

**03<sup>rd</sup> January 2021: Second Sunday after the Nativity**



**GOD CHOSE US IN CHRIST**

**G**od's only Son was made flesh and lived among us so that we who believe in him might become the adopted sons and daughters of the Father. Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ, and for this we give thanks to the Father.

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

**MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS**

Sat 02	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i>
18:30	<b>The deceased of the Connolly &amp; Lee Families</b>
Sun 03	✠ <i>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY</i>
09.30	<b>Thanksgiving for 2021 for the Assemien &amp; N'Doman families</b>
11.00	<b>Judd Graham RIP</b>
Mon 04	
09.30	<b>Philumena Carvalho RIP</b>
Tue 05	
09.30	<b>Mr &amp; Mrs A. Estelita RIP</b>
Wed 06	✠ <i>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - HOLYDAY</i>
09.30	<b>Mr &amp; Mrs W. Trivett RIP</b>
20:00	<b>Mass</b>
Thu 07	
09.30	<b>Fr. Michael Hickey RIP</b>
Fri 08	
11.00	<b>Jane Flannery RIP</b>
Sat 09	
09.30	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i>
18:30	<b>Sr. Mary's Intention for the People of the Parish</b>
Sun 10	✠ <i>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</i>
09.30	<b>Jerry Joyce RIP</b>
11.00	<b>Intention of the O'Driscoll and Murray families</b>

**Spiritual thought**

**“When they saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”**

This week we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. The story told in the gospel is about people being called to follow their star in order to find the fullness of life only Jesus can give. 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly' (John 10:10).

You may not have thought much about what is the nature of the star you follow. With a view to clarifying this it may be worthwhile to ask yourself what you want for your children, your family or for your friends. Having done this you might talk to Jesus about whether this is what he wants for you, the star he wishes you to follow.

**The collection at the Christmas Masses**

Archbishop John recognises that with the various COVID restrictions, parishioners may not be able to attend Mass on Christmas Day, but may come during the Octave period and may want to give something to their priest in the traditional way.

Therefore, all of the collections (including electronic giving and standing orders) which are taken on each of the days within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, and up to and including 6th January 2021, will constitute the annual personal Christmas offering of the faithful to their priest.

Thank you.

**SECOND COLLECTION - Next Week: SPUC White Flower Appeal**

**MASS COUNT LAST WEEK**

Vigil (70), Midnight (57), Christmas Morning: 09.30 (29) 11.00 (63)  
 Saturday: 18:30 (16), Sunday: 09.30 (26), 11.00 (35)

**WAYS YOU CAN DONATE**

**Gift Aid** Tax payers, please sign up. We receive an extra 25p for every £1 you donate. Visit [www.olspn.church](http://www.olspn.church) for details.

**Tap to Donate** Please use the Card Payment Machine in Church Foyer or donate via our website: [www.olspn.church](http://www.olspn.church)

**Standing Order** A/c Name: **RCAS St. Philip Neri Sydenham**  
 Sort Code: **60-21-12** A/c No: **37298445**

**Cheques** Payable to: **RCAS St. Philip Neri Sydenham**

**CONTACT POINTS**

Treasurer David Simpson [sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Secretary Steve Pearce (9 am-12 noon, Mon-Fri)  
 0208 778 9460 or [sydenham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenham@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Catholic Club Margaret Doherty - 07930 889632  
 Hall Enquiries Praetorium (Rita / Conor) - 01372 427651

**Christmas Flowers in the Church**

It is the custom of this parish to donate money for the flowers and decorations of the Church at Christmas in memory of the 'Faithful Departed'. The Mass on Sunday 31st January 2021 at 11.00am will be offered for them. Please mark your envelope 'Christmas Flowers' – writing name (s) in block capitals.

Thank you.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

## GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## FIRST READING – Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12

Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself.

She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One;

“Then the creator of all things instructed me,  
and he who created me fixed a place for my tent.  
He said, ‘Pitch your tent in Jacob,  
make Israel your inheritance.’

From eternity, in the beginning, he created me,  
and for eternity I shall remain.

I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle,  
and thus was I established on Zion.

In the beloved city he has given me rest,  
and in Jerusalem I wield my authority.

I have taken root in a privileged people,  
in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 147

**R. The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.**

## SECOND READING – Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ, for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans.  
Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL – John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: ‘This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.’

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.