



**PRAYING TOGETHER FOR THE CHURCH,
THE WORLD, THE PARISH & ONE ANOTHER**

SICK & HOUSEBOUND: PC, Yee Wing, CPO, Gillian Gibb, Phyllis Coffey, Ann Hull, Margaret O'Hanlon, Chris, RC, Theresa Mulvaney, Jodie Clarke, Kieran Maher, Rose Knights, Mary Honey, Peggy & John Cox, Diego Campigotto, Edel Rickard, Polly Thompson, Jean McGrath, Antonio Rodrigues, Julie & Lawrence Hayes, Margaret O'Brien, Michael Rynne, Mary Geaghan, Annemarie Dax, Special Intention, Terry Highland, Colleen Thomas, Joe Nemeth, Helen Faria,, Margaret Callighne, Frank Hunt, Maggie Kirrane, Vera Hylton, Monica Wisniewicz, Geraldine O'Toole, Eileen Harrison, Ian Measham, David Colville, Josephine Smullen, Edward Reilly,, Betty Cain, Callum Stewart-Robert, Betty Hickey, Bernie Marren, Sadie Burgess, Shayanayaki Kaithampillai, Richard Howse, Mia Harrison, RK., Special Intention, Ann Nemeth, Marjorie Hoareau, Max Perera, Nick Holmes, Michael Howard, George McDermott, Michael Fahy, Victor Jude Booth, Mary E. Malone, Michael Griffin Snr., JK, Titus Fernandes, Sean O'Connor, Alan Parnell..

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Phil Clarke

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Josie Usher, Mary Griffin

INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR JANUARY

Evangelization: Christians at the service of the challenges of humanity. That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity .

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
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4. Fr. Tony; 5. Pastoral Assistant. Charity No: 233699
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**PRAYER TO BLESSED VIRGIN
BEFORE MASS**

O most blessed Virgin Mary, mother most loving and most merciful, I, a miserable and unworthy sinner come before thee, with the heartfelt prayer, that of thy loving kindness thou wouldst vouchsafe graciously to be near me and all who throughout the whole Church are to receive the body and blood of thy Son this day, even as thou wert near thy most dear Son as He hung bleeding on the cross, that, aided by thy gracious help, we may worthily offer up a pure and acceptable sacrifice in the sight of the holy and undivided Trinity. Amen.
Amen.

SANCTUARY LAMP

has been sponsored this week
In memory of
TOM PARSONS RIP (30TH ANNIV.)

**LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF
WALSINGHAM**

has been sponsored this week
In memory of
DANIEL NGUYEN RIP



**TURN OFF
ALL MOBILE
PHONES**



Sunday cycle
Readings Year A
Weekday readings
Christmastide
Divine Office
Christmastide

**The Catholic Parish
of St George, Sudbury**



**Sunday 1st January 2017
MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD**

Welcome to all at Mass today, especially to any visitors and particularly those who are here for the first time. Please take this sheet home with you which will tell you about this week's celebration and the activities during the week and also to remind you of our Liturgy today.

TODAY'S MASS

**"God sent his Son born
of a woman"**



Mary is the mother of Christ and also the mother of the Church, his bride. By the power of the Spirit she is linked to God in a unique way. She is also our spiritual mother who encourages us to say "yes" to God our Father.

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

The solemn blessing for the beginning of the New Year echoes this ancient text, completing it with the Christian hope of everlasting light and joy.

Second Reading: Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians 4:4-7

Mary played an irreplaceable role in the revelation of God's fatherhood and our state as his children. As 'Mother of God' she conceived of the Holy Spirit him whom the Father sent to reveal our divine adoption.

Gospel: Luke 2:16:21

Jesus — *Yehoshua* — means 'God saves'. Happy the mother who has brought this child into the world. Happy those, who like Mary accept, in faith and prayer, the salvation offered them by God.

Mary kept and turned over in her mind what the shepherds told her. She prepares herself to come to terms with the future — her child's future and her own. The two could not be separated. On the threshold of the new year, in which God will be with us, there is much food for reflection and prayer for us in Mary and her faith.

