

# Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

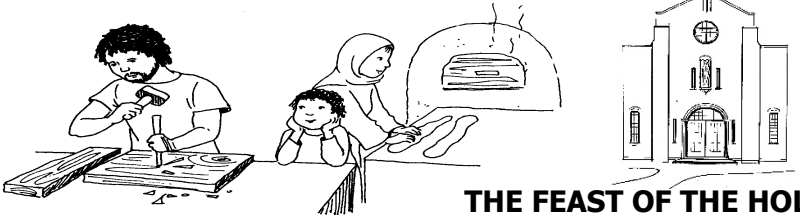
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

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## THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

When Jesus was born into the world, he was born into a family. Today we celebrate the Holy Family, a model for us all to emulate. Do we love and respect our children as Joseph and Mary did their Son? Do we love and honour our parents as Jesus did his own? Do we nurture the bonds in our family as the Holy Family did? On this final day of the year, let us resolve to pray to the Holy Family for guidance and support, as we look to them for inspiration.

Faith and trust in God are vital in a family. Abraham and Sarah's faith is rewarded in a son, born at long last. The reading from Hebrews relates the same story, but also of later Abraham stood ready to sacrifice Isaac, trusting that somehow God must be able to save his son. Mary and Joseph's faith leads them to the Temple to present their son according to the law, where Simeon and Anna recognise their Saviour. Listening to God's word, let us witness the strong faith of these holy men and women.

*From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2023 World Library Publications*

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December

**The Holy Family**

### MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

6.30pm Anthony Burke RIP  
8.30am Keith Breathwick Int  
11.30am Fintin Bergin RIP  
6.30pm Robin Holmes Int.  
10.00pm People of the Parish  
10.00am Grace Muscat RIP  
10.00am David Cope RIP  
10.00am Gerry & Sharon Flynn  
10.00am Pat Deaney  
10.00am Rita Debono  
6.30pm People of the Parish  
8.30am Liz & John Griffin  
11.30am Tina Hession  
6.30pm Darren Lane

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January

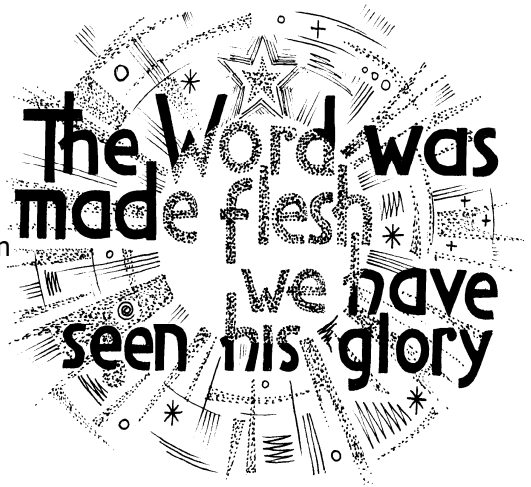
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January

**Mary, Mother of God**

Basil & Gregory

**The Epiphany**



### TODAY'S READINGS:

Genesis 15:1-6.21:1-3  
Psalm 104  
Hebrews 11:8.11-12  
Luke 2:22-40

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72  
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

### LIVE STREAMING FROM THE CHURCH

The live stream runs twenty-four hours a day, so you can 'visit' the Church whenever you wish. There is a link on the Parish Website and it is also accessible at <http://www.churchservices.tv/walthamcross>.

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

During the Christmas Season we are asked to pray for: Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.

**For those who are ill:** Nicola Harker, Linda Tank, Lily Barber, Natasha Papet, Rodney Imbert, Lisa Thorogood, Tina Figueria, Iris Waters, Pat Deaney, Vera Argue, Lesley Cartwright, Patsy Joseph, Val McGuinness, Michael Verbruggen, Mary Fitzgerald, Alf Ward, Betty Bambury, Jean Pearce,

**For those who have died recently,** Vincenza Alaimo, Grace Muscat

**And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time:** Anthony Burke

### THANK YOU VERY MUCH

**Thank you for your last week's Offertory Collection which came to £951.73; Christmas Offerings: £3,281.28; plus the Regular Standing Orders.**

*Thank you very much for your very generous Christmas offerings and your many cards and gifts. I hope that you have Happy and Peaceful New Year. Fr John*

### COLLECTION TO SUPPORT THE LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

There will be a second collection after all the Masses next weekend to support the charities in the West Bank and Gaza who are seeking to support the victims of the violence that is occurring during the conflict. The Patriarch, Cardinal Pizzaballa, is deeply concerned about the impact that the war is having on the Palestinian population in the West Bank, for many of whom sources of income have effectively been ended by the restrictions imposed on them. Copies of a recent Newsletter from the Patriarch are available at the entrances to the Church, and on the Website, in the Newsletter Section.

