

PARISH OF ST CHARLES BORROMEO
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Neocatechumenate: Michael Anderson 07956281186
 Confessions: Tues to Fri at 12 noon before Mass
 Masses: Tues to Fri 12:30pm
Thu 6pm
Sat 8:15pm & Sun 9am & 11am

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 2026



From Pope Leo's **Urbi et Orbi** message this Christmas:

"In the birth of Jesus we glimpse the fundamental decision that would guide the entire life of the Son of God... the decision not to leave us under the burden of sin but to bear it himself for us, to take it upon himself. He alone could do so. At the same time, however, he showed us what we alone can do which is to take on our own share of responsibility...

Sisters and brothers, responsibility is the sure way to peace. If all of us, at every level, would stop accusing others and instead acknowledge our own faults, asking God for forgiveness, and if we would truly enter into the suffering of others and stand in solidarity with the weak and the oppressed, then the world would change...

In a few days' time the Jubilee Year will come to an end. The Holy Doors will close but Christ our hope remains with us always!... In him, every wound is healed and every heart finds rest and peace. 'The Lord's birth is the birth of peace.'"

Preparing for Marriage at St Charles Borromeo: eight sessions at 8pm on Thursdays 22nd and 29th January, 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th February, 5th and 12th March and an all-day retreat on Saturday 21st March. The course is free but we expect people to register their interest at oglestreet@rcdow.org.uk.

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date: 12th February 2026.
www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

Mass Schedule	
Sat 3 rd Jan	8:15pm The Neocatechumenate
Sun 4 th Jan	9am
SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	11am Pro Populo
Mon 5 th Jan	NO MASS
Tue 6 th Jan	12:30pm Nalishebo Nyambe RIP
EPIPHANY OR THE LORD	6pm Gertrude Ushe Intention
Wed 7 th Jan	12:30pm Mr Thumwood RIP
Thu 8 th Jan	12:30pm Mrs Standish RIP
	6pm Deceased members of Ritchie family
Fri 9 th Jan	12:30pm Deceased members of Hampshire family

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord celebrates the manifestation of Christ to all nations, represented by the Magi from the East who travel to worship the newly born Christ.

We shall observe this Holy day of Obligation at our 12:30 and 6pm masses on **Tuesday 6th January**. We are all called to render homage to the Lord!



Join our WhatsApp group to find the hymns to be sung on Sunday.



"Unarmed and Disarming"

Beloved,

'God presents himself to us "unarmed and disarming," as naked and defenceless as a newborn in a cradle. He does this to teach us that the world is not saved by sharpening swords nor by judging, oppressing or eliminating our brothers and sisters'[but] 'by tirelessly striving to understand, forgive, liberate and welcome everyone, without calculation and without fear.' Pope Leo, XIV Homily for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 1st January 2026.



loving them to the extent of dying for them. There he put to death the hostility that made us enemies of God and of each other and became Our Peace (see Ephesians 2:13-18). This unmerited offering of merciful love to the enemy is to be welcomed and transmitted. To

forget this is not to be realistic but to be "blind to the beauty of others and forgetful of God's grace, which is always at work in human hearts, even though wounded by sin."*

These words echo the Pope's message for the World Day of Peace in which he invites us to disarm our hearts, minds and lives so as to welcome the lasting transformation that the "unarmed and disarming" peace of Christ brings to the world.

What is the arsenal of bitterness, hatred, judgements, resentments or prejudices that God may be calling me to put down this year?

Peace is not achieved by an equal supply of weapons but by mutual trust. "Irrationality of relations between nations" [and individuals is built] "on fear and domination by force."* "Far beyond the principle of legitimate defence",* the logic of aggression appears when peace is not "lived, cultivated and protected."*

What makes you lose your peace? And are you right to lose it?

To lose peace is to lose sight of Christ. Unarmed on the cross, Christ disarmed his enemies by

The Holy Spirit can inspire in us disarming deeds to reach out beyond the boundaries of our comfort to those who are different from us so that "the peace of the risen Christ continues to pass through doors and barriers,"* created by fear and mistrust.

Over this last week of Christmas, contemplate Mary and the baby in the Crib. There we see 'the meeting of two immense, "unarmed" realities: that of God, who renounces every privilege of his divinity to be born in the flesh, and that of a human person who, trustingly and fully, embraces God's will. In a perfect act of love, she offers him the greatest power she possesses: her freedom'. Pope Leo XIV-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

May we freely renounce our desire to control others, our fear and mistrust in order to welcome the lasting transformation that the "unarmed and disarming" peace of Christ brings to the world.

*MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV FOR THE LIX WORLD DAY OF PEACE.

In Oscar