

St Bartholomew's Catholic Church

Frs Deodat Msahala, Paul Antwi-Boasiako CSSp & Deacon Paul Milligan

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Sunday 13th December 2015

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

GAUDETE SUNDAY

(Year C)

Mass Times and Intentions:

Sunday 13th December

Third Sunday in Advent

Gaudete Sunday

6:15 (Saturday 12th December)

Janet Adindu RIP

08:30 Ian Dallas RIP

10:00 John & Nan Delaney & family

RIP & Patrick Connors RIP

11:30 Mick & Matt Donohoe RIP

4:00 Benediction

5:00 People of the parish

Third Week in Advent:

Monday 14th December

St John of the Cross, Priest and

Doctor of the Church (Memorial)

07:30 Ernest Borgonha RIP

10:00 Philip Cowie RIP

(15th anniversary)

Tuesday 15th December

7:30 Helen Maduka (ACE Studies)

10:00 Idy Rastrick RIP

Wednesday 16th December

****DAY OF PENITENCE****

7:30 Stephen Perreau RIP

10:00 Veronica Nwabueze RIP

****AFTER 10:00 MASS, THERE IS EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND CONFESSIONS ALL DAY, CLOSING WITH BENEDICTION AT 8:00PM.****

Thursday 17th December

7:30 Cladys Okoma RIP

10:00 Thanksgiving – 60th birthday

Fr Paul

Friday 18th December

07:30 Ifeanyi Enwezor RIP

10:00 Hervé Yoo Foo RIP

Saturday 19th December

10:00 James Brennan RIP

Next Sunday 20th December,

Fourth Sunday in Advent

6:15 (19th December)

Welfare of Christopher Nawrat

08:30 Thanksgiving (Fernandes)

10:00 Michael Sage RIP

11:30 Mario Almeida RIP

4:00 Benediction

5:00 Patrick John Lacey RIP

Daily Mass & Prayer

*Mass: Mon – Fri: 7:30am

*Morning Prayer of the Church

Mon - Sat 9:15am

*Adoration & Benediction.

Mon – Sat 9:30am

*Mass: Mon – Sat 10:00am

*Rosary: Mon – Sat 10:30am

*Confessions: Saturday, after 10:00am Mass, until 11:00am; then in the afternoon from 5:00pm to 6:00pm, and at call, provided that a priest is available.

Readings in Parish Mass Book:

This Sunday – P. 87

Next Sunday – P. 90

Thank You for your generosity:

The collection for last weekend, 6th December came to **£2149.34:** (£1429.34 in baskets and £720.00 in standing orders).

LIFE would like to thank all those who helped raise **£96.00** at last Sunday's coffee morning. A cheque for this sum has been sent to Zoë's Place baby hospice in Liverpool.

Coffee Morning Today will be with **Louise Fernandes** after all morning Masses. There will be bacon rolls, croissants, pastries and cakes to enjoy, so please be hungry! Louise is raising funds for her World Challenge visit to Morocco next summer.

The Pilgrim: Please take your free copy of the December issue of our Southwark Diocesan Newspaper.

This weekend the Knights of St Columba will be distributing their annual **Christmas Posters**. Please take one home to place in a window. You are invited to make a donation to the **Seminary Fund**, which helps to pay for the training of new clergy.

THE REPOSITORY: We have an extensive Christmas stock. Please make your selection before stock runs out. We have a great deal of items available for all occasions.

In the coming week:

Monday 14th:

The UCM meet at 2:00pm for Christmas carols....and a "knees-up"!

Wednesday 16th:

ADVENT DAY OF PENITENCE: After 10:00am Mass, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, during which Our Blessed Lord invites you to receive his Mercy and Forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, throughout the day, ending with Benediction at 8:00pm. What a good start to make in this Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy!

CTS: Booklets for **Advent** and **Christmas** are now in the rack in the porch. Also, with the **Year of Mercy** launched by Pope Francis last week, there are also booklets to accompany you through this special year.

Christmas Greetings from

Fr Deo and Fr Paul come to you all in the form of our usual **Parish Christmas Card**. Please take one home with you. This card contains details of all Masses from Sunday 20th December to Christmas Day. Don't forget that there will also be a **Midnight Mass on New Year's Eve and only one Mass at 12:00 Noon on New Year's Day itself**. Please take a card home with you after Mass. You will also find in the porch Christmas Offering Envelopes, which you are kindly invited to use in order to make your customary Christmas offering to your priests. For those who have Gift Aid envelopes, there is one for the same purpose in your boxes. However, if you use one of the special envelopes, please mark your Gift Aid number clearly on the front. Thank you.

Recently Deceased:

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Eugene Lopez, of Lilian Road, who died on Friday 4th December 2015. His Requiem Mass will take place here at 10:00am on Wednesday 23rd December 2015.

Also, Tony Bethune, brother of Rita Bethune, one of our Sacristans, who died on Wednesday 9th December 2015 in the USA. Our sympathy and prayers as a parish go out to the families.

