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The Parish Office is open:

Tues 9:30am - 12:30pm

Wed 9:30am - 12:30pm

Fri 9:30am - 12:30pm

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Mass this Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent (B) 24th December 2023

Today's Readings

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14-16 Although Samuel is a "big man" in his day, he's also sensitive enough to see that it isn't right for him to be dwelling in a spacious house while God dwells "in a tent", and he is determined to do something about it.

Romans 16: 25-27 Paul rejoices in Jesus, whose strength enables us to live out the Good News so that, reaching to the ends of the earth, it draws all people to become Jesus' disciples. Glory is to be given to the Father through Jesus Christ for ever.

Luke 1:26-38 Luke retells the glorious story of the incarnation. Through Mary's unconditional acceptance of the angel's message, Jesus has come into our world as one of us and is like us in all things, apart from sin.

Mass This Week

Saturday 23rd 6:30pm

Sunday 24th 9:00am

Intentions

Nicola Ditella (anniversary)

Lillie Henry & Kitty McTernan (anniversary)

Please note there is no 10:30am Mass

Nativity of The Lord

Sunday 24 th	5:00pm	Childrens Mass	Families
	9:30pm	The Mass of Christmas Night	Peace in the Holy Land
Monday 25 th	9:00am	Mass of Christmas Dawn	Peace in Ukraine
	10:30am	Mass of Christmas Day	The Homeless
Tuesday 26 th	12 noon	St Stephen	The Walsh Family
Wednesday 27 th	9:15am	St John	Kathleen McHugh (Int)
Thursday 28 th	9:15am	Holy Innocents	Marie Sawyer (Int)
Friday 29 th	12 noon	St Thomas Becket	The Mission of our Parish

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for Peace

Christmas Volunteers Thank you to everyone who signed up to volunteer to contribute to our celebrations this Christmas. Thank you to our musicians and singers, our flower arrangers, our cleaners and all who are contributing to our worship and the service of our neighbours.

Fr Philip and Jane warmly thank all of you who have shown so much generosity in your cards, prayers and gifts. May you all be blessed this Christmastime.

The Sisters would like to send their heartfelt thanks and Christmas blessings to everyone who sent them cards and good wishes.

Parish Office Please note that the parish office will be closed this week

Christmas Cards We have cleared a space on the Sacristy table if parishioners wish to leave cards for each other. Ideally putting them in Alphabetical order would help (but that may be asking too much!)

Christmas Offering If you are a taxpayer, please use a Gift Aid envelope. There should be a few in each pew.

Letter from the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Please read the copy of the letter from our Brothers and Sisters in the Holy Land which is on the notice board and please hold them in your prayers.

Friends of the Holy Land charity song As we all know the 'Little Town of Bethlehem' will not be celebrating Christmas in its usual way. Youstina Safar, a resident of Bethlehem and a student at Bethlehem University, has collaborated with the London-based band Ooberfuse to deliver a powerful message through their Christmas song, *Hear Angels Cry*. The song resonates with the belief in hope for a better future, born in the hearts of humanity. Cardinal Vincent and Pope Francis have both welcomed the song, and proceeds from its sale will go the *Friends of the Holy Land*. Pope Francis expressed that his hope was that the song "will inspire many people this Christmas to pray for a new flourishing of fraternal solidarity, reconciliation and peace in the Holy Land." You can watch *Hear Angels Cry* on [YouTube](#). The song is also streaming on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Music](#). You can also support fundraising efforts for the suffering in the Holy Land by buying the song via [Amazon](#). More information at:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-prays-bethlehem-song-can-inspire-solidarity-reconciliation-and-peace-in-the-holy-land-this-christmas/>

2025 Jubilee preparation: *Lent Programme 2024: "We Dare To Say"* - small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions each based on a line from the Lord's Prayer. The course has been specially prepared for the Year of Prayer, see poster for more details. As Ash Wednesday is only eight weeks away, we need to get our resource orders in very soon. Please can you sign up on the sheet in the Sacristy if you would like to part. We must order booklets by the 8th January! So please sign up asap.

Crib Offering 2023 Please consider donating at the Crib to support the Catholic Children's Society. The CCS brings God's message of hope and love to disadvantaged children and families. They are helping local families in crisis who are struggling to put food on the table, keep warm and provide a safe home for their children. There are many vulnerable families in need of support and our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important work. You can donate at the Crib or via their website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib Gift Aid envelopes are available in the Sacristy. Thank you for your support.

The Westminster Yearbook 2023-2024 (containing the 2024 Liturgical Calendar) Copies are now available to purchase for £5 in the sacristy.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December For Persons with Disabilities We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

PEACE Henry Vaughan, 1650

My soul, there is a country
Far beyond the stars,
Where stands a wingèd sentry
All skillful in the wars :
There, above noise and danger,
Sweet Peace sits crown'd with smiles,
And One born in a manger
Commands the beauteous files.

He is thy gracious Friend,
And—O my soul awake !—
Did in pure love descend,
To die here for thy sake.
If thou canst get but thither,
There grows the flower of Peace,
The Rose that cannot wither,
Thy fortress, and thy ease.
Leave then thy foolish ranges ;
For none can thee secure,
But One, who never changes,
Thy God, thy life, thy cure.