



Ordinariate and Parish Church

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

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

HOLY FAMILY

26th December 2021



In the gospel reading today, we hear that Christ is in the human family. God sets before us the human Holy Family of Nazareth as the model for all families. The family unit is the basic structure on which human society is built. A good Christian family life is a most powerful witness to our world of God's love for us revealed in Christ.

A very Happy Christmas! For some people the best part is over, for Catholics the show has only just begun. The joy of the birth of Jesus can't possibly fit into one day - we have eight: an octave. Pass the sherry!

Full of feasts, this week seems to be. Daily Mass will be at 10am Mon-Sat. If you didn't come on Christmas Day the week-day Mass will be a little quieter, so come along - hey, come along even if you did.

Happy New Year - whatever you are doing this Saturday. The 1st January, the octave day, is the *Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God*. It's one of the definitions of Mary that all Christians (should) hold. Start the New Year well, by coming to Mass and committing 2022 to Our Lady. Mass at 11am

A very big 'thank you' to everyone who made (and is making) our Christmas celebration so special. A lot of hard work goes on which is unseen and unnoticed. God sees, and God notices. *Thank you indeed.*

FrC thanks everyone who sent cards, greetings and gifts this Christmas. Your generosity and love is very much appreciated. *Thank you*

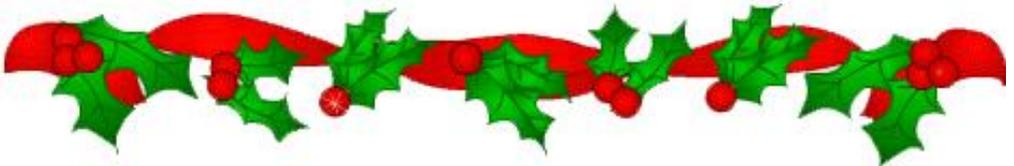
Christmas Gifts. We often give gifts to others, but have you ever thought about buying something for Church? The FrC always has a *wish-list!*

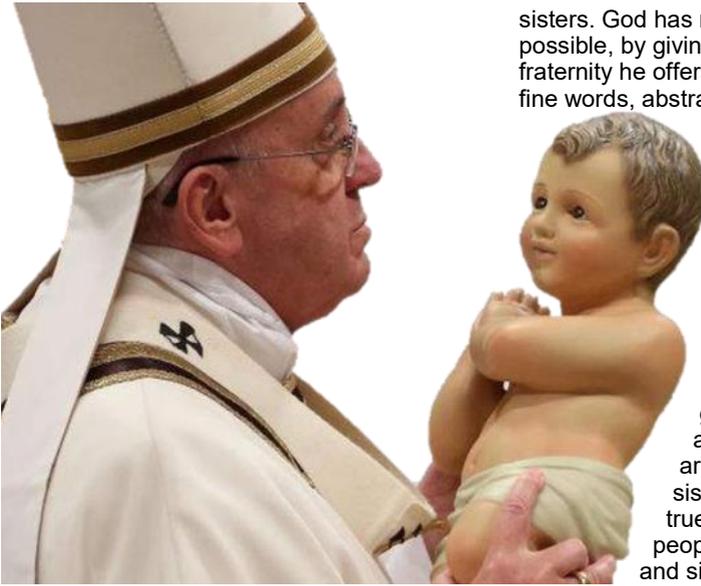
Have you visited the Christmas Crib? The crib is more than a decoration: it's also an aid to devotion where you can ponder and pray, and above all, thank God for coming to live with us. This little baby Jesus, is God-with-us, Emmanuel. We are supporting the Catholic Children's Society.

The Ordinariate Use during Advent, what did you think? Thank you to those who have given feed-back. It is not meant to be a trip-down-memory-lane, but a tool for evangelisation and bringing more anglicans into Full communion of Catholic Church. Thoughts?

Get vaccinated - was the call recently from Cardinal Nichols, the first, the second or the booster. Protect yourself, protect others.

Further guidelines have emerged which make face coverings a legal requirement in Church. Shields are no longer included: it must be a mask covering nose and face. Whatever *you* think, thank you for thinking of others before yourself. *Hands Face Space.*





sisters. God has made this fraternal unity possible, by giving us his Son Jesus. The fraternity he offers us has nothing to do with fine words, abstract ideals or vague sentiments. It is a fraternity grounded in genuine love, making it possible for me to encounter others different from myself, feeling compassion for their sufferings, drawing near to them and caring for them even though they do not belong to my family, my ethnic group or my religion. For all their differences, they are still my brothers and sisters. The same thing is true of relationships between peoples and nations: brothers and sisters all!

