

NEWS AND VIEWS

The Parish Community Christmas Carols Concert We express our profound appreciation to all who contributed towards the success of this event. We thank the St. Joseph's Primary School team for the huge attendance and support. We thank all guests and parishioners who demonstrated loyalty to our church as our common home. We pray that the joy we shared will endure for us all.

First Holy Communion 10.15am Lesson Dates in Dec. 14th. All should please register before 30th November, no one will be taken after the enrolment Mass.

Nativity: All children, aged 4 -11, please come to the Sacristy next Sunday, 14th Dec. at 10.15 -11.15am.

Penitential Service/Christmas Confessions: Thursday 18th December at 7pm

Donations of Food items for the less privileged: As we approach Christmas, there is increasing demand on us for food handouts from the less privileged. We count on our parishioners for the generous donations of non-perishable food items; tins, beverages, confectioneries, cereals, grains etc. A plastic container is made available for these under the desk for Mass sheets at the back.

Parish Pilgrimage 2026 Discussions are ongoing towards realising another faith growing and spiritual trip to either one of the following pilgrimage places; Assisi, Rome or Medjugorje. It is being proposed for next autumn half term. More details to be provided before Christmas. Those who might be interested should please indicate in the Parish Office.

Death of Margaret Togher who was one of our long standing parishioners and during her retiring years volunteered to serve her parish community in different capacities. Margaret will be sorely missed and we pray for her family in this grieving time. May her soul rest in peace. Her funeral will take place on **Monday 22nd December here in our parish at 12noon.**

Prayer Candles Flash Sales!!! Starting this weekend our large candles will be sale for £4 which is normally £7.50. This will go on till the end of December. Each candle makes a thoughtful gift for loved ones. Contactless payment is available with the **QR CODE** provided.

Job Vacancy: Legal Administrative role:

- Previous experience in a law firm or legal administrative role required but not necessary.
- Strong document management skills, including preparation of legal documents, filing, scanning, and use of case management systems. Excellent communication skills for handling client calls, emails and liaising with courts and external agencies. Competent in diary management, scheduling, and general office administration. Proficient IT skills, including Microsoft Office. Understanding of confidentiality, GDPR, and compliance procedures. Highly organised with strong attention to detail and the ability to work in a fast-paced environment.

If any member in the community will be interested, please contact: Mr Simeon Nzeadi Tel: **0207 112 8314** M: **079 3282 6366** Email: anaegboka@alphaspringssolicitors.com

Christian Stewardship: 7th December 2025

Envelopes: £155 **Loose:** £559.37. We also receive £700 weekly from standing orders. Thank you for your continuous support for our parish. In the meantime, anyone who wants to make a donation can pay into the parish account with the details provided below.

WRCDT St Gabriels Upper Holloway
Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account No: 01097024
OR

Scan this QR Code here on the newsletter, the ones on the benches and on the doors.



spiritans

St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Archway
Contact: 15 St John's Villas, N19 3EE Tel: 02072728195 Mobile: 07533726467 (text only)
Email: archway@rcdow.org.uk Reg. Charity No.233699 Website: www.stgabes.uk

December Diary

Sunday 14th @ 11.30am: **Volunteers Thanksgiving Mass**
Thursday 18th @ 7pm: **Christmas Penitential Service/Confessions**
Every Last Saturday of the month: **Baptism (always confirm in the parish office)**
Every Saturday at 10.30am: **Faith Sharing/RCIA sessions in the main Sacristy**
Every Saturday evening after Mass: **Bingo in the meeting room**
Every Tuesday after the noon Mass: **Parish social forum in the Meeting Room**
Every 1st Friday 12 noon: **Healing Mass / Holy Hour / Benediction followed by 100 Club in the Meeting Room 7.45pm. Parish Quiz in the Meeting Room.**
THE MAKE A WISH ENVELOPES FOR THE TREE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN REPOSITORY SHOP!!!!

DIARY DATES

14th December @ 11.30am:
Volunteers Mass
18th December @ 7pm Penitential Service/Confession
21st December:
Nativity Rehearsal starts. 10.15am - 11.15am
22nd -9.30am-10.15am
23rd -10am-11am
24th - 10am-11am
Dress Rehearsal-5pm
Mass at 6.30pm

B	Y	D	P	R	O	E	P	H	S	PRISON
L	P	N	O	S	I	R	P	E	O	BLIND
I	P	I	T	L	O	U	H	P	C	LAME
D	A	L	A	P	E	T	I	P	L	LEPERS
N	H	B	H	A	O	P	P	Y	E	CLEANSED
P	W	E	H	L	L	I	E	P	A	LIFE
A	T	O	C	A	Y	R	F	R	N	HAPPY
L	S	I	M	C	P	C	I	I	S	CLOTHES
A	E	E	T	E	P	S	L	S	E	PALACES
C	L	E	A	S	N	E	D	E	D	PROPHET
										SCRIPTURE
										WOMEN




FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Kindness changes everything"


"Being kind is never wasted."

