

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

20 Village Way, Beckenham BR3 3NP Website: www.saintedmunds.net
Parish Office - Phone: 020 8650 0970 - Email: beckenham@rcaos.org.uk
Fr. Steve Wymer - Parish Priest 020 8650 3390 - stephenwymer@rcaos.org.uk
Fr John Olaniran - 020 8650 7533 - johnolaniran@rcaos.org.uk
Fr Andrew Bishop - andrewbishop@rcaos.org.uk
Deacon Seán Murphy - 07960 958 441 - seanmurphy@rcaos.org.uk
Deacon Ray Williamson - raywilliamson@rcaos.org.uk

Sunday 22 December 2024 Yr C

Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver
020 8313 3915
sspc.echo.uk@googlemail.com

The collection on Christmas Day is your gift to our priests



At Christmas we celebrate the incredible generosity of God, our creator, who humbled Himself to share in our humanity and so to become, through His Passion, a remedy for sin itself.

James Tissot was a French Catholic artist who, having experienced a religious vision late in life, returned to the faith and explored exclusively biblical scenes in his late career. Famously he depicted the life of Christ in a wonderful series of paintings with forensic archaeological detail. This painting, *The Adoration of the Shepherds*, is one of several nativity scenes which are extraordinary in emphasising the vulnerability and humanity of the newborn Christ, the divine light of God incarnate, and His transformative impact upon Mary and the shepherds.

As we reflect upon this work of art, I invite you to give thanks for everything that you have been given by God, every blessing, and to remember that the Word became flesh so that He could suffer as humanity does and so free us from the shackles of sin.

This Christmas let us give thanks to God for the greatest gift of all, Himself.

God bless,

Deacon Ray



PARISH ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Thank you to all who came to our Parish Advent Carol Service last Saturday and to anyone who joined in online.

Special thanks to all the singers, musicians and readers who participated.

The collection on the night came to £381.51 in aid of St. Christopher's Hospice.

It is not too late if you wish to donate: the JustGiving page will be open until 31 December.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/cathy-denne-1731069869029>

or you can drop a donation into the Parish Office marked 'St. Christopher's Collection'.

Thank you for your generosity.

We wish you a happy, holy and safe Christmas!

Combined Choirs & Musicians

SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2.30 PM IN THE HALL

Deacon Ray will be giving a talk on the new lectionary, and also on Saint Luke who wrote the gospels that we are now listening to. Refreshments will be available.

CHRISTMAS CRIB APPEAL

Your donations at the crib this year are for the Catholic Children's Society and will be used to care for families living within Southwark diocese who need some help.

Donations can be put in the wall safe by the shop or you can use the QR code.



CONFIRMATION 2025

For young people in Yr 9 or above.

Please use this link to register:

<https://stedmunds.churchsuite.com/events/nn42ohqm>

JUST PRESS PLAY! – THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Last December I wrote a piece for the newsletter, inviting fellow parishioners to consider a new year's resolution to become more familiar with the bible. I mentioned in particular the **Bible in a Year** podcast, led by Fr Mike Schmitz, a youngish and very enthusiastic American Catholic priest. Over 365 days he reads the entire 73 books of the Catholic bible with a prayer and a reflection on how the scripture relates to our lives today. The podcast varies from 15 to 25 minutes a day. This daily routine has had such a massive impact on my life of faith that I wanted to share my experience. I set up and lead a group of around 12 parishioners who meet fortnightly to discuss how what we have heard has 'spoken' to us. We discuss scripture and faith together and encourage and support each other. We are not all at the same point in the bible reading plan, some are almost 'finished', others are taking it more slowly - it doesn't matter.

Fr Mike is keen to emphasise 'transformation – not information transfer' and this has resonated strongly with me and the others in the group.

What we read from God's word has truly helped me to live out my faith and has given me a daily focus, rooted in God's word and the teaching of the Catholic Church.

The podcast is available free on Hallow app, Ascension app or on YouTube. You can also use the QR code on the flyers located on the notice board by the side entrance of the church.

My invitation to you is – just give the **Bible in a Year** a try. You have nothing to lose and so much to gain. If you have any questions/comments or if you would like to join our BIAY group, please contact me on anniepwilliamson@gmail.com or leave your contact details with the parish office or clergy and I will get in touch.

Annie Williamson



"As cradle Catholics, we hear Scripture at Mass and occasionally in self study but never like this. *The Bible in a Year* brings it all together."

—Ignacio G.

Join over 1 million Catholics listening to this podcast!

Listen free on the Ascension App!

Scan this QR code with your phone to download the Ascension App – the best place to listen to *The Bible in a Year*.



Dear St Edmunds,

We want to thank you so much for your generous donations of food to our Christmas Appeal.

We expect to give out over 250 adult bags and 80 family bags this week and are grateful for your contributions towards making this possible.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
Lesley, Kate and Emily

The Light of Christ Catholic Charismatic Prayer Meeting would like to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We will not be meeting on the next two Wednesdays but look forward to seeing you in the Hall on Wednesday 8 January at:

7.45 pm. Praise and Worship

8.00 pm. Holy Mass

Celebrant. TBC

Followed by Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament



SVP CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We welcomed 85 guests who enjoyed a super three course Christmas lunch. On arrival they were greeted by our special quartet of cellists from the South East London Orchestra. Rose played the piano throughout until the Year 5 Mini Vinnies from St. Mary's arrived and sang a lovely selection of old and new carols absolutely beautifully. They had also made Christmas cards which they handed out to all our guests. Stephen Hoare won the Christmas hamper in the raffle.



