

St Bartholomew's Catholic Church

Frs Deodat Msahala, Paul Antwi-Boasiako CSSp & Deacon Ged Perkins

159 Ellison Road Tel: 020 8679 3545

Streatham

London SW16 5DE

Website: stbartsnorbury.co.uk

Email: parish.office159@virginmedia.com



Sunday 11th December 2016

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - GAUDETE SUNDAY

(Year A)

Mass Times and Intentions:

Sunday 11th December –

Third Sunday of Advent

6.15pm (Saturday 10th December)

People of the parish

8.30am Salus Fernandes RIP

10.00am Holy Souls

11.30am Patrick John Lacey RIP

(Teams of Our Lady in attendance)

(Hymn Choir singing)

4.00pm Benediction

5.00pm SVP intention

Confirmation Enrolment Mass

Third Week of Advent:

Monday 12th December

7.30am Welfare of two unborn children

10.00am John & Annie Delaney & family

& Paddy Connors RIP

Tuesday 13th December

St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr (Memorial)

7.30am Matthew Andoh RIP

10.00am Welfare and thanksgiving (Desa)

Wednesday 14th December

St John of the Cross,

Priest & Doctor of the Church (Memorial)

7.30am Welfare of Marie Da Silva

10.00am Funeral of Joan Huie RIP

Thursday 15th December

7.30am Welfare of Sadie & Kevin Woods

10.00am Welfare of the Mullaney family

Friday 16th December

7.30am Welfare of Ann & John Higgins

10.00am John Bergin RIP

Saturday 17th December – Our Lady

10.00am Thanksgiving – Fr Paul (birthday)

Next Sunday 18th December –

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

6.15pm (Saturday 17th December)

Len Phillips RIP

8.30am Antoine Chung Ming Kan RIP

10.00am Micheal Sage RIP

11.30am Hervé Yoo Foo RIP

2.30pm Polyphony Choir Concert

5.00pm People of the parish

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.

!!!OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!!!

Please note that our email address has now changed and is as stated above, and you will not receive a reply if you use the old one.

!!!OUR NEW PARISH WEB SITE!!!

Our new Web site is now live at

stbartsnorbury.co.uk

Today is Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday, a time of anticipation of the imminent birth of Christ. The priests wear rose coloured vestments as a mark of the impending joy of His birth.

Parish Mass Book: This Sunday Page 88

Thank you for your continuous generosity: Last weekend's collection came to £1941.00 (£1343.00-Baskets; £598.00-Standing Orders)

The UCM raised **£84.50** at last weekend's Coffee Morning. Thanks for your support.

THE KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

will be distributing their annual **Christmas Posters** after all Masses today. You are invited to make a contribution to the **Diocesan Seminary Fund**, one of the Knights' charities.

POLYPHONY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This very popular annual event will take place next Sunday 18th December at 2:30pm. Tickets only £2, available **now** from the repository. They will also be available on the door on the day. For full details, please see the posters.

CHRISTMAS AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Please take away with you today our **Parish Christmas Card**. Inside, along with our greetings, you will find details of all Masses and other services from next weekend, right up until Christmas Day, including our **Advent Day of Penance**. Please note that on **New Year's Eve**, there will be an **extra Mass at Midnight** as we enter the New Year in the company of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

You are also invited to take a **Christmas Offering Envelope**, in which you may place your traditional Christmas gift to your priests. Gift Aid givers may use the dedicated envelope from their boxes. Otherwise, they should clearly mark their Gift Aid numbers on the Christmas Offering Envelopes.

Christmas Tree

We thank the generous person who has once again donated the Christmas tree which stands in front of the main altar.

FATHER PAUL:

We are sad to announce the forthcoming departure of Father Paul from St Bartholomew's. He will be leaving us just a few days after Christmas. After three years here, the Superior of his order, the Spiritans, is moving him on to pastures new. Further details will follow in due course as to how we shall mark the end of his time here among us. This means that we shall also be welcoming a new Assistant Priest, hopefully by the end of January 2017. As soon as we have any information, you will be informed in the newsletter.

READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The next rota will run from 9th & 10th January 2017 to 13th & 14th February 2017. Please advise your availability to the parish office by tomorrow, 12th December 2016. Thanks to those who have taken the trouble to do so already.

We welcome into the Church,
Noah Apollo Scott
who was Baptised here last Sunday.

First Holy Communion Dates

Letters to parents confirming dates have been issued for collection. Please ensure that you have taken yours from the porch.

Wanted: Budding Actors and Actresses and Singers for the Children's Liturgy Group nativity play before the 6.15pm Christmas Eve Mass (6pm start). Rehearsal 23rd December at 4pm. Call Marion on 020 8761 3895 or e mail mh.brown@virgin.net, by 16th December.

We acknowledge today the **Teams of Our Lady**, present at the 11.30 Mass to celebrate their foundation. They will be having a party afterwards

In the Coming Week:

Saturday 17th – A Day With Mary, at Sacred Heart, Edge Hill, Wimbledon. Please see the poster in the porch.

Sick and Housebound

If you know of anybody who is sick or housebound, or in a care home, who is unable to come to Mass, and who would like to receive Holy Communion, Reconciliation or Anointing or a Blessing, please contact the parish office.

