



spiritans

St. Mary Magdalen Roman Catholic Church, Brockley
(73 Comerford Road SE4 2BA & Howson Road SE4 2BB)

Christmas Day Mass 25th Dec. 2024

We welcome all to today's Mass, especially visitors who are celebrating with us for the first time. Please take this bulletin home with you for further reflection on this week's celebration and to follow the activities in the Parish during the week.

REFLECTION

THE WORD IS AMONG US

Today is Christmas day, the day we have been preparing for. Today, God proved the depth of his love for us by allowing his son to be born of a virgin. The word prophesied long ago has finally taken flesh. The central message of today's celebration is the incarnation and revelation of Jesus Christ. Our first reading from Isaiah finds its sphere of a compliment in the birth of Jesus Christ, His life, and ministry. Isaiah proclaims: "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of one who brings Good News." So, the responsibility now lies on us to become "partners in progress" by spreading the Good News. It is the Good News of love, peace, charity, hope, happiness, and above all, it is the Good News of salvation. The call of the prophet today is a call to adore and worship the newborn king and prince of peace. It is a call to be joyful and take the message about the messiah's birth to all people. In our second reading, the letter to the Hebrews captures what God did for us today. The letter to the Hebrews reminds us that God has fulfilled the promise he made by revealing the hidden mystery of salvation. Now we are the favored ones. The hidden mystery of the old covenant has finally been revealed in Jesus Christ, who is love. Therefore, what we are celebrating today is love because: "... God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son... (Jn 3,16)." We must be ready to share this love. God sent Christ out of love, Christ accepted to come out of love, the messengers and prophets announced his coming out of love, of course, out of love, Mary and Joseph cooperated with God to bring Him forth. Therefore, this is a season we must be ready to offer ourselves to others. This season, as Christ has reached out to us, we too must reach out to others. **Fr Christian**

Mass Times & Intentions: 25th December 2024 — 30th December 2024

Wed. 25th. 8.30: Padraic & Brendan Mullen (RIP). 10.00am: Mrs Bridget Anyagbuna (Peace, Prosperity and harmony in her family). 11.30am: Martin & Catherine McNicholas (Ann. RIP). Tina Obiako and Family (Special Thanksgiving)
Thur. 26th. 9:30am: Glynnis Eaton (birthday RIP) Jessica Eaton (RIP)
Fri: 27th. 9:30am: Peter & Gerry (Good health and Wellbeing)
Sat. 28th. 9:30am: John & Sylvia Gerryn (Wedding Ann. RIP), Margaret Neary (Birthday Ann. RIP).
Sat. 28th. 6:30pm: Alex Lobow (God's blessings, long life, good health and private intentions)
Sun. 29th. 8.30: 10.00am; 11.30am: 11.00pm New Year Mass Midnight Mass
Mon: 30th. 9.30am:

The SICK: Esta Joseph, Rosa Sanctos, Annie O'Kane, Aggrey Michael Davis, Margaret Newman, Peter Carey, Peter Ageyman, Mario Despisio, Fr. Morty, Joshua Twagira, Darabela Edmund, Margaret Pain, Juliana Charles, Audreh Khan, Ephraim Aluebhosle, Gwen Randall, Chinyere Oburota, Angiel DeRoche, Patrick Akanya, Kathy Langridge & Patricia Wocial. **ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:** Andrew Beglin, Mary Pilkington, Bryan Amedelle, Kit Worrell, Maura Tynan, Sylvester Edmund, Wafula Kangala, Mary Harris, Alan Lewis, David Carlisle, Bridget Lane, Agnes Mealey, Elizabeth O'Connor, Patricia Omigie & Mary Killeen

Parish is served by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans)

Parish Priests: Fr. Nathaniel Ewusi CSSp, Fr. Christian Enechukwu CSSp.

Parish Deacon: Rev William Dunphy.

Safeguarding Rep: Una McGill (brockleysg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk).

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - (10.00am - 1.00pm)

Contact: 73 Comerford Road, Brockley, London SE4 2BA. **Tel:** 020 86911322

Email: brockley@rcaos.org.uk (Reg. Charity No.23546)

Website: www.stmarymagdalenbrockley.com.

Pastorals/Devotions: Confessions Saturday 11.30am -12noon, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament everyday from 9.00am - 9.30am. Tuesday 10am—11am. **Legion of Mary:** Tuesday 7pm.

Gentle reminders: Please turn off your mobile phones. You have the right to remain silent

TODAY'S READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 9: 5 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.

Christmas Candle Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for your mystery of the Incarnation – Emmanuel, God with us. Help us receive the Light of Christ in our hearts and share it generously and joyfully in our families and communities. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. All: Amen

GLORIA: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER: O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Sion, 'Your God reigns.' The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Sion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 98(97):1. 2-3b. 3c-4. 5-6.

R3cd

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

O sing a new song to the LORD, for he has worked wonders.

