



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 JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

31st December 2023



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 big thank you to everyone who made, and is making, our Christmas celebration so special. Those who clean, serve, sing, play, iron, arrange flowers, build cribs and all who put in a lot of hard work. *Thank you indeed.*

Mary, the Mother of God is celebrated tomorrow, the octave (eighth) day of Christmas; it's a Solemnity, and the oldest title of Mary. Mass at 11am

New Year's Day is tomorrow too. Resolutions are soon forgotten, so how about renewing your commitment to God and the Catholic Church: make a *holy* resolution this year.

The Epiphany of the Lord is next week when we celebrate the arrival of the Magi, the wise men, By bringing their gifts they reveal who Jesus is: the Christ who was to come. There will be the blessing of Epiphany Chalk.

Christmas Decorations – we've waited so long to put them up, don't be too hasty taking them down. Christmastide ends on 8th Jan. If you're really keen, you can keep them until Candlemass, 2nd Feb.

Poinsettias - thank you to those who brought them to the Christmas Crib. More than ever this year!

FrC thanks all those who were kind enough to send gifts and cards for Christmas. It is very much appreciated - *thank you!*

Christmas Offerings (ie the collections on Christmas Day) traditionally are a gift to the Clergy. Thank you to all those who have been so generous. If you were away, there's still the chance using the white envelopes marked '*Christmas Offerings*'. You can also use the website (or go via the QR code) and choose from the dropdown menu.

Saturday Mass time change in 2024 to 10.30, with all the benefits that brings!

Organ Recital series continues on Saturday this week 12.30 Ian Shaw, formerly of Durham Cathedral. *All welcome.*

Walsingham Spiritual Pilgrimage is on the first Saturday of each month. If you have never been, come!

Daily Mass Time is back to Tue - Fri 13.05 Now that's an idea for a NY's resolution!

The Catholic Childrens Society is the Christmas Crib Charity again this year.

Ordinariate Pastoral Care of MPB anniversary next week. How times flies! Mgr Newton will be coming for the 11.00 Mass, which is followed by champagne.

The Pastoral Council members are reminded there's an important meeting on 9th Jan.

Word of God Sunday (21 Jan) is when we commission Lectors. If you would like to, see May today.



Why do we call Mary 'Mother of God' ?

From earliest times, Mary has been called "*Theotokos*", or "God-Bearer" (Mother of God). The word in Greek is "*Theotokos*". The term was used as part of the popular piety of the early first millennium Church. It is used throughout the Eastern Church's Liturgy, both Orthodox and Catholic. It lies at the heart of the Latin Rite's deep Marian piety and devotion. This title was a response to early threats to 'orthodoxy', the preservation of authentic Christian teaching. A pronouncement of an early Church Council, The Council of Ephesus in 431 AD, said "If anyone does not confess that God is truly Emmanuel, and that on this account the holy virgin is the "*Theotokos*" (for according to the flesh she gave birth to the word of God become flesh by birth) let him be anathema." (The Council of Ephesus)

The Council's insistence on the use of the title reflected an effort to preserve the teaching of the Church that Jesus was both Divine and human, that the two natures were united in His One Person. Not only was that teaching under an assault then, it is under an as-

sault now, and failing to "get it right" has extraordinary implications. The reason that the early Church Council pronounced this doctrine was "Christological", meaning that it had to do with Jesus Christ. One of the threats was from an interpretation of the teachings of a Bishop of Constantinople named Nestorius. Some of his followers insisted on calling Mary only the "Mother of 'the Christ'". The Council insisted on the use of the title (in the Greek) "*Theotokos*," ("Mother of God" or "God-bearer") to reaffirm the central truth of what occurred in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

Rejection of the truth revealed in this beautiful title of Mary has led to a diminution in the understanding and role of Mary, impeding some Christians from grasping a deeper truth concerning the meaning of Mary's life - her *Fiat*, her "Yes" to God's Will. It is a privation, leading to a reduced understanding of the call to every Christian to live our lives for God as Mary did. It has undermined our mission to bring the world to the new world, recreated in her Son, the Church which is His Body on earth and a seed of the Kingdom which is to come. The Church, of which we are members through baptism, continues His redemptive mission until he returns.