Please pray for the Sick and Housebound:

Jessica Anane, Juliette Blake,
Raffaela Forte; Rachel Gadd, Liam Goddard,
Elaine Gunther, Anne Harris, Agnes Healy,
Patsy Hopkins, Felix Isichei, Linda Lovel,
James McDonald, Breda McDonagh,
Ajitha Mahatantila, Dominic Mascarenhas,
Charmaine Meli, Peter Mendonca, Edgar Ming,
Peter Ranawake, Frederic Saint-Rose,
Alice Scott, Elizabeth Scott, Edythe Thirlwall,
Mary White, Ethelda Williams, Georgette Yoo Foo.

The Children's Liturgy Group are seeking budding actors (School Nursery to Year 2) for their Nativity Play taking place during the Christmas Eve 6:15pm Mass. Older siblings are welcome to join us in singing carols then too. **Rehearsal:** 23rd December at 4pm. To sign up, please contact Marion on 020 8761 3895 or (mh.brown@virgin.net). Alternatively, talk to one of the group members at school [e.g. Giovanna (07799545109) at St Andrew's school or Teresa (020 8765 0126) at St James the Great School]. **Deadline: TODAY.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES FOR 2016:

Dates have now been allocated for each family. **The lists are available in the main porch.** Would parents kindly check that a) names are correct and b) dates are suitable. Should any changes be required, please contact one of the First Communion Team as soon as possible. **Please note that any changes made will NOT appear on the lists in the porch**

A NOTE REGARDING PARISH SAFEGUARDING:
You will find in each of the porch areas a notice which gives contact details of Nana Bonsu-Amako, our Safeguarding Officer. Please address any questions or concerns on safeguarding issues directly to Nana, in confidence.

CAFOD CHRISTMAS WORLD GIFTS:

Please pick up a catalogue which will provide you with an excellent opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in need, in the true spirit of Christmas. Instead of, or as well as giving a present to somebody, you in fact give a gift to others on behalf of that person. Please take a catalogue and see how you can help others this Christmas, remembering the words of Our Lord, that whatever we do to the least of our brethren, we do it to Him

Church Cleaning: Group 5 this week: Elizabeth Ayoola, Kelly Bello, Sandra Hodgson, Emma Morrone, Livia Pappano, Amanda Squires, Maria Verrilli. Please let the parish office know if you are willing to join one of our cleaning teams, which all need new members.

Next Week's Newsletter will cover the period from 20th December 2015 (4th Sunday of Advent) through to 3rd January 2016 (The Epiphany of The Lord), including Masses up until Saturday 9th January 2016. There are a few Masses available for intentions up until that date. Details of all Masses over Christmas are contained in our Parish Christmas Greetings Card. Please take one home.

Readers & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
Based on responses received, the next rota has now been published, takins us up to 16th/17th January 2016. Kindly arrange any swaps amongst yourselves. Please advise the Parish Office of your Christmas Eve and Christmas day availability by the end of this week.

NOTICES FOR ALTAR SERVERS:

PRACTICES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:

Practices for both Christmas Eve Masses will take place next Sunday 20th December:

1/ Practice for the 6:15 Mass at 6:00pm;

2/ Practice for Midnight Mass at 6:30pm.

Please add your names to the list in the Sacristy.

The Guild of St Stephen Mass will take place on **Saturday 9th January 2016 at 10:00am.** Refreshments in the hall will follow.

New Altar Server Training: resumes on **Sundays 17th & 24th January 2016 at 6:00pm.** If you have not yet filled out an application form, please see one of the priests to collect one. **Prospective new servers must have made their First Holy Communion. Attendance at BOTH sessions is essential.**

CHRISTMAS CAROLS & READINGS:

The Polyphony Choir and the Brass Quintet of St Bartholomew's Orchestra will be performing at this annual Christmas Celebration here next **Sunday 20th December 2015 at 2:30pm.** Tickets **£2:00** from the repository or on the door. There will be a **retiring collection on behalf of the SVP.** Tickets include a reception in the hall, with **mince pies and mulled wine.** Full details are on posters in all porch areas

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:

As you can see, our Church is being transformed ready for Christmas. The crib is up, awaiting the arrival of the Baby Jesus on Christmas night, whilst the journey of the three wise men has begun, with their statues being placed over the exit to the gallery. We are grateful to the generous donor of the Christmas tree which stands beside the main altar, as well as those who have decorated it. Outside stands another Christmas tree, which is lit up each night, again due to the hard work of those who gave their time to set it up. Thanks to all who have worked so hard to beautify St Bartholomew's.

BAPTISM COURSES: *The next course will be in January 2016. Please look out for details*

If you seek Baptism for your child, you will need to have attended a Baptism course within 3 years prior to this event. Please take a Baptism Details form from the porch. This may be returned to the parish office. Proof of Baptism of at least one parent is required, and at least one of the Godparents must be Catholic.

COFFEE MORNINGS 2016: If you would like to hold a coffee morning next year, please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:

From Wednesday 23rd December 2015 until Wednesday 6th January 2016

PARISH HALL HIRE: The cost of maintenance this year has been high. Therefore, from 1st January 2016, the hourly charge for booking the hall will rise to **£30.00.** Our charge remains much lower than other local venues.