We wish those who celebrate their birthdays and anniversaries during this week a happy celebration





+ 3rd Sunday of Advent Year A
14th December 2025



We welcome all to today's mass especially visitors who are celebrating with us for the first time. Please take this bulletin home with you for further reflection on this week's celebration and to follow the activities in the Parish during the week.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

When elected leaders pick their leadership team, the choice appointments are usually given to those who worked for the leader's election. But that's not so for poor John the Baptist in today's Gospel. He worked the hardest preparing the way for the Messiah yet when the Messiah emerges, John didn't even know when He chose members of his cabinet; his apostles. In fact, John is languishing in prison because he had condemned the sins of the King Herod while preparing the way for this Messiah. The Messiah is going about performing miracles; why doesn't He use his miraculous powers to set John free. As time passed and John couldn't have the feel of this Messiah, he had to take the bull by the horns. So, he sent messengers to help him clarify things further. They are to ask "Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?" The reply John got was, "Yes I am indeed the Messiah. But please do not take offence at me if all your expectations are not met." So what's going on here? Wrong expectations! Popular belief at the time was that prosperity was a sign that God was with someone and adversity a sign that God was not with them. The Book of Job questioned this belief by telling the story of Job who was a man of God and yet met with difficulties. But that way of thinking has persisted till today. In Jesus we see that the sure signs of God's presence are not primarily material but spiritual. Granted that in the ministry of Jesus "the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised" yet these miracles are better seen as "signs" of inner spiritual awakening or transformation. Otherwise, what does it profit a person ultimately to receive the use of physical eyes and feet if they continue to be spiritually blind and lame? What does it profit a person ultimately to receive the use of physical eyes if they cannot perceive? What does it

Mass Times & Intentions 14th - 20th December 2025

Sat 13th Vigil Mass 6:30pm: Marcella Allen, Vera McNulty, Barran family, Joan Fitzgerald (INT)
Sun 14th 9:00am: Patricia Etim-Bassey (ANN), Ann Waldron, Odeyemi family, Bibilian family, Essien-Oku family (INT)
11:30am: Bridget, Kathleen & Christina Moran, Margaret Togher, Shirley Vague, Winnie Gallagher (RIP), Frances Rowland (44th), John Flynn (44th) (ANN), Parish Volunteers, Mark Renner, Ann Sharp (INT) **6:30pm:** Spiritan Communities
Mon 15th 12 noon: Katherine Conway, Margaret Togher, John Cunningham, Keith Phelan, John Phelan (RIP), Neddy Phelan, Trish Hanson, Nellie Curley (ANN), Eileen Fitzgerald, Blossom Bibilian (INT)
Tue 16th 12 noon: *Funeral Mass of Catherine Norton*
Wed 17th 12 noon: Phylis & Richard O'Neill, Deceased members of the Moran family, Christopher Heran, Margaret Togher (RIP), Ann Sharp (INT)
Thurs 18th 12 noon: Deceased members of the Reaney family, Deceased members of the Brennan family (RIP), Mary Aherne & family (INT)
Fri 19th 12 noon: Bert Conway, Ina Conway, Margaret Togher (RIP), Sr. Paul Marie, Sr. Stella and the Sisters of Mercy, Tony & Meg Phelan (INT)
Sat 20th St Lucy 12 noon: Margaret Togher (RIP), Mary Aherne & family (INT)



Rebecca Campbell, Ella Humphreys, Rita Avanzi, Jarlet Fallon, Christopher Jerome, John Bruno, Mary Burton, Frank Gibbons, Maria Kuozwatski, Philip Mayne, Bridget Munnely, Brian Coleman, Shiela Farrell, Christopher Nelson, Paddy Essang, Phillip Duggase, Terry Earley, Elizabeth Earley, Mary Mullarkey, Bernadette Ikwuka, Mary Dunne, Christy & Maria Christopher, Lourdes Sisneros, Emmanuel & Magdalene Debonne, Douglas Meyers, Sylvia Traynor, Frances Quinn, Tony Colbert, Kathleen Panayiotou, Maureen Walsh, Gabby Mehmet, Freda Glackin, Maureen Currie, Joan McGonigal, Madeleine Hourihan, Stella Anakor, Jacinta L, Marie Therese Tourette, Mary Gallagher, Gloria Munian, Teresa O'Dea, Percy Shackell, Eddy Renwick, Gino Avanzi, Nicholas Stephens, Anastasia Nervais, Margaret Foley, Prince Henshaw, John Alan, Rashmi, Joan Fitzgerald, Savindra de Alwis, Padra Williams, Winston Fernando, Lourdes Bastardo, Norman Wills, Cronin Hehir, Maura O'Leary, Artoro Davila, Mary Brady, Teresa McDonagh, Christine Cheah, Valentine Olayemi, Mary Mullee, Elizabeth Ortega, Gomes family, Agnes Quainoo, Hannah Conwell, Stephanie Kafari, Angela Gallagher, Errol Roberts, Louisa Carter, Doreen Timoney, Irada Fracassi

