



# 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>

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**Clergy:** Father Tony Thomas; Deacon Andrew Safo-Poku

**School:** Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School  
[www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk](http://www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (19<sup>th</sup> December 2021)

### TODAY'S MASS READINGS

**Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Isaiah 45: 8**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**First reading: Micah 5:1-4**

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power



to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19**

*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.

*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face  
shine on us and we shall be saved.*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.  
*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face  
shine on us and we shall be saved.*

May your hand be on the man you have  
chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your  
name.  
*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face  
shine on us and we shall be saved.*

**Second reading: Hebrews 10:5-10**

This is what Christ said, on coming into  
the world:  
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts or  
sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was  
commanded in the scroll of the book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey  
your will.'  
Notice that he says first: You did not  
want what the Law lays down as the  
things to be offered, that is: the  
sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts  
and the sacrifices for sin, and you took  
no pleasure in them; and then he says:

Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.  
He is abolishing the first sort to replace it  
with the second. And this will was for us  
to be made holy by the offering of his  
body made once and for all by Jesus  
Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation: Luke 1:38**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel: Luke 1:39-45**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she  
could to a town in the hill country of  
Judah. She went into Zechariah's house  
and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as  
Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the  
child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth  
was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a  
loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are  
the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit  
of your womb. Why should I be  
honoured with a visit from the mother  
of my Lord? For the moment your  
greeting reached my ears, the child in  
my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is  
she who believed that the promise  
made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

**Communion Antiphon: Isaiah 7: 14**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear  
a son; and his name will be called  
Emmanuel.

*Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible*

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

### HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

Our schools have now broken up and I know that many families will be travelling over the coming holiday period, so I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody in the parish a blessed and happy Christmas. This year, as last, we approach the festive period with a certain amount of trepidation due to the spread of the new Coronavirus variant. When so much is uncertain, it is important to remind ourselves of what endures: the love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ, who became man to be our saviour. I pray that you experience the peace of His presence this Christmas.

On a more personal level, this is my first Christmas here at Five Precious Wounds. I would like to thank you for the warmth of your welcome since I arrived in September, for the many kindnesses you have shown me, and for your patience with me as I settle in. I look forward to continuing to get to know you and being blessed by you in 2022.

*Fr Tony*

### Covid-19

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

### Last week's collection

Planned giving £470.95. Loose plate £403.64. Our parish relies entirely on your donations to pay our bills, so thank you for making a difference! Many are now switching to making a standing order with their banks to make their weekly contributions. For more information, please visit our website

[www.preciouswounds.com](http://www.preciouswounds.com) and follow the link to making a donation.

### Advent and Christmas

Today is the last Sunday before Christmas. Please take home a copy of our leaflet with details of Mass times over the holiday period.



### Annual Carol concert and raffle

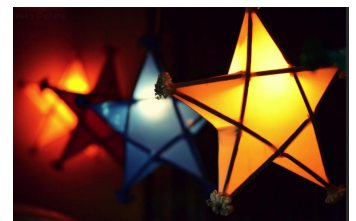
Our annual carol concert takes

place this evening, 19th

December from 6.00pm, followed by our grand parish raffle. Please note that raffle tickets will be available to buy after all Masses this weekend.

### Filipino Advent Novena

'Simbang Gabi' is a popular nine-day novena celebrated by the Filipino community during



Advent, in preparation for Christmas. The final Mass of the Novena will be celebrated here at Five Precious Wounds on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.00pm.

## Monthly devotions

We are pleased to confirm that the following monthly devotions will resume following a break due to Covid-19:

First Saturday Devotion – Rosary Group: first Saturday of each month at 4.00pm in the parish hall.

Divine Mercy Devotion – third Saturday of each month at 3.00pm in the parish hall.

## Honouring Sunday

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".*

## Missio Red Boxes

It is time to empty our Missio Red Boxes. Please bring yours to church and give it to Fr Tony, Deacon Andrew or Eileen O'Brien. Thanks very much for your generosity.

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> January, followed by sessions on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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**

There will be an Open House this Tuesday between 5pm and 6pm in the church, to see Fr Tony briefly without an appointment. Please note that this will be the last open house until the New Year.

### **Tea and coffee after Mass**

Tea and coffee is served in the parish hall after each weekday Mass.

Please join us if you can for a friendly chat and a cuppa!



### **Repository**

Today the repository will be open after the 10.00am Mass in addition to at the 12.30pm Mass. Please stop by to buy candles, gifts, cards etc. If there is something you would like that is not currently in stock, Michelle may be able to order it for you. Please note that the repository will not be open at Christmas.

### **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.





## CHILDREN'S CORNER



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**“Dearly beloved, today our Saviour is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness. No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all.” – St Leo the Great (c.400-461).**



# THIS WEEK'S LITURGY

## **Sunday 19th December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Micah 5:1-4** He will feed his flock with the power of the Lord

**Hebrews 10:5-10** The Lord is very near

**Luke 1:39-45** Why am I honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

## **Monday 20th December**

**Isaiah 7:10-14** The maiden is with child

**Luke 1:26-38** I am the handmaid of the Lord

## **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

**Song of Songs 2:8-14** Song of the Beloved

**Luke 1:39-45** The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

## **Wednesday 22nd December**

**1 Samuel 1:24-28** Hannah presents Samuel in the temple at Shiloh

**Luke 1:46-56** Mary's Magnificat

## **Thursday 23rd December**

**Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24** 'I am going to send my messenger.'

**Luke 1:57-66** The birth of John the Baptist

## **Friday 24th December**

**2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12,14,16** David's house and sovereignty

**Luke 1:67-79** Zechariah's Benedictus

## **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

There are many readings for the various Christmas Masses

