



# 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



### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

22nd December 2024

**In the gospel reading today**, we hear that Mary does the will of God perfectly. When God speaks to her, she is prompt to obey and in her flesh, God's Word becomes incarnate. Of all women, she is the most blessed because she believed that God's promises would be fulfilled in the humblest of creatures. She is the servant of everyone. She was for Elizabeth the cause of her joy. She is the same for us.



**Christmas Day** is on Wednesday this week. If you are away, be sure to give our greetings to the parish where you go for Mass. They might not know of MPB, but they will have heard of the Ordinariate! Christmas Day is a *day of obligation*, so all Catholics should be at Mass that day. It doesn't matter where you go, as long as you go.

**Bring the family**, or a neighbour or a friend, or all three, to Mass at Christmas, maybe someone who has lost touch, or never been before. You never know: they might like it!

**Confessions** before Christmas. If you've not been for a while just begin by saying "I've not been for a while".

**Donations for Christmas Flowers** can be given to Maureen or online.

**The Readers' Rota** comes to and end soon. Would you like to go on? (or come off?). See May or Lesley today. Training is available.

**Christmas Offering** can be made using the envelopes at the back; or the paystation, or online. Thank you for your generosity.

**Did you bring your Bambino?** They will be blessed today.

**Midnight Mass** will be at 23.30. Security is part of modern London Life, so volunteers are needed again. Volunteers please see FrC.

**Mass during Christmas week**, on Thurs and Fri will be at 10.00. Next week will also be at 10.00. New Year's Day at 11.00

**Advent Answers.** The last one today after the 11am Mass. FrC will hold a Q&A, and give a brief talk on any subject of your choosing. Is there something you've never quite understood, or agreed with in the Catholic Church? Last chance...

**Do you remember the name** of the person next to you at Mass?

**Thank you** to those who have brought poinsettias to the Crib. Bring one or three before Christmas.

**The Crib Offering** this year is for the work of the Catholic Children's Society.

**Preparation for the Year of Jubilee** are well underway. *Pilgrims of Hope*. It begins on Christmas Day, with Pope Francis opening the Jubilee Door in Rome, and continues through 2025. More to follow...

**Beware of scams!** There are reports in the Archdiocese of parishioners being scammed by fraudsters. So:

- Never purchase gifts for the parish priest based on an email request, unless trusted.
- Double-check any suspicious email by directly contacting the parish or FrC
- Avoid sharing personal information or financial details with unsolicited emails.

*Please report anything suspicious to FrC*



### Getting ready for Christmas is like getting ready for Mass.

Christmas probably wins.

We know Advent is about preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. And in the pre-Advent and Advent readings we've reflected on his coming again at the end of time when he will return in all his glory. But the Church also reminds us that the Lord comes to us today and tomorrow and next Sunday and indeed every day, at Mass.

Sure, thinking about Jesus the baby born in a stable surrounded by angels with wise men arriving; or Jesus the King coming on a cloud of glory to save us, is more exciting than reflecting on Jesus coming in a humble piece of bread. But each is as real as the other, because that's just how he comes to us, in humility and love.

For "so great and so holy a moment", the Catechism tells us that in order to respond to Christ's invitation to the Eucharist "we must prepare ourselves for so great and so holy a moment." (CCC1385) Just as there's preparation for Christmas, so the Church requires preparation for receiving the Lord in Holy Communion; and there are a number of other ways we can make ourselves ready both before and during Mass.

The most basic preparation for Holy Communion is living the Christian life well. In the early Church, St Justin wrote about the Eucharist, "... no one may take part in it unless he believes that what we teach is true, has received baptism for the forgiveness of sins and new

birth, and lives in keeping with what Christ taught." (CCC1355)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is necessary preparation for communion for anyone who is conscious of having committed grave or mortal sin. Regular confession is also good preparation in general for the Eucharist because it strengthens us against temptation and sin, and helps us cultivate a life of virtue, "Happy Are Those Who Are Called to His Supper."

