

The Parish Clergy:
The Reverend the Vicar and Surrogate
Fr. Andrew Stevens, M.A., S.S.C.,
Regional Dean For Southwark Forward in Faith
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The Churchwardens:
Mrs Cecelia Okrafo-Smart Mrs Diane Bartlett
The Churchwardens Emeriti
Mr Reg Martin Miss Betty Stroud

THE ADVENT CROWN HYMN

The First Sunday of Advent:

The holly and the ivy
are dancing in a ring
round the berry-bright red candles
and the white and shining King.

Oh, one is for the prophets
and for the light they bring.
They are candles in the darkness
all alight for Christ the King.

The Second Sunday of Advent:

And two is for God's people
and for the light they bring.
They are candles in the darkness
all alight for Christ the King.

The Third Sunday of Advent:

And three is for John the Baptist.
He calls us on to sing:
"O prepare the way for Jesus Christ,
He is coming, Christ our King".

The Fourth Sunday of Advent:

And four for Mother Mary:
"I cannot see the way.
But you promise me a baby.
I believe you, I obey".

Christmas Day:

And Christ is in the centre,
For this is His birthday
With the shining lights of Christmas,
Singing "He has come today".

Welcome to our Church today, after the Parish Mass refreshments will be served at the back of Church. Please join us and make yourself known to one of the clergy.

This ancient church has been a place of Christian worship of Almighty God for well over 1,000 years; as we enter the third millennium of our salvation it is salutary to remember that Christians have gather here on this spot since the first millennium.

If you would like to pray, the Lady Chapel is set aside as a place of quiet, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved or you might like to light a candle at one of the many shrines around church.

THE PARISH AND ANCIENT CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS, PLUMSTEAD

WELCOME TO OUR CELEBRATION TODAY



Induction loop fitted Sound reinforcement

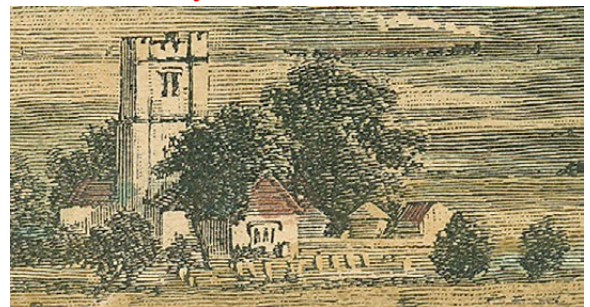


Ramp available for access

A Forward in Faith parish under
the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Fulham,
The Right Reverend Jonathan Baker,
we are a Eucharistic community
who is worshipping in the present,
upon the Apostolic Truths of the past,
in the hope of finding our future salvation
in God's Heavenly Kingdom.

The Mass is offered daily

Sunday	8:00am
	11:00am
Monday	8:00pm
Tuesday	7:30pm
Wednesday	9:30am
Thursday	7:00pm
Friday	12:00pm
Saturday	10:00am



Exposition of the
BLESSED SACRAMENT or ADORATION
half an hour before Mass every day except Sunday.

The ROSARY of the Blessed Virgin Mary
is said after Mass on Friday and Saturday

STATIONS OF THE CROSS, after the Mass
on Tuesday evenings in Lent

Confessions:

Monday 7:30-8:00pm. Tuesday 7:00-7:30pm,
Thursday 6:30-7:00pm, or by appointment.

Please turn off  all mobile 'phones

PLEASE LET FR. ANDREW KNOW OF ILLNESS
OR OTHER NEED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PLEASE TAKE THIS SHEET HOME

The word of the Lord

John 1. 1-14

The story of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem is so well known, so often told, sung, acted, depicted, that for some it seems to become a routine part of the Christmas holiday, a passing reminder of what the season is about. A birth is easy to understand, easy to depict imaginatively without knowledge of the details. But how can we depict the heart of the mystery? No picture, no narrative, can make the coming of God into the world of human beings a part of our annual pageant. Only the inspired words of the Evangelist can tell of the eternal God, perfect in power and majesty, entering into human life with all its limitations. We have seen his glory – but who saw it - the few who were privileged to be of his human family, to be his close friends, to hear him preach, to be the enemies who planned his death? Not for thirty years, but for all time, those who would receive him could share in the divine light, see with the inner eye of faith the glory that had come into the world. It could be seen in a precious relationship, a father and his son in all the suffering and the joy. The mutual love gives its blessing to the happy families of this day, heals the wounds of past estrangement, and draws us into one as children of the eternal Father.

The Ritual Reason Why Why midnight Mass?

Midnight Mass is celebrated around midnight on Christmass Eve. It is also known as the Mass of the Shepherds when we, with them, dash to crib to worship and adore the Christ Child. It is an important liturgical celebration. Originally it would have been part of a service of readings, a vigil similar to the Easter Vigil.



