



# The Parish of the MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD



*a Catholic Parish in the Archdiocese of Southwark  
in the Pastoral Care of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 22nd December 2019

## Welcome to Mass today!

If you are new to the area or this church, please make yourself known to one of the priests after Mass. There is tea and coffee available after the Solemn Mass in the Rectory, we hope you'll come through.

**In the gospel reading today**, we hear that God sent his only Son on earth to be born of human stock. His name is Jesus and his mother's name is Mary. He is the Saviour of all the world and through him we are called to real holiness of life. "God-is-with-us!"



**Sunday School** at the 11am Mass is for Children of Primary School age, follow the cross for a *Liturgy of the Word*.

**Evensong & Benediction**, at 4pm today.

**Confessions** before Christmas. You know the times, or make a request or appointment.

**Catholic History Walk**, Mon 6th Jan, 6pm from MPB. Candle-lit walk across London Bridge to the City to historical places ending at St John Henry's birthplace.

**Christmas Gifts** (not presents). Still time to buy something holy. How about giving a Missal, a Rosary or a devotional book – much better than chocolates which'll go straight to the waist-line!

**Poinsettias** are the traditional flower to bring to the Christmas Crib: don't forget to bring yours!

**Thank you** to those who set up the decorations in Church. Don't they look splendid! Thank you too to those who came yesterday to clean.

**The roof repair** is now complete ... well almost! We are grateful to the workers who pulled-out-all-the-stops to get it done and scaffolding removed by Christmas. FrC says he'll take back all negative comments about builders!

**Going away?** Or having family and friends to stay? Either way, take them to Mass at Christmas. That's why you're on holiday. It is a holy day of obligation when all Catholics should attend Mass.

**Christmas Lunch**. Is there room for another? It's not too late to invite someone. Ask the person sitting next to you today what they are doing for Christmas. It's not much fun on your own.

**Mass times** between Christmas and the New Year are slightly altered. Check the Mass schedule overleaf or the website.

**Christmas Flowers**, a retiring collection today. The flowers always look good at MPB. If you would like some in memory of someone, see Maureen. She's always happy to take bookings.

**Christmas Offering for the Clergy** can be made using the envelopes at the back. Thank you for your generosity.

**Crib offering** this year is for the Catholic Children's Society.



**Founded: 1891**

**Constructed: 1892**

**Consecrated: 1st July 2019**

## Confession before Christmas

The measure of a Catholic is not how often he goes to Mass, but how often he goes to confession. Confession is about being loved, not what you've done wrong: so it's about being loved even though you've done things wrong and in that love wanting to say a very brave word: 'sorry' ! It's an encounter of love: it's an encounter with Jesus.

It would be so good if you can get to confession before Christmas, but time is running out. Try your best to get there. Don't let these days before Christmas pass by, without going to confession. It's not easy, it's not convenient, but go, go now!

We are full of reasons, which, in fact are excuses. Some excuses (reasons!) why you might not go to confession before Christmas:

✘ I haven't been in a long time.  
*That's why you should go now.*

✘ I'm embarrassed.  
*Human beings say and do embarrassing things all of the time. Don't let embarrassment keep you from receiving God's grace.*

✘ The priest might yell at me.  
*That doesn't happen...much. But the priest is a sinner too. And, 99% of the time, priests are just really happy to be able to be hearing confessions. It's when they feel most like a priest! The inclination - especially before Christmas - is to be happy that they are being used in the way that God intended. If you do get one during that 1% cranky period, chalk it up to him being tired and that he is are sinner too!*

✘ I'm afraid the priest will think less of me.  
*When hearing confessions, a priest is grateful for the privilege to be welcomed into the mess*



*of someone's life. How great it is that this person is confessing his or her sins! He's not thinking any less of the person. Quite the opposite. He knows only the brave come.*

✘ It's been so long, I forgot exactly what I'm supposed to say.  
*Say, "Father, it's been so long I forget exactly what I'm supposed to say." The priest is going to be delighted that you are there. He's not worried that you don't remember the Act of Contrition. (And by the way, if you're really stuck on the Act of Contrition, here is a good one: "Lord Jesus Christ, Have Mercy on Me a Sinner. Amen.")*

✘ I'd like to go, but there are certain things I really don't want to say.  
*What, like saying: abortion, gossip, envy, pornography, holding resentment, having sex outside sacramental marriage, adultery, lying, being cheap, refusing to forgive, not praying, drinking too much, not saying grace before meals, eating meat on Friday, not going to Mass every Sunday and Holy Days, deceiving, looking lustfully at others, using the name 'Jesus' carelessly, inappropriately or as a swear word, receiving Holy Communion unworthily or unprepared, not giving thanks for Holy Communion, being hateful, being filled with pride, seeking praise, cheating, stealing, not contributing to the work of the Church, and at times despairing of God's mercy, or not desiring God's mercy? Just say it!*

✘ I'd like to go, but I'm really busy.  
*Blah, blah, blah. If you wanted to go, you'd go. So, go.*

✘ I really haven't done anything wrong.  
*Boy oh boy, you REALLY need to go!*

Jesus is coming. Give Him the best Christmas gift; not gold, frankincense, or myrrh, but your sins. This is why He came to us. He loves you and He wants your sins. He loves you. Let Him love you through His Mercy.

