



PRECIOUS WOUNDS BULLETIN

The Five Precious Wounds Catholic Church,
Brentfield Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 8ER

Mass Times: Saturdays 6 pm; Sundays 10 am & 12:30pm

Monday 10 am - Tuesday 10am

Wednesday 10 am - Thursday Closed

Friday 10 am; **Holy Hour:** Fridays after Mass

Confessions: Fridays after Mass from 10:40 am to 11:20 am, Saturday 5:15pm - 5:45pm and at other times on request after Mass

Website:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stonebridge>

Telephone 020 89653313

email stonebridge@rcdow.org.uk

Clergy: Father Tony Thomas; Deacon Andrew Safo-Poku

School: Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School
www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk

DOUBLE ISSUE: SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS (2nd JANUARY 2022)
and THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (9th JANUARY 2022)

MASS READINGS FOR 2ND JANUARY 2022

Entrance Antiphon: Wisdom

18: 14-15

When a profound silence
covered all things
and night was in the middle of
its course,
your all-powerful Word, O Lord,
bounded from heaven's royal
throne.



In the beloved city he has given me
rest,
and in Jerusalem I wield my
authority.
I have taken root in a privileged
people,
in the Lord's property, in his
inheritance.'

First reading: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12

Wisdom speaks her own praises,
in the midst of her people she glories in
herself.
She opens her mouth in the assembly of the
Most High,
she glories in herself in the presence of the
Mighty One;

'Then the creator of all things instructed me,
and he who created me fixed a place for my
tent.

He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob,
make Israel your inheritance."

From eternity, in the beginning, he created me,
and for eternity I shall remain.

I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle,
and thus was I established on Zion.

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 147:12-15,19-20

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates
he has blessed the children within you.

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command.

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees.

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

Second reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.
Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ,
to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence,
determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes,
to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

Gospel Acclamation: cf.1 Timothy 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans.
Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:1-5,9-14

In the beginning was the Word:
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh
or will of man
but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

Communion Antiphon: Isaiah 7: 14

To all who would accept him,
he gave the power to become children of God.

MASS READINGS FOR 9TH JANUARY 2022

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Matthew 3: 16-17

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First reading: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

‘Console my people, console them’
says your God.
‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low.
Let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah,

‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power,

his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,

gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.



Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 103(104):1-4,24-25,27-30

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servant.

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small.

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill.

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;
you take back your spirit, they die.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

Second reading: Titus 2:11-14,3:4-7

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

But when the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation: cf. Luke 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16,21-22

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Communion Antiphon: Isaiah 7: 14

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible

REFLECTION FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

Covid-19

Please be advised that face masks are once more mandatory in church, unless you have a valid exemption.

Feast of the Epiphany

This Thursday, 6th January, is the Feast of the Epiphany. There will be Masses at 10.00am and 7.00pm.

Next weekend

Next weekend (8th/9th January) we welcome Fr Kevin O'Shea and Fr Cirino Potrido who will be celebrating our Sunday Masses. We also welcome our visiting priests who will be celebrating weekday Masses while Fr Tony is on his post-Christmas break.

Thank you

Thank you to all of those who helped to make Christmas such a special celebration here at Five Precious Wounds: our stewards, readers, musicians, cleaners, those decorated the church so beautifully... We are very grateful. Thank you also for your kind cards and gifts. We hope you had a blessed time with your families and loved ones.

Fr Tony and Deacon Andrew

Parish administrator

Fr Tony writes: I am delighted to announce that, following the recent recruitment process, a parish administrator has been appointed and will begin working in mid-January. The parish office will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.30am until 2.30pm. There will be further information introducing our new administrator in subsequent newsletters.

This appointment has been made possible following a Gift Aid refund the parish has received from HMRC, which has been ringfenced for this purpose. So a big 'thank you' to all those who Gift Aid your weekly donations to the parish!

Toilet refurbishment

Fr Tony writes: I am also pleased to let you know that the parish has received a National Lottery-supported grant of £10,000 to refurbish the toilets in the parish hall (those closest to the old bar). Work to appoint contractors for this project will begin in the new year.

Once this refurbishment is completed, we will again be able to hire the hall, and so improve the parish's financial position following the pandemic.

Mary's Meals

Many thanks to the parishioner who kindly donated £220 to Mary's Meals via our weekday coffee mornings.

Planned giving envelopes

If you contribute to the parish through the planned giving scheme, but have yet to collect your weekly envelopes, please take them home with you today. They are available at the back of church.



First Holy Communion – Year 3 and 4

The next session for children in Year 3 and 4 will be on

Sunday 16th January, followed by sessions on 23rd January and 6th February.

First Holy Communion – Year 5 and 6

Classes for year 5 and 6 children will take place on the following Wednesdays from 6pm-7pm: 19th January, 26th January, 2nd February, 9th February, 23rd February and 2nd March. These children will make their First Holy Communion alongside the Year 3 and 4 children in May.

Honouring Sunday

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have issued a statement entitled

'Honouring Sunday'. The statement emphasises the importance of Sunday as The Day of the Lord and the celebration of Mass gathered as the Body of Christ on that day. It also speaks of the difficulty that some will have in fulfilling the Sunday Obligation at this time. It invites reflection on the practice of Sunday Worship. The following is an extract from the statement, the full version of which can be found at: [https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops\[1\]statement-honouring-sunday/](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops[1]statement-honouring-sunday/)

"The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God's holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ's love."

"At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass".

Thinking about becoming a Catholic?

If you are a non-Catholic thinking about

exploring the Catholic faith - or if you are an adult who was baptised but never confirmed - then please consider joining our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) programme. The RCIA is an introduction to Catholic Christianity which can lead to the reception of the sacraments of Baptism and/or Confirmation. Fr Tony is hoping to start an RCIA programme early in the new year - please speak to him if you are interested.

Mass intentions

Arranging to have a Mass celebrated for someone's intentions, or for the repose of their soul, is a great act of faith and love. If you would like to book a Mass intention, please do so at the repository on Sunday mornings, or by taking a Mass intention envelope and putting it through the door or the presbytery.

Confirmation

If your child is currently in school years 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 etc., please take and fill in an application form today, even if your child was part of the classes before lockdown, so we may know if your child still wishes to receive this important sacrament. Dates for the preparation

sessions will be announced in due course.

Open House

Please note that the next Open House will be on Tuesday 18th January between 5pm and 6pm in the church, and on subsequent Tuesdays thereafter. This is an opportunity to meet with Fr Tony briefly without an appointment.

Tea and coffee after Mass

Tea and coffee after weekday Mass is currently suspended, due to the spread of the Coronavirus variant. This is intended to be a temporary measure until the situation is clearer. Please listen for announcements at the end of Masses for further information.

Altar servers

We are once again able to recruit new and old servers for Mass. If you would like your child to serve at the Mass, please give your child's details to Deacon Andrew after Mass. We expect a high standard from our servers. Children must wear black shoes and are expected to arrive 30 minutes before Mass begins to go through training each Sunday.

*Every blessing for the New Year
From Fr Tony and Deacon Andrew*