

# FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

# CATHOLIC CHURCH



## Parish Bulletin – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Welcome to everybody at Mass today and especially to anyone who is new or visiting. We ask God’s blessing on you and your loved ones this week.

### THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> Saturday 6pm 10am  12pm	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Alice Boland - RIP Clifford Marshall - Birthday - Thanksgiving Mary & John Lawlor - RIP Anniversary Malcolm Devonish - Healing People of the Parish
<b>Christmas Eve</b> 6pm 12 am	<b>Christmas Day</b> Michael Smith - RIP Edward David Corcoran - RIP
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> 10am 12pm	<b>St Stephen</b>
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b> 10am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion	
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b> No mass	<b>St John</b>
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b> 12pm	<b>Holy Innocents</b> Rogelio Roque Parungao - RIP
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b> 10am	<b>St Thomas Becket</b> Manuel Caithan Fernandes & Josepha Rodrigues - RIP
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b> Saturday 6pm 10am 12pm	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Pelagia Fernandez - Thanksgiving Fr Felix Noronha - RIP Anniversary Ann Obi - RIP Anniversary

### PARISH SCHEDULE

**Sunday Mass:**  
6pm Saturday (Said Mass), 10.00am (Sung Mass), 12pm (Mass with hymns)

**Weekday Mass:**  
Tuesday – Friday 10.00am

**Holy Days of Obligation:**  
10.00am and 7.00pm

**Eucharistic Adoration:**  
Friday 10.35-11.20am and Saturday 5.00-5.45pm

**Confessions:**  
Friday 10.35-11.20am and Saturday 5.15-5.45pm

**Nigerian Friends:**  
Monthly on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 1.00 pm

**Ghanaian Association:**  
Monthly on the last Sunday of the month at 1 pm

**Filipino Association:**  
Mass on the First Sunday of the month at 3 pm

**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.

Fr Tony and Deacon Andrew wish you  
and your families a blessed and  
peaceful Christmas



### GOSPEL REFLECTION

As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, the final Sunday of Advent always focuses on Mary. What was the young girl Mary doing when the message came? Kneeling in prayer? Feeding the sheep? Fetching water? Sweeping the mud floor? What was she thinking? Engaged to be married, surely about her approaching wedding to Joseph and about the children she would mother. Then came the message which she could accept or refuse, the message on which hung the future of the world: her child would be different from all others. How ‘different’? Her thoughts were turned back to the promise to David. It had been read to her so often in the Bible, and now the words echoed in her mind as she listened to the angel say, ‘His reign will have no end’. This would all be the work of the Spirit which she had so often heard about in Isaiah: ‘the Holy Spirit will come upon you’, the Spirit which was to come upon the Servant of the Lord, the Spirit of Emmanuel, ‘God with us’. Her young body was to grow, nourish and develop this child. Then she would have the child in her arms to cherish and shape as both Son of God and her own son.



What sort of person was Mary?  
Would you have liked to get to know her?  
What is God’s plan for you?

# TODAY’S MASS READINGS

## FAITH APPS FOR YOUR PHONE

Here are some great apps to help you develop your faith, which you may be interested in exploring:

Bible in one year • Hallow • Amen • Laudate • The Catholic App • Universalis



**Entrance Antiphon:**

Cf. Is 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:**

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16  
Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.’  
But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:  
‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel;

I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”

**Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 88(89):2-5,27,29  
**I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.**

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

‘He will say to me: “You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.”  
I will keep my love for him always;  
with him my covenant shall last.’

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

**Second reading:**

Romans 16:25-27  
Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to

the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Lk1:38  
Alleluia, alleluia!

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

**Gospel:**

Luke 1:26-38  
The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. He went in and said to her, ‘Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.’ She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, ‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?’ ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ the angel answered ‘and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.’ ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord,’ said Mary ‘let what you have said be done to me.’ And the angel left her.

**Communion Antiphon** Is 7: 14  
Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

# AROUND THE PARISH



## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Planned giving 358.90, loose plate £381.17. 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 <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stonebridge/donate/> and follow the link to making a donation.

**Open House** There will be no Open House on Tuesdays until further notice. During this time, please call the office to make an appointment with Fr Tony. Many thanks for your understanding.

### Fr Tony writes:

I am grateful for the many prayers that have been offered for my mum, Lin, following her recent cancer diagnosis. She began radiotherapy last Tuesday and her treatment will continue for six weeks. During this period, I will be away from the parish on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mass will take place on Tuesday mornings as usual.

### Special collection

For the relief for those suffering from the conflict in the Holy Land we will have a second collection on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January after all Masses.

### Michael Smith RIP

The family of Michael Smith would like to thank Fr Tony, Mary Banks, the choir and all the parishioners who have supported the family during this difficult time.

### Alpha - the journey continues...

Recently we had a wonderful celebration to mark the end of our parish Alpha course. We are going to continue meeting as an Alpha family to connect with God and each other and be inspired to share Jesus with others. On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm we will gather for food, worship music and begin watching the Prayer Course. All welcome - you don't need to have done Alpha to join us!

### Youth group

Our youth group has good food, games, friendship, maybe a video if we have time (Alpha youth). All aged 13-18 are welcome. Our next one will be on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm, in the hall. Please bring along a completed parental consent form, which you can obtain through the office. All welcome!

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Please note that on St Stephen's Day, 26<sup>th</sup> December, there will be a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion in place of the scheduled Mass.

### SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

Carols	5.30pm
Vigil Mass	6.00pm
Office of Readings and Carols followed by Midnight Mass	11.15pm

### MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY

Mass	10.00am
	12.00pm

### TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – ST STEPHEN

Liturgy of the Word With Holy Communion	10.00am
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### WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – ST JOHN

No Mass

### THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – HOLY INNOCENTS

Mass	12.00pm
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### FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – ST THOMAS BECKET

Mass	10.00am
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*No Adoration or Confession today*

### SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Vigil Mass of Sunday	6.00pm
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### SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER – HOLY FAMILY

Mass	10.00am
	12.00pm

### MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY - MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Mass	10.00am
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### New Year Bring-and-Share Lunch

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January after the 12pm Mass we will be hosting a bring-and-share lunch to welcome (a little belatedly!) 2024. Please bring a plate of food to share with fellow parishioners. All welcome!

### Parish Grand Draw

We are launching another Grand Draw! Tickets will be £10 and the top prizes will be a Samsung tablet computer, a designer handbag for ladies, and a gents' watch. The draw will be made at the bring-

and-share lunch on 28<sup>th</sup> January. All proceeds to parish funds.

### First Saturday Devotion

From 6<sup>th</sup> January we will begin the First Saturday devotion to Our Lady at 4pm. This will be followed as normal by Adoration and Confessions, and Mass at 6pm.

### CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](https://cafod.org.uk/ipc) or call 03033033030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers

### Friday collection

As many of you know, we are blessed in having music at our Friday morning Mass and Adoration. To help defray the cost for our Friday music, we have introduced a collection at the end of Mass and Adoration. If everyone who comes on a Friday donates just a pound or two to this collection it will go a long way to covering these costs and helping the parish in difficult financial circumstances.

### First Holy Communion 2023-24

Please remember that parents should sign the Mass attendance register which is at the back of church on Sundays.

### Holy communion for the sick and housebound

Are you able to help with the important role of taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound? Just one visit a month to someone at home can make a world of difference to them. If you can help, please speak to Fr Tony. You will receive training and be enrolled as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

### Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School & Nursery - Open Morning for 2024-2025 Intake – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Nestled in the midst of a busy community, Our Lady of Lourdes is an oasis of calm that provides a fantastic learning environment for your child to develop. Our wonderfully spacious and colourful learning environment has the most up-to-date facilities to encourage your child's development, providing a happy and secure stepping-stone from which your child can progress. Our staff are highly qualified, dedicated and caring, with a wealth of experience in delivering early years education. The children are presented with a wide range of practical experiences intended to motivate, stimulate and challenge and which promote learning through experience and encouragement of independence in preparation for the next stage of their learning journey. We still have limited spaces in both settings for this academic year. To arrange a visit please contact the school office on 0208 961 5037.



# AROUND THE PARISH

## HOW TO CONTACT US

**Address:**  
Brentfield Road, London, NW10 8ER  
**Telephone:**  
0208 965 3313  
**Website:**  
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stonebridge>

**Parish priest:**  
Fr Tony Thomas  
[tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Permanent Deacon:**  
Rev. Andrew Safo Poku  
[andrewsafopoku@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:andrewsafopoku@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Parish administrator:**  
Violet D'Souza  
[stonebridge@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stonebridge@rcdow.org.uk)

**Safeguarding representative:**  
Janeen Nwosu  
[stonebridgesg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stonebridgesg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)  
**Primary School**  
Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School  
[www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk](http://www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk)

The parish office is open from 10.30-2.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.  
There is an 'Open House' each Tuesday between 5.00pm and 6.00pm to see Fr Tony briefly without an appointment.

## PARISH GRAND DRAW

To raise funds for our parish, we are holding another Grand Draw. Tickets are on sale at £10 each. Please choose from the following prizes you can win:

- A Samsung Galaxy tablet computer
- An lady's designer handbag
- A Gamage men's sports watch

Tickets are available after Masses this Sunday and from the parish office during the week. The draw will be made at our parish bring-and-share lunch on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

Please take part and support our parish. Thank you!

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**'You desire that which exceeds my humble powers, but I trust in the compassion and mercy of the All-powerful God.'**

***St Stephen, the first Martyr***  
**Whose feast day falls this Tuesday**

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

This wordsearch is inspired by today's Gospel. How many hidden words can you find?

G	A	B	R	H	E	S	U	O	H
A	J	O	S	T	N	O	S	T	A
B	A	R	R	E	N	N	E	M	N
R	C	E	E	R	D	B	D	A	D
I	O	C	J	A	A	I	A	Y	M
E	B	H	O	Z	S	L	V	R	A
L	N	I	I	A	E	U	I	A	I
O	S	L	C	N	G	O	S	M	D
R	E	D	E	N	A	N	G	E	L
D	A	V	I	H	P	E	S	O	J

ANGEL      GABRIEL      JOSEPH  
MARY      REJOICE      SON  
LORD      JESUS      CHILD  
ELIZABETH      BARREN      HANDMAID



## TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASS

There are refreshments in the hall after the 12.00pm Mass on Sundays and after all weekday Masses.

Please join us for a friendly cuppa and chat!

## PRAYERS, PLEASE

Please keep in your prayers our parishioners who are sick or housebound:

**Lin Thomas, Kadeem Edwards, Amar Atienza, Betty O'Reily (Elizabeth), Eileen Dowd, Marcella Frawley, Valda Baptist, Omolara Ademuyiwa**

*Please give the names of any sick or housebound you would like mentioned in the newsletter to Fr Tony or Violet, our administrator.*