When we fail to receive the gift of Mary as Mother we can also miss the call of every Christian to bear Jesus for the world as she did. It is time to re-examine the deeper implications of the treasure that is found in the life example and message of the little Virgin of Nazareth. This wonderful title, Mary, the Mother of God, "*Theotokos*", reveals a profound truth not only about Mary, but about each one of us. We are now invited into the very relationship that she had with her Son. We can become "God-bearers" and bring Him to all those whom we encounter in our few short days under the sun.

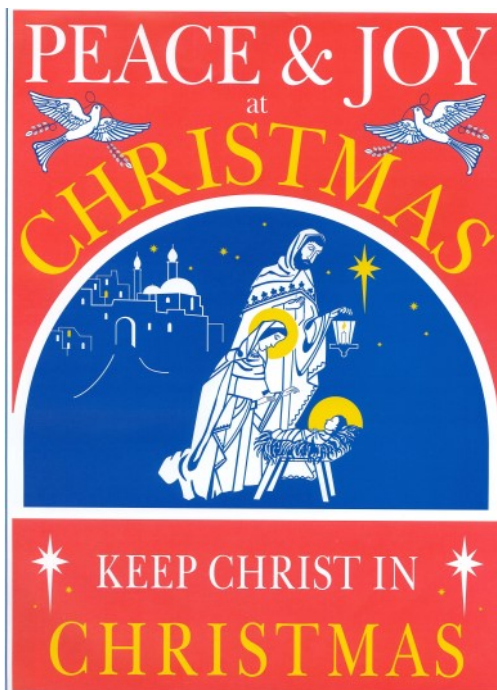
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Solemn Mass tomorrow, 1st January at 11.00am.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: THE POPE FRANCIS LIST

1. Don't gossip.
2. Finish your meals.
3. Make time for others.
4. Choose the 'more humble' purchase.
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh'.
6. Stop judging others.
7. Befriend those who disagree.
8. Make commitments, such as marriage.
9. Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord'.
10. Be happy.



Southwark Marriage and Family Team, as part of the preparation for the 2025 Jubilee year, will be running a *Building a Better Marriage Course* throughout the Archdiocese from February. A one day course is for married couples married for one year to 60 years. To help couples make their marriage better. (No group sharing and privacy guaranteed). All who attended have found it enjoyable, informative, and uplifting.

More information:
www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life



This Week: Mass & intentions

Day	Time	Intention
This Sunday HOLY FAMILY	09.30 11.00	Benedict XVI <i>priest</i> ✕ <i>year's mind</i> Parishioners
<i>Mon</i> 1st MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	11.00	Two thousand and twenty-four
<i>Tue</i> 2nd <i>Sts Basil & Gregory</i>	13.05	Adam Persey ✕ <i>month's mind</i>
<i>Wed</i> 3rd <i>(Holy Name of Jesus)</i>	13.05	David Ward ✕
<i>Thurs</i> 4th <i>eleventh day</i>	13.05	John Lungely <i>priest</i> ✕ <i>recently</i>
<i>Fri</i> 5th <i>twelfth day</i>	13.05	Ian O'Hara ✕ <i>recently</i>
<i>Sat</i> 6th <i>before Epiphany</i>	10.30†	Walsingham
Next Sunday EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	09.30 11.00	Brian Gill <i>priest</i> ✕ <i>recently</i> Parishioners

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

Sacrament of Confession. Tuesday - Friday 12.30-12.55

† **Mass in the Ordinariate 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: Richard Hughes, Justina Onuorah. 03330 509296

Holy Father's Intention for January 2024: *For the gift of diversity in the Church.*

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church. .

For your prayers:

Becoming Catholic Stephen, Jules, Penelope

In priestly formation: Br Philip OP (Jeff Gerlomes), Dn Timothy Ezat

Peace: In Ukraine, in the Holy Land

Those who are Sick: Mary, Monica, Chi Chi, Anne Marie, Rita, Chris, Richard, Hermon, Alastair, Amaogechi Martina, Fr John

Recently Departed: Brian Gill *priest*, John Lungely *priest*, Arkadiusz Dawidziak, Ian O'Hara

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

YouTube: youtube.com/preciousbloodlondonbridge

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