His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **R**

The LORD has made known his salvation, has shown his deliverance to the nations. He has remembered his merciful love and his truth for the house of Israel. **R**

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

Shout to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song, and sing out your praise. **R**

Sing psalms to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn, raise a shout before the King, the LORD. **R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-6 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. A hallowed day has shone upon us. Come, O nations, and adore the Lord; for today a great light has come down to earth. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me." ' For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only begotten God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, **and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate** of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer over the Offerings: Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day, when you manifested the reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 97: 3 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Prayer after Communion: Grant, O merciful God, that, just as the Saviour of the world, born this day, is the author of divine generation for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

FIVE LESSONS FROM THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a proof of God's goodwill for humanity: The birth of Jesus Christ as the savior of the world is God's own initiative. From the moment Adam and Eve fell, God initiated a long term plan to save humanity. This plan was fulfilled at the birth of Christ who saved the world through his suffering, death and resurrection. This teaches us that God knows all we are currently passing through and he is already at work in the universe. We only need to be patient with God. Christmas is a proof that God fulfils his promises: God made a promise to Abraham and to David his descendant. At the fullness of time, he fulfilled this promise at the birth of Jesus. This teaches us that God can never fail. He cannot deceive us. Christmas is a proof that God needs our collaboration: when God wanted to send his only begotten son into the world to save us, he did not execute this task alone. Instead, he sought the collaboration of mortal being. Joseph and Mary played very significant roles before his birth. John the Baptist also played an important role before Jesus began his mission. This teaches us that God needs our collaboration to overcome the evil/sin in our society today. Christmas is a proof that God really loves us: at Christmas, we celebrate the birth of God who hid his divinity under the garment of humanity. Just to prove his love for us, He loved us unconditionally even when we were still sinners. This teaches us to appreciate this love by reciprocating God's love and extending it to our neighbors. Christmas is a proof that God is interested in the lowly: God willed that his only begotten son be born in the little village of Bethlehem and to the lowly family of Joseph and Mary. Jesus associated himself with the poor and the sinners in the society. This teaches us to consider the least of our brethren as special friends of Jesus who became poor to enrich them in his glory. **Fr Christian**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Masses are as follows:

25th December: 8.30am; 10.00am & 11.30am.
 25th December 1pm Christmas Lunch.
 28th December :6.30pm (Holy Family)
 29th December 8.30pm 10.00am & 11.30am
 31st December: 11.00pm New Year Mass

Welcome: We welcome everyone, especially family and friends, who have come to celebrate the Birth of Jesus. May the joy of the New born King fill your heart and your homes with peace and joy.

Christmas Day Party Lunch 25th December

Our Christmas Day Party Lunch starts after the 11.30am Mass, in the Parish hall on Christmas Day. All are welcome and please bring family and friends. There will be festive food, including traditional Christmas turkey dinner, drinks, music with our own DJ, presents for the children from Santa, games, a Christmas Raffle, and fun for everyone.

We need **donations** of food, drinks, money, gifts for the children, and the needy, and Christmas decorations. Please leave your donations in the basket at the back of the church. Please clearly age mark your gifts for children. Thank you for your generosity

Thank you: We would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and blessed New Year. Thank you all for your kindness, gifts, cards and prayers. Thank you to all the volunteers in the Parish who serve the Church through their time, treasure, talent and pray-

ers. Thank you to all those who made our Christmas lunch possible, through their donations of time, money, food and gifts for children and the needy.

The crib offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society, which helps families in our Archdiocese who need practical support such as providing beds for children or cookers for families to provide a warm meal.

The Christmas collection: The Christmas collection is for the Spiritan missionary priests that serve you and the religious order. Thank you for your kindness.

Parish Office: The parish office is closed until the 13th January 2025. However, in any emergency, please call the Parish landline to speak to Fr. Nathaniel or Fr Christian.

Knight of St. Columba need men who can serve. For further information, please contact Bro Sam on 0795666763.

Masses can be booked by telephone on 020 86911322, or by email at brockley@rcaos.org.uk. Mass offerings can be made online to the parish account. St Mary Magadalen Parish RC, Natwest, 79143962 sort code 605001.

A	B	Y	M	E	L	C	H	I	O	R	R	E
B	D	E	L	B	A	T	S	L	A	A	E	S
S	I	V	D	L	E	O	N	Z	T	R	H	N
A	S	R	E	J	O	S	A	S	T	E	R	E
N	G	G	C	N	O	H	O	S	P	E	T	C
T	N	Y	O	M	T	S	A	H	G	I	J	N
A	I	B	R	L	Y	M	E	N	T	E	R	I
C	K	A	A	S	T	R	A	P	S	A	C	K
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A	B	R	I	G	H	O	S	H	O	L	Y	A
U	M	R	O	O	R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R
S	H	E	N	L	E	S	N	I	T	A	R	F
C	R	I	S	D	S	Y	R	A	M	I	N	G

CHRISTMAS TREE
 DECORATIONS
 HOLLY
 REINDEER
 TINSEL
 MANGER
 BABY
 JOSEPH
 JESUS
 SHEPHERD
 KINGS
 STAR
 STABLE
 SANTA CLAUS

ADVENT
 CAROLS
 ANGEL
 CRIB
 HOLY
 NOEL
 MARY
 BALTHAZAR
 MELCHIOR
 CASPAR
 GOLD
 FRANKINCENSE
 MYRRH



A guy bought his wife a beautiful diamond ring for Christmas. After hearing about this extravagant gift, his friend said, "I thought she wanted one of those sporty four-wheel-drive vehicles." "She did," he replied. "But where was I going to find a fake Jeep?"