Please pray for our Sick and Housebound parishioners:

Jessica Anane, Juliette Blake, Alan Blaquiere, Anita Blaquiere, Barry Breese, Frances Caulfield, Fr Gerald Coates, Raffaella Forte, Rachel Gadd, Eamon Gillespie, Elaine Gunther, Anne Harris, Agnes Healy, Evelyn Hyland, Felix Isichei, Mary Kenny, Gladys Laskey, Elsie McCleave, James McDonald, Breda McDonagh, Michael Madigan, Ajitha Mahatantila, George Meyern, Mary Meyern, Edgar Ming, Peter Ranawake, Marion Robertson, Joe Ryan, Frederic Saint-Rose, Alice Scott, Elizabeth Scott, Maggie Sunich, Edythe Thirlwall, Ellen (Nelly) Weldon, Mary White, Ethelda Williams, Carole Winch, Charmaine Wise, Georgette Yoo Foo.

Recently Deceased:

The funeral of Rudolph Massara, who died on 18th November, will take place here on Thursday 5th January 2017 at 10am.

Church Cleaning: Group 3 this week:

Brigid Griffin, Joyce Ippoliti, Jeannette Da Silva, Bernie Knight, Antoinette Nwanoneze.

We are still greatly in need of others to share the load.

Please could you give up some time to help clean the church?

The Repository

The Repository is now open, and Christmas stock is now in. You are advised not to delay, as stock is selling fast!

The Catholic Truth Society – CTS

Advent and Christmas titles, which have been very popular so far, have now been restocked in the rack beside the Repository. If you would like a booklet which you cannot see in the rack, please ask.

Advent Reflections

The Archdiocese of Southwark' reflections on the theme of stewardship may still be accessed at: <http://eepurl.com/bP6Bp9>

TO ALL OUR ALTAR SERVERS:

Please sign up for serving at Christmas.

We need servers for all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, and in particular the 6.15pm Family Mass and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. (*NB: No 5pm Mass on Christmas Day.*)

We encourage older servers in particular to do their best to support Midnight Mass.

Practices for Christmas Eve Masses will be held

next Sunday 18th December 2016 as follows:

@ 6pm (for the 6.15pm Family Mass;

@ 6.30pm (for Midnight Mass).

Have you signed up on the sheets in the sacristy?

Guild of St Stephen Medal Ceremony

Would all servers please note that this is planned for 10.00am on Saturday 28th February 2017, so please put it in your diaries. More details will follow shortly.

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB ON STREATHAM COMMON;

Congratulations and thanks are due to **John Taylor**, who recently placed the crib in its prime position on the common for the 60th year in succession! He has been ably assisted in this task for over 20 years by **Gordon Clark**. A local celebration was held to honour this event, and ITV News came along last Thursday afternoon to include it in the local news bulletin! This is a great example of Christ making Himself known to all, despite the secular nature of the society in which we live. Please go to: www.heartstreatham.co.uk/the-christmas-crib-on-streatham-common; to find out more.

Rota for Coffee Mornings 2017

Please contact the parish office. Dates are going fast!

Gift Aid givers: *With the recent changes in taxation, several of our gift aiders have had to leave the scheme. We would advise those who leave the scheme, in addition to informing the Parish office/Gift Aid organiser, that they should also inform the government tax office (tel: 0300 200 3300). This is to ensure that the tax office records are up to date when assessing their tax liabilities.*

Catholic School Open Days & Catholic job opportunities.

Please see the special yellow folder in the porch for information.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

Please take your copy of the CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue from the porch and **put in your order by 16th December**. This Christmas, why not help somebody you may never meet, and let **CAFOD** deliver it.

A THOUGHT FOR ADVENT

Today's entry Antiphon, "*Rejoice in the Lord always...*", the third Advent candle, the readings and Father's rose-coloured vestments remind us that, amidst the penitential purple of Advent and its imperative that we be cleansed of our sins, we should also look with rejoicing to not only the coming Solemnity of Christmas, the celebration of the arrival of the promised Saviour but also, the day when "*Christ will come again*" as our Merciful Judge, a role highlighted in the Jubilee Year just ended. **Isaiah** writes of the Good News of Christ's coming to heal the wounds of Original Sin, news which moves him to proclaim, "*...He is coming to save you.....and sorrow and lament will be ended....*".

In the response to the **Psalm**, we echo the Psalmist's cry, "*Come, Lord, and save us*". Saint James encourages his readers not to lose heart, proclaiming, "*...the Lord's coming will be soon...*".

Following the **Alleluia** verse, again echoing **Isaiah**, we hear in the Gospel, of the last of the Prophets, Saint John the Baptist. Now imprisoned by Herod for his forthright proclamation of the Truth, John sends messengers to ask Jesus if He is, indeed, the long-awaited Saviour. Jesus duly confirms this, instructing them to "*....Go back and tell John.....*", thus confirming that John is indeed, the messenger called to prepare the Chosen People for His coming.

As we shall recall, John the Baptist, being unencumbered by so-called 'political correctness', was to give his life as a witness to the Truth. Throughout the history of the Church we hear of those who also laid down their lives rather than deny God. Among them is Saint Thomas More. And, as regular news reports testify, this list of Martyrs for the Faith is still being added to!

We each need to examine our conscience and see where we stand when, out and about, at work or even among friends and family, we may hear the Church's teachings denied and opposed; we may even be called 'uncharitable' simply for speaking the Truth. However our duty is clear! Just in case we feel daunted as to how to tackle such issues, here is another book well worth adding to your Catholic library, and very appropriate following on from the Jubilee Year of Mercy: It is called "*Divine Mercy in My Soul*", being the Diary of Saint Faustina. There is much encouragement to be derived from this inspiring work!