



# ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD

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West Norwood

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London SE27 9JU

29 Dec 2024

## Parish Newsletter

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (C)

**TODAY'S MASS READINGS:** Parish Mass Book, from page 105

**1st Reading**( Sirach. 3:2-6, 12-14). **2nd Reading** (Col. 3:12-21). **Gospel** (Lk. 2:41-52).

Next Sunday's Reading: 1st Reading (Isaiah 60:1-6). 2nd Reading (Eph. 3:2-3a, 5-6) Gospel (Matt. 2:1-12)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, reflecting on the life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as a model for all Christian families. The readings for today provide us with profound lessons on love, obedience, and holiness in the family. In the Gospel, we hear the story of Jesus as a child in the Temple, where Mary and Joseph anxiously search for Him after He stays behind in Jerusalem. Their journey of searching and questioning echoes the experiences many parents go through when they are concerned for the well-being of their children. Yet, when Mary and Joseph find Jesus, He responds with words that reveal His divine mission: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49). This moment in the Gospel reminds us that even the Holy Family had to live with the tension between the human and divine. Mary and Joseph did not fully understand Jesus' mission, but they trusted in God's plan. Their faith, humility, and patience set the example for us all in how we should live in family life. The Holy Family, though perfect, was not without struggles. Joseph had to face difficult decisions, like when he decided to take Mary as his wife despite the scandal of her pregnancy. Mary had to endure moments of confusion and sorrow, and Jesus, in His obedience to His parents, showed us the importance of honouring our family relationships. The Second Reading from the Letter to the Colossians (3:12-21) provides us with practical advice on how we can model our own families after the Holy Family. St. Paul exhorts us to "clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." These virtues are essential for fostering peace and unity in any home. He calls us to forgive one another, to bear with each other's weaknesses, and to practice love—just as Christ loved us. In family life, we are called to embody these virtues every day. Whether in times of joy or difficulty, in moments of understanding or frustration, we are invited to imitate the virtues of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. They lived in total trust in God's providence, and their lives were grounded in love for one another. As we reflect on the Holy Family today, let us ask ourselves: How can we make our homes places where love, respect, and faithfulness thrive? How can we be more compassionate and forgiving toward each other? How can we, like Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, make God's love present in our homes? Brothers and sisters, the Holy Family is not only an ideal to admire but a model to imitate. As we celebrate this feast, let us recommit ourselves to living out the virtues of the Holy Family in our own families. Let us pray for all families, that they may be strengthened by God's grace and become communities of love and support, just as the Holy Family was. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph bless all our families, help us grow in holiness, and inspire us to live lives of love, service, and faith. Amen.



**Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme**

**Email: [celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk)**

## PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

### PRAY WITH THE POPE

**Pope's January Prayer Intention :** For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a bet-

### Prayer For Month of January

God of new beginnings, we bless you in the month of January, it is the time of new beginnings, the time of promises, the time of hope. We place our hopes and dreams in the care of our loving God that we may become better people when our hopes and dreams come true. Amen

### PARISH NOTICES

**Thank You! As we approach the end of the year, let me use this opportunity to say a big thank you to our Parish Volunteers. You are the real 'MVPs' of our parish community. From our young and committed altar servers, to our devoted church cleaners, ushers, florals, our selfless eucharistic/communion ministers, readers, sacristans, catechists, finance rep, counters, our choir members, welfare committee, finance committee, parish pastoral members and many more others who do different things at different times for the good of our parish. You re very important to us. We so much appreciate what you do. You are the engine of our parish. You are the reason we pulled through the year. On behalf of the parish I say, THANK YOU SO MUCH,. May God in his love and mercy reward you abundantly for all you do to support the parish. May he provide for you in abundance. May he give you health of mind and bode. May he strengthen you all in your faith.**

**Christmas Offering:** Fr Celestine is deeply grateful to all for your kind and generous donation through the Christmas Offerings. May the good Lord who rewards our good deeds bless and reward you all. May he supply for all your needs and bless you from the spiritual riches of heaven. Amen.

**First Holy Communion 2025:** Forms for First Holy Communion Class 2025 is available at the narthex. Please pickup a form and complete , following the instructions. Hand it to any of the ushers or submit at the parish office. Deadline for submission is stipulated in the form.

**Mass Offerings:** Diary for mass bookings 2025 is available now. If you would want a date reserved for anniversary mass for the dead, or for birthdays or other intentions, you are welcome to come and have the masses booked

**Lambeth Deanery Young Adult Retreat:** This is a good opportunity for young adults of our parish, ages 18—35 to signup and attend this spiritual event. It will start from 14th February to 16th February, at Walsingham Shrine. The cost is £99. the parish will pay a half of the cost for anyone going from our parish.. See the poster at the parish notice board for more details about this retreat.