On Preparing to receive Jesus worthily in the Eucharist we should fast from food and drink (except water) for one hour before receiving the Eucharist (although Canon law says that the elderly, the sick and their caregivers do not have to observe this fast)

Preparing the evening before receiving Holy Communion by:

- ✕ reading the readings for Mass that day
- ✕ spending time in preparatory prayer;
- ✕ being faithful to our state in life
- ✕ seeking forgiveness daily for our sins and going regularly to confession.
- ✕ be dressed smartly, but modestly,
- ✕ spend time in silence when you arrive
- ✕ participate actively in the liturgy
- ✕ approach "the altar with reverence, love, and awe as part of the Eucharistic procession of the faithful."
- ✕ make an act of thanksgiving

Jesus made the Apostles aware of the simplicity and solemnity of the Eucharist when He told them to *prepare carefully the large upper room* for the Last Supper, St John Paul II wrote in an encyclical on the Eucharist that preparation is thinking of the Lord and making fervent acts of faith, hope, love and contrition.

Christmas wouldn't be the same this year if we knew it was our last one. Each Mass would be the same if we knew it were our last one. How differently would Jesus' coming in the Eucharist each Sunday be if we considered it the same way?

Each Mass is, in a way, a celebration of the Birth of Jesus who comes among us. Happy Christmas, Happy Mass.

# KEEP CALM AND REMEMBER THE REASON



## CHRISTMAS 2024

Christmas Eve 24th December  
**23.30 Midnight Mass**

Christmas Day 25th December  
**11.00 Mass of Christmas Day**

Christmas weekday:  
Thu 26th & 27th Dec 10.00  
Sat 28th 10.30  
Sun 29th Dec 09.30 & 11.00

**Make candle donations at  
the device or the red box**



### Christmas Gift

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*optional message here*



Fill in other side

Most Precious Blood, Borough SE1  
[preciousblood.org.uk](http://preciousblood.org.uk)



Keep silence  
before and  
after Mass

*The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light,  
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,  
on them a light has dawned*



## This Week: Mass & intentions

Day	Time	Intention
<b>This Sunday</b> <i>O Rex</i> <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	09.30 <b>11.00</b>	Thanksgiving ( <i>DD</i> ) Parishioners
<i>Mon</i> 23rd <i>O Emmanuel</i>		
<i>Tue</i> 24th <i>Christmas Eve</i>	13.05 <b>23.30</b>	Josue & Margaret Parishioners
<i>Wed</i> 25th <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>11.00</b>	Jack Bird ✕ <i>d.2018</i>
<i>Thurs</i> 26th <i>St Stephen</i>	10.00	Margaret Schlatter <i>foundation</i>
<i>Fri</i> 27th <i>St John</i>	10.00	Fr George Newton <i>foundation</i>
<i>Sat</i> 28th <i>Holy Innocents</i>	10.30†	Robin Massey ✕ <i>recently</i>
<b>Next Sunday</b> <b>HOLY FAMILY</b>	09.30 <b>11.00</b>	Daniel Jacobs Parishioners

**Next Week's Readings** Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6.12-14 Col 3:12-21 Luke 2:41-52

**Sacrament of Confession.** Tue-Fri 12.30-12.55; Sat 10.00-10.25; or *by appointment*

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

**Last week: £1,029.09** (*cash £132.09; card £177.00; standing orders £720*) €3

*Thank you!*

**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 December 2024: *For pilgrims of hope***

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope. .

**Live-streaming** is done regularly for the Solemn Mass. The earlier Mass on Sunday and weekdays are not live-streamed.

**For your prayers:**

*In priestly formation:* Br Philip OP (Jeff Gerlomes) .

*Peace:* In Ukraine, in the Holy Land, Syria

*Those who are Sick:* Mary, Chi Chi, Anne Marie, Rita, Hermon, Amaogechi,

*Recently Departed:* John Hine *priest*, Jim Shearhan *deacon*, Giuseppina Torri, Joseph Forbes

**Find us on:** *Facebook:* "preciousbloodSE1"

*YouTube:* youtube.com/preciousbloodlondonbridge

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

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