During the mass we recall the wonder of the incarnation and we genuflect as we recall the importance of incarnation when the 'Word was made flesh and dwelt among us'. It might seem unusual to stay up late to welcome the Lord but it is a sign that with Christ comes a new dawn and a new way of thinking about our relationship with God. By choosing to do something different, by staying up late and going to church, when we would not normally do so, we are making holy a day that for many people is just an ordinary day. We are setting it aside as a day focussed on God. You might like to take with you to Mass the figure of Christ from your crib set or wait until you get home from Mass before placing the figure in the scene as a sign the Christ has come.

Forward!

Welcome to our celebration today

25th December 2013

Christmas Day

Christmas

The Incarnation is the reason I am a Christian. It may be a bold statement but I think it to be true. Whenever I have moments of doubt and despair, whenever I fail to believe, the thing that draws me back is the knowledge



that God has become human and lived as we do.

It is this glorious mystery that we celebrate on Christmas

Day. A simple truth that to a Palestinian teenager, the Son of God, who was to redeem humankind through his death on a cross, was born.

It may be a simply truth and yet its consequences are radical. The truth that God has become as we are means that he knows and understands what it is to be human. God and his creation are bound up in a relationship of love that cannot be broken. In many paintings of nativity scenes you will see a Cross hidden as part of the cribs structure, or alternatively as a tree in the background. They are reminders that the Incarnation at Bethlehem and the Cross are bound together. They are two parts of the same event; God becomes human so that our salvation may be wrought upon the Cross. Therefore let us rejoice and celebrate this day in knowledge that through this, our salvation was given.

In to the world

Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb,
Now leaves His well-belov'd imprisonment,
There He hath made Himself to His intent
Weak enough, now into the world to come;
But O, for thee, for Him, hath the inn no room?
Yet lay Him in this stall, and from the Orient,

Stars and wise men will travel to prevent
The effect of Herod's jealous general doom.
Seest thou, my soul, with thy faith's eyes, how He
Which fills all place, yet none holds Him, doth lie?
Was not His pity towards thee wondrous high,

That would have need to be pitied by thee?
Kiss Him, and with Him into Egypt go,
With His kind mother, who partakes thy woe.

The Rota for Reading and Intercessing

DECEMBER	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Intercessions
Sunday 1 st	Y. Stevens	D. Stevens	T. Agin
Saturday 7 th Feast of St Nicholas	T. Agin	Deacon	G. Agin
Sunday 8 th	B. Scott	E. Crawley	A. Davies
Sunday 15 th	P. Alexander	E. Buhl	B. Scott
Sunday 22 nd	S. Obubo	Stephanie O	S. Jahans
Tuesday 24 th Midnight Mass	G. Agin	R. Barzey	R. Martin
Wednesday 25 th Christmas Day	D. Martin	R. Martin	Fr. Andrew
Sunday 29 th	R. Barzey	B. Stroud	T. Agin
JANUARY 2014			
Sunday 5 th	D. Stevens	Y. Stevens	G. Agin
Sunday 12 th	E. Crawley	B. Scott	A. Davies
Sunday 19 th	P. Alexander	E. Buhl	R. Martin
Sunday 26 th	B. Stroud	R. Martin	B. Scott

Sancte Nicolae, Ora pro nobis



All-powerful God,
you made
Saint Nicholas
a bishop and leader
of the Church
to inspire your people
with his teaching
and example.
May we give fitting
honour to his memory
and always have the
assistance of his prayers
We ask this
through our
Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns
with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God,
for ever and ever.
Amen

Christus, Heri, Hodie, Semper

S. NICHOLAS CHURCH

FLOODLIGHT: LIGHT THE CHURCH

We all realise how important it is to support our Church, more so in these days of rising costs; well here is a good way of supporting it and enjoying it personally.

Floodlight the building by day £2.25 or by the week £14.50, for that personal event: a birth, Baptism, Birthday, an Anniversary, Wedding or Years Mind of a loved one, in doing this you will remember and at the same time help pay the electricity bill. The price is reasonable and shows this building in all its glory after sunset, it does enhance this fine building. Reg holds the diary, to be sure there are no double bookings, it is yours for the day or week.



Christmas Day

The Angelus will be sung at the Christmas Crib

HYMNS

Introit:	NEH	Sheet
Gradual:	NEH	Sheet
Offertory:	NEH	Sheet
Communion:	NEH	Sheet
Post Communion:	NEH	Sheet

PALM CROSSES:

Jessica Roberts in thanksgiving for the life of her Father

THE PASCHAL CANDLE:

*Flavia Kisambira in thanksgiving to God for his
Greatness and Mercy*

THE HIGH ALTAR CANDLES:

Lilian Osedumme

THE LADY CHAPEL ALTAR CANDLES:

Lilian Osedumme

THE CANDLES AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA:

Lilian Osedumme

THE SEVEN DAY SHRINE LIGHTS FOR DECEMBER

The Blessed Sacrament:

Lilian Osedumme: For her husband and her family.