### CRIB OFFERINGS

Our Crib Offerings will be donated, as usual, to The Catholic Children's Society (CCS). They will be used to support local children and families in need. The Society is helping families in crisis who are struggling to put food on their table, keep warm and provide a safe home for their children. You can donate at the Crib, or via the CCS website [www.cathchild.org.uk/crib](http://www.cathchild.org.uk/crib)

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

On Saturday from 10.30 – 11.00am and from 5.45pm – 6.15pm.

### THE PARISH MASS INTENTION DIARY

The Mass Intention Diary for Masses to be celebrated here in the Parish is now open for the year.

### 200 CLUB WINNERS – DECEMBER 2023

1<sup>st</sup> No. 87 Eve McKay; 2<sup>nd</sup> No. 81 Bernadette Duane; 3<sup>rd</sup> No. 76 Susan Durkan; 4<sup>th</sup> No. 64 Beatrice Nowak;  
5<sup>th</sup> No. 146 Lena Batchelor; 6<sup>th</sup> No. 39 John Reynolds; 7<sup>th</sup> No. 132 Maria Garofalo

### 200 CLUB 2023

Thank you to all those who supported the 200 Club during this past year. £877.00 was given out in prizes and £877.00 was given to the Parish Building Fund. The Application Forms for 2024 are available as you exit the Church. The more people who join, the more is given in prizes.

### CHRISTMAS MEAL

The Parish is hosting a Christmas meal for its Senior Citizens and the housebound on Saturday 6th January 2024 at 1.00pm. If you would like to attend or know of anyone who would like to come along, please give names and details to the Parish Office. If you would like to help on the day with preparing, cooking or serving the meal, please contact the Parish Office.

### CALLING APF RED BOX HOLDERS

If you have not yet collected your envelope from the box at the Main Entrance to the Church, would you please do so. Please empty the contents of your Red Box into the envelope and return it to the Parish Office. The APF is the charity that helps Catholic missionaries to continue to work in countries across the world. We thank you for all the money you give to this important work. If you have any questions, please contact Terry O'Sullivan – [thrums55@googlemail.com](mailto:thrums55@googlemail.com).

### AA MEETINGS

We are a fellowship of men and women, who share our experience strength and hope with each other, that we may solve our common problem, and help others to recover from alcoholism. At our meeting, you will find a variety of people with many different experiences of what their drinking was like and what made them stop. At the heart of it all is the same thing: we didn't want to drink anymore and we realised we couldn't stop on our own many of us had tried that and it didn't work. AA started in 1935 when one sober Alcoholic on a business trip, worried he might start drinking again, called a church to know if they knew of any drunks that might need help getting sober, there he met another man who had been trying to stay sober but couldn't. From that small beginning, AA has become a fellowship of 120,000 groups around the world. Here at St Joseph's, we are one of that number. Normally around 12 people come each week for an hour and a quarter, meeting goes have a varying length of Sobriety, some a few days or months while others have many years, but regardless of our differences we are bound together in our primary purpose of getting sober and helping others do the same. We are grateful for Fr John's support and encouragement of our efforts, as well as allowing us to use the hall at a reasonable rate, it would have been really difficult to hold the meeting otherwise. We are an open meeting, which means anyone interested in finding out more about what Alcoholics Anonymous does is welcome to attend. If you or someone you love is affected by alcoholism, or just beginning to wonder if that's a possibility, you are most welcome to join us Sunday evenings 8.00 - 9:15pm in the small hall.

### ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL – RECEPTION AND NURSERY ADMISSIONS – SEPTEMBER 2024

Reception – September 2024: The online application process for Under 11s (Reception) commenced on Wednesday 1st November 2023 and will close on Sunday 14th January 2024 on the following website [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions). As well as applying for a place online you will need to complete and submit a Supplementary Information Form to the school office.

**Reception 2024 applies to children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020.**

### Nursery – September 2024

Nursery applications should be made via the school only and commenced on Wednesday 8th November 2023 and will close on Sunday 14th January 2024. **Nursery 2024 applies to children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021.** Please Note: We are a 30 hours childcare provider, and welcome applications from children of all faiths to our Nursery.

### SVP VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of thermal socks, face flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please sponsor a pack at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support.

**The New Readers Rota and Sunday Missal Guide is now available. There are copies in the Sacristy and also on our Website.**

### ALL THINGS NEW

*God of every new beginning, as this New Year unfolds, be here among us to strengthen our faith. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word, and a new consecration to your service, that your love may grow among us and your kingdom be established in our lives.*