**Main Liturgical Feasts in Month of January:**

- January 1. [MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS](#), Solemnity
- January 2. [Basil the Great; Gregory Nazianzen](#), Memorial
- January 5. [EPIPHANY OF THE LORD](#), Solemnity
- January 4. [Elizabeth Ann Seton \(USA and CAN\)](#), Memorial
- January 5. [John Neumann](#), Memorial
- January 6. [André Bessette \(USA\)](#), Opt. Mem.
- January 7. [Raymond of Penyafort](#), Opt. Mem.
- January 10. [Baptism of the Lord](#), Feast
- January 13. [Hilary](#), Opt. Mem.
- January 20. [Fabian; Sebastian](#), Opt. Mem.
- January 21. [Agnes](#), Memorial
- January 22. [Day of Prayer for Unborn \(USA\)](#), Opt. Mem.
- January 23. [Vincent of Saragossa \(US\), Marianne Cope \(US\)](#), Opt. Mem.
- January 25. [Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle](#), Feast
- January 26. [Timothy and Titus](#), Memorial
- January 27. [Angela Merici](#), Opt. Mem.
- January 28. [Thomas Aquinas](#), Memorial

**PARISH MINISTRY**

**READERS:**

6:30pm:

9am:

11am:

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

6:30PM      Ann            Annabel

9AM            Zena            Albertina

11AM          Patience      Yvonne

**CLEANING**

Albertina/Justina/Justine   Hugo/Lina/Eugenie

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Saturday 28 December**

6:30pm

**Sunday 29 December**

9am

11am

**Monday 30 December**

9:30am

**Tuesday 31 December**

6:30pm

**Wednesday 1 January**

10am

**Thursday 2 January**

11am @ BH

**Friday 3 January**

9:30 am

**Saturday 4 January**

6:30pm

**Sunday 5 January**

9am

11am

Vigil of Holy Family

Paddy Walsh, Wellbeing

FO Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Easther Brabrook RIP

Enoch Dakouri, B/day T/g

Feria

No Mass

Feria

No Mass

Solemnity Of Mary The Holy Mother of God

Nishelle Fernandes, in Thanksgiving

St Basil the Great.

No Mass

Feria

No Mass

Vigil of the Epiphany

wellbeing of Paddy, Karen and Jason

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Wellbeing of Anna Hannah

Wellbeing of Alan Blanquiere

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**WEEKDAY MASSES ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT THE PARISH FROM 2ND JANUARY TO 5TH FEBRUARY. ALL THE WEEKEND MASSES ARE AVAILABLE AS USUAL.**

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY , AND THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OCCUR AROUND THIS TIME, MAY THEY REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

**HOSPITAL CONTACTS:** If you or a member of your family are admitted to our local hospitals, do please let the hospital's Catholic chaplain know.

**St George's Hospital:** 02087253069 / 02086721255)

**Kings Hospital:** If outside hospital—02032993522. inside the hospital call extension 33522

**Croydon University Hospital:** 02084013105

**St Thomas' Hospital:** 02071881187/02071881186

**Guy's Hospital:** 02071881185/02071889576

Let us fervently call upon Mary Most Holy, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, and St Joseph her spouse. Let us ask them to enlighten, comfort and guide every family in the world, so that they may fulfil with dignity and peace the mission which God has entrusted to them.

## PARISH SCHEDULES

### Sunday Mass Times :

6:30pm (Sat), 9am and 11am

### Week Day Mass Times:

Tuesday ; 7pm

Wednesday & Friday; 9:30am

Thursday; 11am @ British Home

First Fridays; 12noon.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Tuesdays; 6:30pm

**Baptisms, Marriage, Funerals:** Contact the Parish Office.

### Youth Club:

4:30pm Every 3rd Saturday

**RCIA:** Contact Parish Office

### RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 5:30pm to 6:15pm and on call.

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Open Office:** Fridays 10am to 12:30pm and 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

***Other days with appointment, please.***

### UCM:

12noon Every First Friday

### CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Wednesdays; 7:30pm @ the Church.

### DIVINE MERCY GROUP

Sundays; after 11am mass @ the Divine Mercy Altar

We are grateful for all you do to support the parish.

Setting up a Standing Order is the most efficient way to make a donation to the parish without incurring fees. You can use the following details for one-off donation or to set up a Standing Order or Direct Debit. NatWest Bank: Account Name: RCAS Norwood West, Sort Code: 60-23-19; Account Number: 44115369. Thank You!