The Sanctuary:

Lilian Osedumme

Our Lady by the Lady Chapel:

Joy & Stephen Jahans: for Joy's Recovery

Our Lady of Walsingham:

Lilian Osedumme

Our Lady of Fatima:

*Murray Smallbone: For the repose
of the soul of John Beck 30-7-1937 - 8-10-2008*

S. Nicholas:

Lilian Osedumme: For her husband and her family

S. Francis:

Betty Stroud

THE SUNDAY SHRINE LIGHTS FOR DECEMBER

Our Lady by the Tower:

Gwen Pearce

The Immaculate Heart of Mary:

Henry Aguh

Our Lady of Sorrows:

Christina Agin:

S. Joseph:

Paul Pangrace

S. Augustine

Lilian Osedumme: For her husband and her family

S. Martin:

Vincent Chime

Sacred Heart of Jesus:

Azuka Agun

S. Dunstan: S. George: S. Clare: B. Jacinta: B. Francisco:

S. John Vianney: Our Lady of Light:

Lilian Osedumme: For her husband and her family

S. Anthony: S. Teresa:

Motunde

S. Thomas More:

Margaret Mendes: in thanksgiving

FLOODLIGHT:

22nd - 28th Leo McCarthy:

In thanksgiving for the life of his wife Carol

INTRODUCTION

Today we recognise in the child born of Mary at Bethlehem that the Word that existed from the beginning has taken flesh among us.

Today's Readings

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

The Lord is coming to Jerusalem and all the nations of the world will see the salvation of God.

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-6

God has spoken to us through the prophets but now he speaks to us through his Son.

Gospel John 1:1-18

The Word that was with God from the beginning has now taken flesh and dwelt among us.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

With trust let us put our needs before the Lord.

For the Church: that we may all bear witness in this Christmas season to the wonderful good news that God has taken on our humanity in his Son, Jesus.

Lord, hear us.

For our families and communities: that we may experience the joy of knowing that we are called in Christ to be the children of God.

Lord, hear us.

For those who are poor; for those who are rejected, refugees, or homeless; for all who are in distress: that Christ may be with them to help and strengthen them.

Lord, hear us.

For all those suffering from the effects of war and violence: that God may bring them peace.

Lord, hear us.

For those who are sick and those who care for them: that the incarnate Lord may be with them and give them hope and healing.

Lord, hear us.

Loving Father, hear all these our prayers; and what we ask in faith may you grant through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

THOSE PREPARING FOR BAPTISM

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTISED

Sunday 29th September 2013:

Kai Kwabena Osei Goodensimms

THOSE ADMITTED TO HOLY COMMUNION

Charlene Namuleme Kaddu

THOSE PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

THOSE PREPARING FOR HOLY MATRIMONY

Saturday 28th June 2014 at 2:00pm:

Ian William Bentley & Karen Ann Gladwell

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MARRIED

Saturday 24th August 2013 at 4:00pm:

Scott Edward Parker and Maria Betsy Side

SPECIAL INTENTION

Joy wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes for her and her family

FLOWERS IN MEMORY

S. Joseph:
Carol Ann McCartney

BURIAL OF ASHES

Sunday to be confirmed:

John Barry Gant

Sunday to be confirmed:

Jack Brunt

THE DEPARTED

Tony Slaney

Jack Brunt

Les Jones

Brian Goulding

Morgan Sheen

YEARS MIND

24th Sylvester Dawkins

24th Robin Bothwell

24th Betty Morris

27th Albert Bristow

27th Reginald Warrenner

FOR YOUR DAILY INTERCESSION DECEMBER

General Intention:

That children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need

Missionary Intention:

That Christians, enlightened by the Word incarnate, may prepare humanity for the Saviour's coming

