

St Bartholomew's Catholic Church

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

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Sunday 25th December 2016 – Sunday 1st January 2017

CHRISTMAS 2016 AND NEW YEAR 2017

Mass Times and Intentions:

Sunday 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY

- 6.00pm (Sat 24th December)
Children's Liturgy Nativity Tableau
6.15pm (Sat 24th December) Vigil Mass
The young of our parish
11.30pm – Carols with the Polyphony Choir
12.00am – Midnight Mass – Polyphony Choir
People of the parish
8.30am John Joseph Murphy RIP
10.00am People of the parish
11.30am John Armstrong RIP

**NB THERE IS NO BENEDICTION AND
THERE IS NO 5.00PM MASS TODAY**

Octave of Christmas

Monday 26th December

St Stephen, the first Martyr (Feast)

- 7.30am Welfare of Sr. St Thomas More MC
10.00am Dominic Moloney RIP

Tuesday 27th December

St John, Apostle & Evangelist (Feast)

- 7.30am Dominic Cu Van Tran RIP
10.00am Stanislaus Almeida RIP

Wednesday 28th December

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Feast)

- 7.30am Josie McMillan RIP
10.00am Daryl Desa RIP

Thursday 29th December

St Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr, Patron of Pastoral Clergy (Feast)

- 7.30am Abraham Gandhi RIP
10.00am Dominic F X Mascarenhas RIP

Friday 30th December

The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary & Joseph (Feast)

- 7.30am Welfare of Michael Da Silva
10.00am Welfare of the Sheridan family

Saturday 31st December 2016

- 10.00am Thanksgiving for 2016
Rita Bethune

New Year's Day – 1st January 2017

- 6.15pm (Saturday 31st December 2016)
Sr. Mary Mulhall RIP
12 Midnight (Saturday 31st December 2016)
Philip Cowie RIP
8.30am People of the parish
10.00am Michael Flynn RIP
11.30am Welfare of Joe Ryan (Poly Choir)

4.00pm Benediction

- 5.00pm Welfare of Elizabeth &
Tom McDermott

Feria of Christmas Time

Monday 2nd January 2017

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nzianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church (Memorial)

- 7.30am Nelly Weldon RIP
10.00am Josie McMillan RIP

Tuesday 3rd January 2017

The Most Holy Name of Jesus (Memorial)

- 7.30am Leopoldine Rebello RIP
10.00 Glenda McGrath RIP (Over 55s)

Wednesday 4th January 2017

- 7.30am Maud & Mary Donohoe
10.00am Evan Hendricks (Née Staples) RIP

Thursday 5th January 2017

- 7.30am Welfare of Fr Paul
10.00 John Healy RIP
1pm – Funeral of Rudolph Massara RIP

Friday 6th January 2017

FIRST FRIDAY

- 7.30am George Lawrence RIP
10.00am Annie Gillespie RIP
Adoration until Benediction at 2.00pm

Saturday 7th January 2017

Our Lady

- 10.00 Christopher Nwabueze 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, &
at call, when a priest is available.

Parish Mass Book:

- Christmas Eve (vigil) p 95
Midnight Mass p 98 plus special booklet
Christmas Day p 101/103
Holy Family – p 106
Mary, Holy Mother of God – p 109

Thank you for your continuous generosity:
Last weekend's collection came to £ 1741.00
(£1143.00-Baskets; £598.00-Standing Orders.
Further collections will be posted in January.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 2017 AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Our sincere thanks to all who have worked so hard to make the Celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord such a resounding success! From the Altar servers, to the choir, the cleaners, and those who put up the crib and decorations, thank you! May Christ abundantly bless you all this Christmas and always. On New Year's Eve, there will be an extra Mass at Midnight as we enter the New Year of 2017 in the company of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

CRIB OFFERINGS

Crib offerings this year will go to the **Friends of the Holy Land**. Please use the basket provided for cash donations, or put an envelope through the presbytery door.

Please pray for those who have died:

Ellen (Nelly) Weldon of Scott Close, who died on 18th December 2016. Her funeral will take place here on Friday 20th January 2017 at 10.00am

Also **Una Flynn**, widow of the late Andy Flynn, formerly of Sherwood Avenue. Una died on 12th December 2016.

We welcome into the Church,

Jonah – Jake Prayag

who was Baptised here last Sunday.

In the Coming Weeks:

We welcome once again Canon Joseph Collins who will be saying the 10.00am and 11.30am Masses on January 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd January.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:

**Thursday 5th January 2017 at 7.30pm
Parents's Meeting in Lower Hall.
Saturday 7th January 2017 from 9.45am
until 12.00 Noon. Inaugural Mass and
session on Baptism & Tour of Church.**

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:

A retiring collection will be held after all Masses on Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th January 2017. Please give generously.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: 21st January 2017 – "Awayday".

**BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE:
Saturdays 21st & 28th January 2017 at
3.00pm. Application forms in 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.

A Thought for Christmas

Once again, amid the bustle of life, and, it would seem, amid an unending stream of news reports of war, crime and death in various parts of our world, we are celebrating Christmas. The Crib, centrepiece of this Season, is displayed; the church and our homes are brightly decorated, Christmas trees abound and, somehow, the gloom of winter is shut out.

Once more, the Christmas Night song of the Angels, "*Glory to God in the Highest.....*" is prayed at Sunday Mass. Father wears white (or, indeed, gold) vestments, Carols are sung, again calling us to contemplate the Birth of our Saviour.

For many, sadly, Christmas exists solely on a material level. The whole point of the Season is passed over amid the food, drink and presents. It is up to Christians to be 'counter-cultural', ever ready to show, by word and example, the true significance of this time. On that first Christmas night, the Word, Who "*...was made flesh...*" at His Conception nine months previously in the Womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is setting out on His 30 year mission to Save humanity and put us back on the road to Heaven.

May we all have a truly Holy and Happy Christmas and be fortified to spread this "*...news of Great Joy...*" in the year ahead!



A Thought for the New Year

On the *First Sunday of Advent*, we began the *Liturgical New Year* and today, *Sunday, 1st January*, first day of the week as well as of **2017 AD**, we begin the *Calendar New Year*, the traditional time to make *Resolutions*, which, hopefully, will improve our lives. What form, for Catholics, should these resolutions take if they are to rise above the run-of-the-mill and make a difference not only to our bodily but also to our Spiritual Life? Are there opportunities to help not only ourselves and our Families but also others, of Faith or unbelieving, who, knowing that we are Catholics, look to us, consciously or not, for a lead? The Family, core unit of Society, must be a catalyst for change; resolutions provide many opportunities for the ongoing Religious formation of Mothers, Fathers and Children.

A good starting point is Prayer in the Home; do we encourage our Children to say morning and night Prayers and Grace before and after meals? Do they have the example of this from Mum and Dad?; Do we ever pray as a Family, maybe saying the Rosary each day? Do we discuss our wonderful Faith? Are resolutions needed here? How often do we take them to Mass? Of course there are Sundays and Holy-Days of Obligation but how often, hectic as life can be, have we considered going as a Family to Adoration/Mass on Saturday mornings during the year and also on weekdays during school-holidays *in addition* to the days we are obliged to attend? How often do we and our Children go to Confession? Could we pay a visit when passing by a Catholic Church and spend even a few minutes before the Blessed Sacrament? Practice can do far more than words! Could a spiritual 'extra' be the subject for a resolution?

What will *you* resolve to do in 2017? We Wish You a Holy, Happy and Prosperous New Year!!