Parish is served by the Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans) Congregation of the Holy Spirit
Parish Priests: Fr. Moses Enechizena CSSp, Fr Augustine Isah Katuka CSSp, Fr Martin Goba CSSp, John Duong CSSp
Parish Office Team: Patricia Essien-Oku, Maureen Tayler, Mary Aherne, Joan FitzGerald
Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri. -(9am - 3pm). Tue, Thur. - (9am-1pm)
Contact: 15 St. John's Villas, Archway, London N19 3EE. Tel: 020 7272 8195, M: 07533726467-(TEXT ONLY)
Email: archway@rcdow.org.uk Web: www.stgabes.uk (Reg. Charity No.233699)
Confessions Sat.11am, 6pm, before Masses **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/Meditative Rosary:** Sun. 10.30am
Healing Mass/Holy Hour/Benediction: First Fridays 12noon **Prayer/Faith Group:** Sat. 10am
Mission Statement: To animate a loving multicultural Christian community

Gentle reminders: Please turn off your mobile phones. You have the right to remain silent ...

TODAY'S READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice! Indeed the Lord is near.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through Christ our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 35: 1-6.10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 146(145))

R. Come Lord and save us.

It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever, who does justice to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the LORD who sets prisoners free. **R**

The LORD who opens the eyes of the blind, the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the LORD who loves the just, the LORD who protects the stranger. **R**

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The LORD will reign for ever, your God, O Sion, from age to age. **R**

SECOND READING James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?' And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women

there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come and he will save us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER (For Online Mass)

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Mass	Readers	Eucharist Minister	Stewards
Sat. 6.30pm	Ann Heekin	June G	Joan Fitzgerald/Jeanette Fayers
Sun. 9am	Paula Zanre	Innocent Teme	Essien Ekpenyong-Oku
Sun 11.30am	Joseph Baffoe	June G & Roxanne C	Bernie Shevlin/Joseph Baffoe
Sun 6.30pm	Eugenia Ackah	Michelle C	Joseph Ogbonna

The third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, is so called from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon at Mass, 'Gaudete', i.e. 'Rejoice'. The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks, and by the twelfth century the fast had been replaced by simple abstinence. St. Gregory the Great was the first to draw up an Office for the Advent season, and the Gregorian Sacramentary is the earliest to provide Masses for the Sundays of Advent. Gaudete Sunday, signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming. In both Office and Mass throughout Advent continual reference is made to our Lord's second coming, and this is emphasised on the third Sunday by the additional signs of gladness permitted on that day. Gaudete Sunday is further marked by the Church no longer inviting the faithful to adore merely "The Lord who is to come", but calling upon them to worship and hail with joy "The Lord who is now nigh and close at hand". The Epistle again incites us to rejoicing, and bids us prepare to meet the coming Saviour prayers and supplication and thanksgiving, whilst the Gospel, the words of St. John Baptist, warns us that the Lamb of God is even now in our midst, though we appear to know Him not. The spirit of the Office and Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the Christmas feast as well as for the second coming of Christ. Penitential exercises are suspended on Gaudete Sunday in order to symbolise that joy and gladness in the Promised Redemption which should never be absent from the hearts of the faithful.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God; begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven, (*all bon*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Parish Safeguarding Officers: Tracey Mullett 07957158861 **Email:** archwaysg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk, Joan Fitzgerald 07811419531 **Email:** archwaysg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Sade Afolabi 07943565430 **Email:** archwaysg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

- Minors **MUST not** go to the toilets, rooms, or outside the church during services unaccompanied.
- There **MUST be** at least 2 adults present at any ministry to minors e.g. Children's Liturgy & Catechism
- Vulnerable people **MUST be** accompanied in the Church.

Parish Data Protection Champion Officers: Ann Waldron 07449110910 **Email:** archway@rcdow.org.uk Tom McDonnell

Parish Health and Safety: Jeanette Fayers 07738929756, Evette Parnell-Ogu 07985256344

Parish Security Reps: Essien Ekpenyong-Oku 07305608832 and Maurice Richards 07904021798