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Merry Christmas!*

I would like to bring to everyone the message that the Church proclaims on this feast with the words of the prophet Isaiah: "To us a child is born, to us a son is given" (*Is 9:6*)

A child is born. A birth is always a source of hope; it is life that blossoms, a promise of the future. Moreover, this Child, Jesus, was born "to us": an "us" without any borders, privileges or exclusions. The Child born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem was born for everyone: he is the "son" that God has given to the entire human family.

Thanks to this Child, all of us can speak to God and call him "Father". Jesus is the only-begotten Son; no one but he knows the Father. Yet he came into the world for this very reason: to show us the face of the Father. Thanks to this Child, we can all call one another brothers and sisters, for so we truly are. We come from every continent, from every language and culture, with our own identities and differences, yet we are all brothers and sisters.

At this moment in history, marked by the ecological crisis and grave economic and social imbalances only worsened by the coronavirus pandemic, it is all the more important for us to acknowledge one another as brothers and

Dear brothers and sisters, "To us a child is born" (*Is 9:6*). He came to save us! He tells us that pain and evil are not the final word. To become resigned to violence and injustice would be to reject the joy and hope of Christmas.

On this festive day, I think in a special way of all those who refuse to let themselves be overcome by adversity, but instead work to bring hope, comfort and help to those who suffer and those who are alone.

Jesus was born in a stable, but was embraced by the love of the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph. By his birth in the flesh, the Son of God consecrated familial love. My thoughts at this moment turn to families: to those who cannot come together today and to those forced to remain at home. May Christmas be an opportunity for all of us to rediscover the family as a cradle of life and faith, a place of acceptance and love, dialogue, forgiveness, fraternal solidarity and shared joy, a source of peace for all humanity.

Merry Christmas to everyone!

*Pope Francis
Urbi et Orbi
Christmas 2020*



Solemnity of Mary,
the Mother of God

1st January

Solemn Mass
11.00am



ARCHDIOCESE of
SOUTHWARK



ARCHDIOCESE of SOUTHWARK
Clergy Support Fund Campaign

"Do not reject me in my old age, nor desert me when my strength is failing" Psalm 71:9



Clergy Support Fund

Earlier this month the Diocesan Fund-raising Team launched their annual December appeal in support of our sick and retired priests in Southwark. The team are delighted with the thoughtful generosity of so many parishioners, and would like offer heartfelt thanks for their kindness.

Anyone who would like to find out more about the Clergy Support Fund can access additional information on our website, and also make a donation online should they wish to do so:

rcaos.org.uk/donate/clergy-support-fund/

Poinsettia at Christmas

According to Mexican folklore, a poor young child, Pepita, didn't have a gift for the baby Jesus at a Christmas Eve Mass. Having no money, she picked weeds from the roadside and making a bouquet offered those to the child Jesus. The angels felt compassion for poor little Pepita and as she presented them the angels transformed the weeds into beautiful red flowers. Known in Mexico as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night', we know them as the Poinsettia. Bring your gift to the child Jesus and place it in the Crib.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE



This Week: Mass & intentions

Day	Time	Intention
This Sunday HOLY FAMILY	09.30 11.00	Margaret Schlatter <i>foundation</i> Parishioners
<i>Mon</i> 27th St John the Apostle	10.00	Bridie McReady ✕ <i>recently</i>
<i>Tue</i> 28th Holy Innocents	10.00	Fr George Newton <i>foundation</i>
<i>Wed</i> 29th St Thomas of Canterbury	10.00	Archbishop John Wilson
<i>Thurs</i> 30th <i>sixth day of Christmas</i>	10.00	Margaret, who is in hospital
<i>Fri</i> 31st <i>seventh day of Christmas</i>	10.00	Peter Clarke <i>priest</i> ✕ <i>recently</i>
<i>Sat</i> 1st MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	11.00	Tim & Julie Kelly ✕
Next Sunday SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	09.30 11.00	Josue Parishioners

Next Week's Readings Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3a 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

Sacrament of Confession. Tuesday - Friday 12.00-12.25

Evensong 4.00pm, & Benediction, 1st Sunday

† **Mass in the Ordinary Use** of the Roman Rite

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 January 2022: *For true human fraternity.* We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

For your prayers:

In formation: for Ministry, Br Philip OP (Jeff Gerlomes)

Those who are Sick: Mary, Monica, Betty, Lottie, Margaret, all those with Covid

Recently Departed: Amy Fitzgerald, Bridget McReady, Wilf Webster,
Christopher Seton *priest*, John Hepworth, Lyall Cowell *priest*
Peter Clarke *priest*

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

YouTube: youtube.com/preciousbloodlondonbridge

Fr Christopher Pearson OLW *Parish Priest*

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