Paul
10/11: 5pm Phil; 9am Mike Guckian; 11am Chinwe
17/18: 5pm Patricia; 9am Gerry; 11am Mutsa
24/25: 5pm Claire; 9am Chris Mallows; 11am Lorenza

HOSTS

3: Jenny, Kelly-Ann
4: Marian, Collette
6: Gardening group
10: Maggie, Lesley
11: Patricia, Jim
13: Gardening group
17: David, Ross
18: Mary, Phil
20: Gardening group
24: Simone, Regina
25: Lorenza, Paul

BAKERS/PROVIDERS

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