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St. Mary Magdalen Roman Catholic Church, Brockley

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Year C 28th/29 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 Challenges of the Holy Family

Today being the first Sunday in the octave of Christmas, the Holy Mother Church celebrates the feast of the Holy Family. It is a celebration of the triumph of grace and virtue over nature. The members of the Holy family experienced several challenges like we are experiencing today but they did not allow these challenges to distract the peace, love and unity that existed among them. The gospel reading (Luke 2:41-52) presents us with one of such challenges – the difficulty of finding Jesus when he was missing for three days. Others include the misunderstanding between Mary and Joseph when Mary conceived without Joseph's collaboration, the difficulty of finding a place at Bethlehem, etc. The family is the domestic Church, and it is the most important structure in the society. Today's feast challenges us to uphold family values of love, peace and togetherness in the society. That is why the second reading (1 John 3:1-2.21-24) assures us of our participation in the family of God by virtue of Christ's incarnation and participation in the human family. This relationship is concretely seen in the Church which prepares us for our heavenly home. Therefore, what have you done to improve the quality of the human family or the family of God on mission (the Church)? God loves you. **Fr Nat**

#### Mass Times & Intentions:

28 December 2024 - 5 January 2025.

Sat. 28th. 6:30pm: People of the Parish

Sun. 29th. 8.30: Bridget Lane (Ann RIP) Robert Lane(Ann RIP), Bill O' Connor (Ann RIP)10.00am: Anne, Martin & Olive Whelan (RIP) Chief & Mrs James & Mary Ngozi Ntukogu (RIP). 11.30am: Alex Lobow (God's Blessing, long life, good health and private intentions).

Mon. 30th 9.30am: Special Thanksgiving

Tues. 31st. 9.30am: Chukwuma Family

Tues. 31st.11.00pm New Year Mass Midnight Mass: Marie & Gavin Doogra, Jennifer & Craig McPherson & Tamica (Thanksgiving for all graces through the year from Holy Trinity)

Wed. 1st 9:30am: Patrick McCabe (Ann. RIP).

Thur. 2nd. 9:30am: Joseph Buckingham (Ann. RIP).

Fri: 3rd. 9:30am: Stephen Myles (Ann. RIP). John Cannon Senior (Ann RIP)

Sat. 4th. 9:30am: Patrick McGarry & Maureen McGarry (RIP)

Sat. 4th. 6:30pm:

Sun. 5th. 8.30: 10.00am: 11.30am:



**The SICK:** Esta Joseph, Rosa Sanctos, Annie O'Kane, Aggrey Michael Davis, Margaret Newman, Peter Carey, Pe-ter Ageyman, Mario Despisio, Fr. Morty, Joshua Twagira, Darabela Edmund, Margaret Pain, Juliana Charles, Audreh Khan, Ephraim Aluebhosele, Gwen Randall, Chinyere Oburota, Angiel DeRoche, Patrick Akanya, Kathy Langridge & Denise Ostenberg. **ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:** Mary Harris, Alan Lewis, David Carlisle, Bridget Lane, Agnes Mealey, Elizabeth O'Connor, Patricia Omigie, Mary Killeen, Oscar Darmanin, Irene Agnes Easom, James Bradley, Leonie Brown, George Benjamin West, Rose Marie Pittman, Joseph Buckingham, Ernest Clarke, Patrick O'Brien, Dennis Walsh, Mr Kingsley, Angelina Manning, Elizabeth O'Brien, Mary Gregory, Maria Wladyslawa Wosiek, Kathleen Durnan, Josepjine Burgess, John Curran, Stephen Myles, Maria Ivaldi, Evelyn Miltow, Rosella De Roche, Edward Sullivan, Andrew Maguire, Patrick McCabe, Francis Florio & Marianna Calatagirone.

**Parish is served by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritan)**

**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.stmarymagdalen.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. 2.00pm, Choir Practice: Wednesday 7pm.

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

# TODAY'S READINGS

**Entrance Antiphon:** Lk 2: 16 The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

**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 were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**First reading:** 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the LORD.' The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there for ever.' And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.' And he worshipped the LORD there.

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 84(83):2-3. 5-6. 9-10. *R*cf. 5a  
**Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.**

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O LORD of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning  
for the courts of the LORD.

My heart and my flesh cry out  
to the living God. **R**

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.

Blessed the people whose strength is in you,  
whose heart is set on pilgrim ways. **R**

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;  
look on the face of your anointed. **R**

**Second reading:** 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God

**Gospel Acclamation:** Cf. Acts 16:14b Alleluia, alleluia.  
Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son. Alleluia.

**Gospel:** Luke 2:41-52 The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.' And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

**Deacon:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise 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 suf-

fered 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:** We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon:** Bar 3: 38 Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord.

### **The Ten Commandments of Christmas (Author Unknown).**

1. Thou shalt not put any other holiday traditions or celebrations (not even Santa Claus) above the celebration of our Saviour's birth and the deep meaning of His life, teachings, and sacrifices.
2. Thou shalt look at thy life and make at least one positive change as your gift to the Savoir at His birthday celebration.
3. Thou shalt have many traditions, especially those types of traditions that remind you of the Savoir, give service to others, and bring your family closer together.
4. Thou shalt remember those who are alone and help them to have a "Merry Christmas" also.
5. Thou shalt give gifts of worth and not merely add to another's collection of clutter simply for the sake of "giving a gift". Give of yourself which is the way Savoir gave.
6. Thou shalt value the effort and thought put into gifts received. Just as with the widow's mite, it is the meaning that gives a gift value not the dollar amount paid.
7. Thou shalt give no gift grudgingly or because you have to. This does not mean to not give the gift to someone, but work until you have changed your own attitude.
8. Thou shalt not become so busy that you don't have time to really enjoy the season.
9. Thou shalt remember that of all the beautiful and expensive gifts, what others want and need most is honour, respect, love, and your time.
10. Above all, Thou shalt give thy heart to Christ. My Christmas list shall have Christ at the top.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today's Feast of the Holy Family** marks the opening of the Jubilee Year in our Archdiocese and across the Catholic Church worldwide.

**The Clergy** 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 prayers. Thank you to all those who made our Christmas lunch possible and wonderful, through their donations of money, time, food and presence.

**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.

**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.

**Lectio Divina Prayer Group:** The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 11th January. The group meet twice a month, 7-8pm at the church. All are welcome. For more info email Simone on: [brockleyple@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:brockleyple@rcaos.org.uk)

**Holy Communion classes** starts on Saturday, 14th of January at 10.00am.

**Confirmation classes** starts on Saturday, the 7th of January at 1.30pm. Anybody aged 13 and above can apply and come on that day.

**Lectio Divina Prayer Group** will restart their meetings on Wednesday the 8th January 2025, from 7-8pm in the church. All are welcome. For more info email Simone on: [brockleyple@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:brockleyple@rcaos.org.uk)

**Hall rental:** Please contact Fr. Nat or Fr Christian for costs and availability.

**Tea and Coffee:** There is a tea and coffee after 10am Mass only. The tea and coffee after 11:30am will resume on 12th January, 2025. Thank you for understanding.

**Knights 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](mailto:brockley@rcaos.org.uk). Mass offerings can be made online to the parish account. St Mary Magadalen Parish RC, Natwest, 79143962 sort code 605001.

“The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.” George Burns

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