Sunday reflection

The name "January" comes from the Roman god Janus, the god with two faces, one looking to the past and the other looking to the future. This is indeed a time to look back at the year that has just ended and to look forward to the new year ahead of us. Through soul searching questions we CAN find that a review of the past year naturally leads to setting goals and resolutions for the new year.

Today's media is full of individual and collective new year resolutions. Most of those, however, are not resolutions at all but only wishes. What is the difference between a resolution and a wish? A wish identifies a goal one wants to reach, a resolution specifies the steps one will take to reach it. A wish says this is where I want to be, a resolution says this is the road I will take, this is what I will do to get there. The wishful person says "I

want to pass my exams this year" and the resolved person says "I will devote an extra hour to my studies everyday in order to pass my exams." The wishful person says "I will have more peace and love in my family this year" and the resolved person says "I will spend more time with my family at table instead of rushing off to the TV, so that we get to know and understand ourselves better." The difference between wishing and resolving is: are we prepared to do what it takes to make our dreams come true, are we prepared to pay the price?

The gospel today presents Mary to us as a model of that new life in Christ that all of us wish for ourselves in the new year. There we see that Mary was prepared to do some-

thing to realize this goal. What did she do? We read that the shepherds, when they went to adore the Child Jesus in the manger, told all that the angels had said to them. "**But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart**" (Luke 2:19). Again after the boy Jesus was found in the Temple, we are told that "**His mother treasured all these things in her heart**" (Luke 2:51). Mary was a woman who valued the word of God, who treasured it and made time to meditate



and ponder it. It is true that the holiness of Mary is attributed to the grace of God, but this should not make us forget that she needed to make an effort in order to cooperate with the grace of God. She pondered the word of God in order to discern what God was saying to her at every stage in her life as the handmaid of God.

The two examples above of Mary pondering the word of God, namely, after the visit of the shepherds and after the finding in the temple, show that Mary found the word of God both in divine revelation (the angels' words to the shepherds) and in her own experiences (her encounter with her son in the temple). Similarly God speaks to us today through divine revelation (e.g. the Bible, the teaching and preaching of the Church) as well as through our personal experiences, if only we made time to reflect on them as Mary did.

Let us today resolve to listen more to the voice of God, to treasure God's word and ponder it in our hearts. Then shall we be able to realize our new year resolution of a new life in union with God.

HOLY BAPTISM: Information packs are available from the parish office. You can sign up there for the preparation evening. Parents to be, i.e. before birth, are welcome to attend. Please note that our next baptism preparation evening will be on Friday 27th January 2017 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

SEEKING CATECHISTS & HELPERS FOR CONFIRMATION - If you would like to help prepare this year's candidates for their Confirmation in June next year we would be delighted to hear from you. If you would be interested in helping in any way please speak to Mgr. Jeremy or contact Peter, our Catechetical Coordinator, at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk. Thank you!

MEN'S BREAKFAST—Following our successful and enjoyable launch of the Men's Breakfast we will meet again on Saturday 28th January at 9am. As well as a fry-up we will have a guest speaker—Fr. John Hemer talking about his experience as a missionary priest in Pakistan. If you are interested please RSVP to Fr. Tony at tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk

THURSDAY MORNINGS IN THE CAFÉ/BAR ARE NOW CLOSED until Thursday 12th January. If you would be interested in volunteering to help please contact Patricia on 07939 722 198

LADIES' KEEP FIT will be back on Monday January 9th 2017 at 1.30pm.

BEFRIENDING SERVICE - If you know of anyone in the Parish who might like to be befriended please let us know as we have a small group of befrienders who would be only too happy to help.

CHURCH LAMPS: If you would like to sponsor the blessed sacrament lamp or the lamp by the altar of Our Lady of Walsingham with a particular intention, the cost is £10 for the week - Please see Toni in the Parish Office..

SET DANCING—now finished until January 10th 2017 at 8.45pm.