BIRTHDAYS

27th Olubunmi Akinlalu

PRAYER FOR HEALING

Murray Smallbone Russell Sabat
 Andreas Poplopdous Christina Agin
 Ruby Arthurs John David Cook
 Stanley Lewis Pat Wenham Hazel Clark
 Cloe Gibson Mary Cook Roy Richards
 Walter Mann
 Eve Cocklin Helen Thorpe
 Ruth Kabeba Stephen Katu
 Pauline Alexander Eric Buhl
 Kirsty Forrester Terry Hayward Pat Hayward
 Janet Hole John Hole
 Kathy Fincham Bill Baker
 Iris Agin Shirley Bristow
 Jennifer Fairweather Emma Clifford
 Brian Joseph Bill Scott
 Rosamond Nash Isabel D'Alvarez
 Fr Grahame Stephens Elisabeth Wright
 Karen Bryan Firth Joyce Moore
 Barbara English Alison Scott-Holt
 Alex Fernandes Dee Hodges
 Dianne Fullbrook
 Joanne Johnson (nee Davies) Michael Somer
 Barbara Sleigh Jaq Pearce
 Win Pinn Horace Thompson
 Christian Towner Rosemary Rowan
 Nicky Dacies Heather Goulding
 Muriel Taylor Elizabeth Huddleston
 Fr Derek Robinson Stephen Jahans Jr
 Vivian Rogers Pat Hayward
 Joy Frances Jahans John Cotton
 Katherine Higgins Jason Baker
 Darren Knight Rosina Cochran
 Irene Beatrice Watkins
 Fermina de Araujo
 Mick Martin Pat McFarlane

IN THANKSGIVING

Rebecca Huddleston Alison Abrey
 David Jahans Elisabeth Wright
 Pat Hayward

Sunday Readings: Year A
 Psalter Week 4

DECEMBER 2013

#	Day	Letter	Feast	Prayers
22	Su	P	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	(CWCL:Fourth Sunday of Advent) MP:2(107) EP:1(102)
			DO1(4)	
			Mass pr, LI 68, Cr, Pref Advent II	
			R1: Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 23:1-6
			R2: Romans 1:1-7	Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24
			<i>Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers: No special Mass is permitted. The intention is included in the Prayer of the Faithful.</i>	
23	M	P	FERIA OF 4th WEEK OF ADVENT	
			(Ad lib: com of S John of Kanty Pr - see notice before December 17)	
			DO5(4)	MP:2(108) EP:1(103)
			Mass pr, LI 90, Pref Advent II	
24	T	P	FERIA OF 4th WEEK OF ADVENT	
			DO5(4)	MP:2(109)
			Mass pr, LI 92, Pref Advent II	
25	W	W	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, Sol with Octave	
			DO2	MP:18(117) EP:17(114)
			Mass pr, Gl, LI 104/107/109 (according to the time of Mass), Cr, (all kneel at Incarnatus), Pref Nativity, Eucharistic Prayer I pr	
26	Th	R	S STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR, Fest	
			DO3(4)	MP:180(453)
			Mass pr, Gl, LI 125 or LII 1304, Pref Nativity, Eucharistic Prayer I pr	
			W EP of Christmas Octave DO2	EP:17(113)
27	F	W	S JOHN ApEvang, Fest	
			DO3(4)	MP:175(455)
			Mass pr, Gl, LI 127 or LII 1306, Pref Nativity, Eucharistic Prayer I pr	
			W EP of Christmas Octave DO2	EP:17(114)
28	S	R	HOLY INNOCENTS Mrr, Fest	
			DO3(4)	MP:183(457)
			Mass pr, Gl, LI 129 or LII 1308, Pref Nativity, Eucharistic Prayer I pr	
			W EP I of foll DO3(1)	EP:46(120)
			<i>Nothing this year of S Thomas Becket</i>	

If you are celebrating
 a BIRTHDAY or ANNIVERSARY
 and would like to share it with your Church Family
 A £15 DONATION
 covers the cost of Sherry
 (You may if you wish provide wine of your own choice)
 to be enjoyed at the back of church after Mass
 Please see Gwen or Christina Agin!

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world.

Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:1-7

PSALM Psalm 95

RESPONSE: *Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.*

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**
2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. **R.**
4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy:

today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2:1-14

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

MASS AT DAWN

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us;

and he will be called Wondrous God,

Prince of peace, Father of future ages;

and his reign will be without end.

FIRST READING Isaiah 62:11-12

PSALM Psalm 96

RESPONSE: *This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.*

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice, the many coastlands be glad. The skies proclaim his justice; all peoples see his glory. **R.**
2. Light shines forth for the just and joy for the upright of heart. Rejoice, you just, in the Lord; give glory to his holy name. **R.**

SECOND READING Titus 3:4-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace to men who enjoy his favour.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2:15-20

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Rejoice, O Daughter Zion; lift up praise, Daughter Jerusalem:

Behold, your King will come,

the Holy One and Saviour of the world.

MASS DURING THE DAY

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;

his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,

and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

FIRST READING Isaiah 52:7-10

PSALM Psalm 97

RESPONSE: *All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **R.**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **R.**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **R.**
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING Hebrews 1:1-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, worship the Lord,

for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:1-18

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

SOLEMN BLESSING

Bow down for the blessing.

May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night (day), drive far from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue. **Amen.**

May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son's saving Birth be announced to shepherds by the Angel, fill your minds with the gladness he gives and make you heralds of his Gospel. **Amen.**

And may God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**