

## 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Mass Book Page <b>103</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 1: 1-6	Gospel: John 1: 1-18	
Hymns for 11 am Mass	Entrance: 128 Post-Communion: 135	Offertory: 151 & 150 Recessional: 156	Communion: 129 v 1, 3, 5 & 7



### The Word was made flesh!

Jesus Christ is God's Son. God gives us the most precious of all Christmas gifts in Jesus. Through his birth we are reborn, and now for the rest of our days we will live in him who is the radiant light of God's glory. Christ makes it possible for us to share God's life.

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intention - For volunteer not-for-profit organisations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

#### Mass Times, Intentions & Feast Days

Sat 24 18:30	Vigil Mass - First Mass of Sunday Wellbeing for Mr & Mrs Robert
<b>23:30</b>	Midnight Mass Wellbeing for Sister Marianne Spiegl
Sun 25 09.30	✠ <b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> N'Douffou Kouadjo Michel RIP
11.00	Tina Maduaka & Onyeji families - Thanksgiving
Mon 26 09.30	Saint † Stephen Paul McCarthy RIP Rosary
Tue 27 09.30	Saint † John Wellbeing for the Fay and Calligy Families Rosary
Wed 28 09.30	The Holy Innocents Wellbeing for Elena de Masi Rosary
Thu 29 09.30	Saint Thomas of Canterbury Wellbeing for Ann & Billy Black and family Rosary
Fri 30 09.30	THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH Birthday Thanksgiving for Jean Assemien Exposition
Sat 31 09.30	Michael Bowden RIP
18:30	First Mass of Sunday People of the Parish
<b>23.15</b>	New Year's Eve Mass
Sun 01 - 2023	✠ <b>MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b>
09.30	Marion Hanley RIP
11.00	Steve Florence RIP

#### Prayer Requests

If you request for yourself or an immediate family member to be listed in the Parish Newsletter, it will run for a month per request. Send an email to Fr Regis or send a message on the parish mobile number 07857801938.

#### Sharing the Word

##### Midnight Mass

##### First Reading:

This is a prophecy about the coming of a Saviour-child, who will rescue his people from the darkness of oppression. The child who is to be born will be the complete ruler and will establish a reign of justice and peace. This prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus, the 'Prince of peace' and the 'Light of the world.'

##### Second Reading:

Even as we recall the first coming of Christ in Bethlehem, we are still waiting for his second coming at the end of time. St Paul tells us how we should live in the meantime.

##### Gospel:

Luke's account of the birth of Jesus forms the Gospel for the first two masses of Christmas. Luke sets the birth of Jesus in the context of the Roman Empire, thus giving it a cosmic significance. His mission is to bring peace to the ends of the earth.

Augustus becomes an instrument of God by ensuring that Jesus (the Messiah) was born in the town of David.

His rejection at the inn anticipates his rejection by the Jewish people as a whole. Mary is shown to be a caring mother, wrapping the child in swaddling clothes and laying him in a manger-cradle. Her loving care reflects God's care. Since Jesus was born in poverty, it is fitting that the news of his birth was first announced to simple shepherds.

### Christmas Day

In the beginning the Word was made flesh, he lived among us.

It is no coincidence that the opening words of John's prologue proclaimed at Christmas, "In the beginning" (John1:1) are the same words we hear at the Easter Vigil in the story of creation in Genesis. Christ's identity is revealed gradually from the divine Word spoken from the beginning to Word made flesh in the life of Jesus, to Word of life breathed from the cross from the Son's spirit commended back to the Father with whom he is one from the beginning.

Christmas is intimately tied to Easter. For the incarnation is the beginning of the resurrection. The gospel read on Christmas day reminds us that Christmas is more than a child's story. It is the narrative that rewrites our story, saying to all that, in God's eyes, humanity is worth saving, not from afar, but in the midst of our darkness. Out of love for us, our God is born into the suffering of our human weakness that we may know the freedom of dying to our sinfulness and rising to new life in Christ's.

### The Collection at the Christmas Masses

Catholic Priests do not receive a salary in the way that ministers of other denominations do. The collections at the Christmas and Easter Masses are the only source of personal income for Priests. This is the system adopted in Catholic parishes in our Diocese. This weekend's collection will be the Christmas Collection. Thank you.

### 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 29<sup>th</sup> January at 11am will be offered for them. Please mark your envelope 'Christmas Flowers' - writing name(s) in block capitals - and pop it in through the parish house letterbox. Thank you.

### Our Christmas Crib

The donation given by you at the crib will go to the Catholic Children's Society's Southwark Crisis Fund. The Catholic Children's Society is helping local

disadvantaged families facing severe hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis.

### Mass to Welcome in the New Year

We will celebrate mass here at 11.15pm on New Year's eve to enable us all to welcome the New Year in the spiritual way.

### First Holy Communion Programme 2022-23

We meet in the hall on Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Jan at 10am for, Chapter 5: Glory to God in the highest.

### Confirmation Programme 2022-23

We meet in the parish house on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Jan at 5pm for, Session Five: Members of Jesus.

### Flame tickets

Some 250 of the Southwark allocation of tickets for the national youth event, Flame, have been sold. Parishes or schools wishing to reserve tickets for this event - which takes place at the Wembley Arena on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 - can do so now via this link: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/latest/flame2023>

### Parish Secretary

The secretary will be away on leave from Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Last Week

**Offertory:** Gift Aided: £155, Not Gift Aided: £269

**Mass Count:** Sat (35), Sun 09.30 (76), 11.00 (106)

Second Collection

**Last week: None**

**This week: None**

**Next Week: None**

Donate

**Gift Aid:** Tax payers, please sign up, so we can claim 25p for every £1 donated. Email Treasurer for details.

**Card:** Card Machine in Church Foyer or [www.olspn.church](http://www.olspn.church)

**Standing Order:** Email Treasurer for details.

**Cheque:** Payable to 'RCAS Sydenham'

Contact

**David Simpson**, Treasurer: [sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk)

**Steve Pearce**, Secretary: weekdays 9<sup>am</sup>-12<sup>noon</sup>

[sydenham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenham@rcaos.org.uk)

**Margaret Doherty**, Catholic Club: 07930 889632