CHILDREN'S ART CLASS is now finished until Thursday January 12th 2017 at 5.30-7.30pm.

WHITE/YELLOW FOLDER INFORMATION FOR THE FOLLOWING: (See in church porch)

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE helps separated, divorced or widowed Catholics.

SMART LOVING SEMINAR for married couples.

CATHOLIC SINGLES information

RETOUVAILLE—a lifeline for married couples.

WIDOWED YOUNG—support events.

CALIX CENTRE—A Catholic ministry to addicts.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION COURSES.—new information.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA—led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, 24-27 April 2017. Further details in the folder in porch.

TEACHER TRAINING with Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School. Information evening on 15th January 2017 at 5.30pm— see notice in folder to book.

VACANCIES:

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT and **TEACHING ASSISTANT** required at St. George's School. (c/ date 6th Jan).

DIOCESAN VACANCIES:- Please see folder and website. for latest details

FOLDERS in the church porch: look for pilgrimages & retreats, job opportunities, schools & colleges .

Hail Mary Word Search

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



Directions: Find all 17 of the words that are in bold print below in the Hail Mary prayer in the word search above.

Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of death.
Amen.

NEWS & VIEWS

WELCOME to all who have come to Mass today. Please stay on if you are able, for TEA & COFFEE after the 9.45am and 11.15am Masses, in the Bar of the Parish Centre.

NEW TO THE PARISH? if you are, please know you are very welcome. Please fill in one of the new parishioners forms at the back of church and we'll get back to you.

MGR. JEREMY, FR. TONY & PETER would like to express a huge thanks to the parish for all the kind gifts and cards and enclosures. It has been an extremely generous Christmas towards us and we cant thank you enough. Your support gives us huge encouragement and let us pray for another year together in God's service. Thank you all again!

A HUGE THANK-YOU to all who helped and made preparations for Christmas: Cleaners, decorators, singers, servers, readers, welcomers, those who helped with hospitality etc. We had a great Christmas thanks to all your help!

ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU to all who brought presents under the tree which are to be distributed via the Catholic Children's Society. We had a really great response this year.

LASTLY—A THANK YOU to all our children who performed in our nativity tableau at the 6.00pm Vigil Mass on Christmas eve. You did a wonderful job. And thanks to all who helped and made this possible.

PARISH DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 1 January:
Teas/coffees after 9.45am and 11.15am Masses

Tuesday 3 January
Over 60's Club 1.00pm

Wednesday 4 January
Badminton Club 5.30pm

Thursday 5 January
Church Cleaning Group A 7.00pm

Friday 23 December:
Teas after morning Mass
School Form Signing 7.00pm

SCHOOL FORM SIGNING for Primary Schools on **Friday 6th January 2017 at 7.00pm-8.30pm** in the Parish Centre. This year the new 'Certificate of Practice' is in force which means you must be very regular in attending Mass. *Please also note that this is the primary time for the parish priests to sign your forms.*

GOOD NEWS...

- * in that there is now new lighting in and outside the church porch which finishes the refurbishment of the whole of the outside area;
- * The church lighting is now finished giving a remarkable improvement throughout the building;
- * The Baptistery (which was in a terrible state) has now been completely redecorated.

TAMIL PRAYER MEETING every Saturday evening after 6.15pm Mass. All Welcome. Contact: Edward on 07976 487 313.

CONFIRMATION - Many thanks to all those who enrolled on our Confirmation Programme. The first session is on Monday 9th January at 8pm. Please can candidates bring any missing documents (e.g. Passport Photos, Baptism Certificates, Sponsor Forms, etc.) to the Parish Office before the beginning of the Programme.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - Part 2 of the First Holy Communion Programme begins with a session for PARENTS & CARERS ONLY at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th January.

FRIENDS OF JESUS - The Friends of Jesus offers Religious Education to those children of primary school age not attending a Catholic school. The Friends of Jesus meets during term-time for an hour at 5.30pm. If you are interested in finding out more about the Friends of Jesus please pick up an Information Leaflet from the back of church. Enrolment Forms are available from the Parish Office. The new term will begin on Friday 13th January at 5.30pm.