We pray for those who have died: Sandra Jones, Roy Edwards, Keith Gard.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries are at this time: Aldo Signorelli, Merle Whittle, Tessa Gould, Glen Le Fleur, John Sheehan, Joseph Fennessy, Glenys Warren, Gabriela Krakowska, Ellen Frances Whelan, Leo Tindemans, Ann Lynch, Joan Guiseppi, Agnes Fahy, Elvire Foster, Felix De Souza, Alan Clarke, Keith Garraway, Peg & Joe O'Donnell, Marion Skelly, William O'Neill, Ralph Lilly, Janusz Kopczynski, Iolene Durham, John Kelsall, John Keogh, Cicely Welsh, John Flood, Sybil Brocklehurst, Joseph Gibney, Betty Norman, Salome Cabili, Dirce Elvira O'Donnell, Ted Northwood, Larry Brady, Dorothy Pask, Evelyn Dias, Richard Graves, Anthony Richins, Brian Miller, Patrick Flaherty, Joan Dempsey, Lloyd Carpenter,

We pray for those suffering from ill health, for their families and for those who care for them: Hedwig Harper, Keith Kench, Fr Ray Brennan, Terry Woollard, Wendy Adams, Elizabeth, Rosanna Sookram, Anne Flynn, Hans Halpin, Paul M Williams, Norma Powell, Joan Morris, Kathleen Hayes, Fitzroy Maxima Saunders, Paul Hixson, Susan McWilliams, Mary-Jo McCarthy, Jacqueline Djasrabe, John Brooks.

MONDAY MEDITATION

There will not be a meeting on either Monday 22 December or on Monday 6 January.

There will be a meeting on Monday 30 December.

There is no **Contemplative Saturday** on 21 December. The group will resume on 25 January.



Being formed in the likeness of Christ we strive to become a truly Christ centred community, through humble witness, love, compassion and communion

MASSES

Sunday 22 Dec **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
 6.00 pm VIGIL Maurice Tydings RIP & Mary, Lena & Esther Coleman RIP
 8.00 am Ints of the Dennis Family
 9.30 am John Friend-Pereira RIP
 9.30 am HALL For the people
CHILDRENS MASS
 11.00 am Agnes & Edward Reilly
 5.30 pm Paddy & John Sheehan RIP

Monday 23 Dec **Feria**
 10.00 am Maria Paolo Collu RIP

Tues 24 Dec **Feria**
 10.00 am For my Dad, Alan, on his 90th birthday

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses

4.00 pm Children's Mass
 Agnes Achempong RIP & Mr & Mrs Rene Panglose RIP

4.00 pm Mass at St Mary's School
 Dec'd members of the Brelu-Brelu & Panglose Family

6.00 pm David Stephens RIP & Paul Stephens RIP

8.00 pm In thanksgiving - Edet & Ekong Families

11.30 pm Vigil Service with carols and readings

Midnight Mass Michael Stannard RIP
 Mary Neila RIP

Wed 25 Dec **The Nativity of the Lord**
 8.00 am Bill, Nora & Margaret Spillane RIP
 9.30 am For the people
 11.00 am Joseph Phuoc Duong RIP

Thurs 26 Dec **St Stephen**
 10.00 am Claudette & Roy Seebooruth RIP & Christiane & Guy Saide RIP

Friday 27 Dec **St John, Apostle**
 10.00 am Domenico Liem RIP

Sat 28 Dec **The Holy Innocents**
 10.00 am Martin McEvelly RIP
 6.00 pm VIGIL Mrs Rita Costelloe RIP

Confessions are every Saturday from 10.30 - 11.00 am and 5.00 - 5.55 pm.

There is Rosary every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 am and Adoration after morning Mass from Monday to Saturday, unless otherwise announced.

OFFERTORY WEEK ENDING 15.12.24	
Plate Collection	949.65
Contactless	272.50
Bank Standing Order	830.00
Church Suite Regular Giving	989.55
TOTAL	3041.70

MASSES

Sunday 29 Dec **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**
 8.00 am For the people
 9.30 am Iolene Durham RIP
 9.30 am HALL For our families around the world
CHILDRENS MASS
 11.00 am Andrew Bready RIP
 5.30 pm Hugh Richards RIP

Monday 30 Dec **Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity**
 10.00 am Narciso Andrion RIP

Tues 31 Dec **Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity**
 10.00 am Michael Stannard RIP

Wed 1 Jan **Mary, the Holy Mother of God**
 10.00 am Andrew, Miriam & Mark - in thanksgiving

Thurs 2 Jan **Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church**
 10.00 am Barbara Pisano RIP

Friday 3 Jan **Feria of Christmas Time**
 10.00 am Howard Long RIP & members of his family, living and dec'd

Sat 4 Jan **The Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese**
 10.00 am Lena Lenenhan RIP
 6.00 pm VIGIL Johnny Lennon RIP

Sunday 5 Jan **The Epiphany of the Lord**
 8.00 am Fr William Bradley RIP
 9.30 am Emily Esinam Abonie (b'day)
 11.00 am Vincenzina Grillo RIP
 5.30 pm For the people

This newsletter covers the 22nd and 29th of December. There will be an abridged issue on the 5th January.

The Office will be closed on December 24 and will re-open on January 3. In an emergency please ring the priests on their direct lines.

LAW SURGERY

Monday 6 January
 In the Hall at 6.00 pm

Bank details to set up a regular standing order:
 Account name: RCAS Beckenham
 Sort Code: 60 02 12
 Acc No: 14282887

Link to set up a regular donation through ChurchSuite:
<https://stedmunds.churchsuite.com/donate/>