### Confession this week

**MPB** today 12.30,  
*before and after every Mass*

**St George's Cathedral**  
*daily 12.00 - 12.20*

**Westminster Cathedral**  
*daily 10.30 - 17.30*

### Did you bring Jesus with you today?

God, our Father, you so loved humankind that you sent us your only Son Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, to save us and lead us back to you. We pray that with your Blessing the image of Jesus, who is about to come among us, may be a sign of your presence and love in our homes. Good Father, give your Blessing to us too, to our parents, to our families and to our friends. Open our hearts, so that we may be able to receive Jesus in joy, always do what he asks and see him in all those who are in need of our love. We ask you this in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son who comes to give the world peace. He lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.



### Christmas Mass

**Christmas Eve**  
**11.30pm**  
**Midnight Mass**

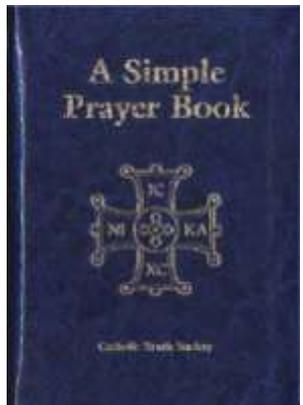
**Christmas Day**  
**11.00am**  
**Holy Mass**

(nb no 8.30am),



### A Simple Prayer Book

A last minute Christmas Gift containing helpful and useful prayers and devotions. It'll fit in his inside pocket or into her handbag! £5



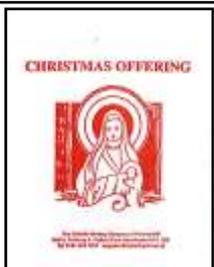
### In this last week before Christmas there is probably still much to do:

- Go to Confession
- Decide which Mass you are going to
- Escort someone to Mass
- Invite a friend or neighbour to Mass
- Set up a crib at home
- Put up a the Christmas Poster in your window
- Remember to bring your *bambino* to Church to be blessed.
- Remember to say Grace before you eat on Christmas Day

### Christmas Offerings for the Clergy

can be made using these envelopes.

Thank you for your generosity



### Christmas Holiday Mass Times

**26th Dec** *St Stephen's Day*  
10am Mass

**27th Dec** *St John*  
10am Mass

**29th Dec** *Holy Family*  
**8.30am Mass**  
**11am Solemn Mass**

**30th Dec** *Sixth day of Christmas*  
10am Mass

**31st Dec** *Seventh day of Christmas*  
10am Mass

**1st Jan** *Mary Mother of God*  
**11am Solemn Mass**

**2nd Jan** *Ss Basil & Gregory*  
10am Mass

**3rd Jan** *Holy Name of Jesus*  
10am Mass

**4th Jan** *of OLW in Christmastide*  
10am Mass

## This Week: Mass & intentions

Day		Time	Intention
<b>Today</b>	<i>O Rex</i>	8.30am	Jim Powell ✕ <i>birthday</i>
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>		<b>11.00am</b>	Parishioners
Mon 23rd	<i>O Emmanuel</i>	1.05pm	Fr Michael
Tues 24th	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	1.05pm	Frank Barber <i>priest</i> ✕ <i>d 1989</i>
<b>Christmas Day</b>		<b>11.30pm</b>	Parishioners
Wed 25th	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	Redvers Bird ✕ <i>year's mind</i>
Thurs 26th	<i>St Stephen</i>	10.00am	Margaret Schlatter <i>foundation</i>
Fri 27th	<i>St John</i>	10.00am	Fr George Newton <i>foundation</i>
Sat 28th	<i>Holy Innocents</i>		
<b>Next Sunday</b>		8.30am	Tim & Julie Kelly ✕
<b>Holy Family</b>		<b>11.00am</b>	Parishioners

**Next Week's Readings** Isiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18

**Sacrament of Confession.** Sunday 10.30-10.50; Mon-Fri 12.30-12.55

**Evensong** 4pm Sunday with Benediction  
6pm Thursday during term time.

**Last week:** £1,505.24 inc Standing Orders and Cashless Card payments

**Safeguarding.** The parish is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding Officers: Kate Pope, Richard Hughes, Justina Onuorah. 0800 0935063

**Holy Father's Intention for December.** *The Future of the Very Young*

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritise the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

**For your prayers:**

*Those in formation* for Ministry, Br Philip novOP (Jeff Gerlomes)

*The Sick & Housebound:* Dora, Mary, Ada, Fr John, Geoffrey, Mark

*Recently Departed:* Kenneth Berry *priest*, David Pierson, Mila Espinoza,

**Find us on:** Facebook: "preciousbloodSE1" Twitter: @preciousblood1

**Fr Christopher Pearson** OLW *Parish Priest*

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