LADIES SOCIAL GUILD No meeting on 4th January. New Year's Lunch on Wednesday 11th January 2017. Contact: Maureen Cooper for further details.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY MASS: 6.15pm (Saturday Vigil), 8.30am, 9.45am (Family) & 11.15am (Solemn), 5.30pm, **WEEKDAY MASS:** Monday – Saturday 9.30am, **HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION:** 9.30am, 8.00pm, **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Saturday 5.15-6.00pm **RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS:** Saturday 5.15pm - 6.00pm and any time by appointment, **DIVINE MERCY:** Tuesday 10.30am, **PRAYER GROUP:** Thursday 8.00pm **FRIENDS OF JESUS:** Friday 5.30pm.

W	Sun	1 Jan	MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD	<i>Sat. Vigil</i> 6.15pm 8.30am 9.45am	Josie & Peter Usher RIP McDermott & Fee Families RIP Vincent de Lima RIP
				11.15am 5.30pm	Charlie Kennedy RIP PRO POPULO
W	Mon	2 Jan	Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	9.30am	Holy Souls
W	Tues	3 Jan	The Most Holy Name	9.30am	Tony Rammelt RIP
W	Wed	4 Jan	Christmas feria	9.30am	Wally & Dorothy Watts RIP Marita & Robbie Ledo RIP Hermosinda Toucedo RIP
W	Thur	5 Jan	Christmas feria	9.30am	Julia Flannery RIP
			FUNERAL MASS	11.00am	Phil Clarke RIP
W	Fri	6 Dec	Christmas feria	9.30am	Thomas & Eileen Haugh RIP
W	Sat	7 Dec	Advent feria	9.30am	Thanksgiving from O'Leary Family

WHY NEW YEAR'S DAY IS IMPORTANT

We are beginning the Year of the Lord 2017. The marking of the dawn of a new year is no secular holiday, because time and history have been drawn into the coming of God into the world. We keep track of our time as either BC (Before Christ) or AD (Anno Domini) to demonstrate that Christ is the centre of history, the one through whom we judge all that came before and is going to come. Julius Caesar changed Rome's calendar from a lunar to a solar year,

and moved the start of the year from March to January (a new month dedicated to the god of entryways). The marking of the New Year brought pagan observances and excessive celebrations, so much so that early Christians observed expiatory fasts in reparation.

In the Middle Ages, there was great variance on the celebration of the New Year: March 1, March 25 (Annunciation), September 1, and even Christmas Day. It was the adoption of the Gregorian calendar that eventually brought uniformity to the date of January 1. That day makes perfect sense for Catholics, even if we are fighting a

resurgence of pagan excess surrounding the date. That New Year coincides with the Octave of Christmas is no coincidence. If we count our years from the birth of Christ, Christmas should be the time to mark the beginning of the new year.

Celebrating the new year specifically as the anniversary of the birth of Christ transforms its character. Not only does it point to God's coming into the world as the central point of history, it also emphasizes that history has a goal. The new year marks the new year of the Lord, belonging to the reign of Christ the King, a period of waiting in expectation for the full unfolding of God's Kingdom.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

TODAY'S MASS

Entrance Antiphon

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Collect

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First reading: *Numbers 6:22-27*

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 66:2-3,5,6,8

R/. O God, be gracious and bless us.

1. O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.

So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. *R/.*

2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. *R/.*

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. *R/.*

Second reading: *Galatians 4:4-7*

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons.

The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

Gospel Acclamation: *Heb 1:1-2*

Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel: *Luke 2:16-21*

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was

exactly as they had been told. When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who in your kindness begin all good things and bring them to fulfilment, grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother of God, that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace, so one day we may rejoice in its completion. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: *Heb 13: 8*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

Prayer after Communion

We have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy, O Lord: grant, we pray, that it may lead us to eternal life, for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church. Through Christ our Lord.