

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

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WEEKLY PARISH NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 2025

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 2025 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) Parish Mass Book Page 90

8.00 am Mass: *Pat and Rita Brownrigg RIP*
Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am
10.00 am Mass: *Xiuzhen Wang and Fushen Li RIP*
6.00 pm Mass: *For the People of the Parish*

Mon 22nd Feria
11.30 am Rosary
12.00 pm Mass: *Wellbeing of Mano Houshangpour*
Tue 23rd **NO MASS TODAY**

WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

11.00 am – 12 pm Holy Hour and **Confessions**

FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS

6.00pm Mass: For the promotion of family life

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

11.30 pm Carols and Scripture Readings

12.00 am Midnight Mass: For the spread of the Gospel

THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Mass: For clergy who have helped us in our faith

10.00am Mass: For all the people of our beautiful parish

No evening Mass

Fri 26th St Stephen, Deacon and first martyr

9.00 am Rosary

9.30 am Mass: Vera and Jon Parfitt and family

Sat 27th St John, Apostle and Evangelist

9.00 am Mass: Sarah Tuffey and family

9.30 am Holy Hour: Adoration, Rosary, Benediction

Confessions: 9.45 am – 10.15 am

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER 2025 – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (A)

8.00 am Mass: *Deceased members of Greenway Family*

Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am

10.00 am Mass: *Wellbeing of the Brownrigg Family*

6.00 pm Mass: *For the People of the Parish*

Readers 21st Dec 8am: Stephanie Ferro

10am: Kate Moir

6pm: Ruth MacKinlay

Readers 28th Dec 8am: Valentino Ferdis

10am: Shehara Gamage

6pm: Howard Brinkworth

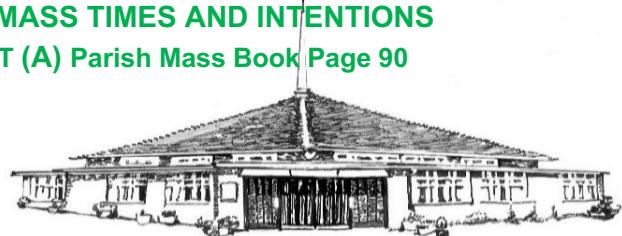
Counters 21st Dec Howard and Marlene

Cleaners w/c 22nd Dec

Aurea's Group

THE INCARNATION - "GOD BECAME MAN SO THAT WE MIGHT BECOME GOD"

The readings from Sacred Scripture over the four Christmas Masses tell us of God's plan to save us - not simply to save Zion and the people of Israel but the whole of humanity. In Matthew's Gospel, we have the entire family history from Abraham to Jesus Christ. Matthew includes women in his list of ancestors: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and "the wife of Uriah" (Bathsheba) are all gentiles: Canaanite, Canaanite, Moabite and Hittite (non-Jews). Tamar, Rahab and the wife of Uriah (Bathsheba) are associated with (sexual) immorality. **The human family history is peppered with sinners as well as saints, men and women. Yet God's will prevailed.** God's covenants (the closest agreement possible where God and humanity say "I am yours and you are mine for ever" – like the bond of Christian marriage between man and woman) were set in concrete: covenants with Abraham, Moses and David leading in his line to Jesus Christ, true God and true man. God never abandoned us. St Paul maps out this history of salvation in the Acts of the Apostles. In the Old Testament meanwhile Isaiah makes the prophecy that God will come as a bridegroom to Jerusalem and he will delight in ALL the people. **And indeed, God entered history in person by taking on flesh from the Virgin Mary.** The later Mass readings invite us to consider the **enormity of the incarnation** – taking on of human flesh - when "God became man, so that we might become God"(St Athanasius – the great Church Father). As the priest says as he prepares the gifts of wine and bread for consecration, "Through the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity." And what did this Saviour of the world turn out to be? A judgmental power-seeker and killer of men and abuser of women? No – a healer, a compassionate forgiver of sins, meek in his wielding of power, pure in heart, a conqueror of sin and death who first presented himself to the world as a vulnerable baby. Fr Peter



Weekly Offertory 14th December 2025

£981.40 (£341 Gift Aided envelopes, £175 Gift Aided standing orders, £58 Gift Aided Contactless, £53 non Gift Aided Contactless and £354.40 cash).

The Parish Office is open for enquiries on Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri from **10am until 12 noon**. All Hall bookings should be made during these times.

Mass Intentions Complete a brown Mass Intention Envelope (please do write clearly). For anniversaries please book early to avoid disappointment as there is a long waiting list.

Kingston Hospital It is your responsibility to inform the ward staff if you would like to see the Catholic Chaplain if admitted to hospital. If you are calling on behalf of a patient there then please call the Hospital Switchboard on 0208 5467711 to contact the Chaplain.

YOUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING IS YOUR GIFT FOR YOUR PRIEST

The Christmas Offering / collection at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses is as usual your personal gift to your Parish Priest. Envelopes are available in the foyer or you can use the DONA card machine to make an offering. If you are a member of St Catherine's Gift Aid Scheme, please use your own Gift Aid envelopes.

WITH THANKS



"Proclaim the truth as if you have a thousand voices. It is silence that kills the world."

From St Catherine's writings

ANNUAL MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP JOHN

Dear friends,

What is the meaning of Christmas? Each time we are asked the meaning of Christmas, our hearts should be filled with awe, joy and hope as we are drawn back to that remarkable night in Bethlehem. On that night, the world changed forever. The Lord Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, revealed the majesty and glory of God. On this momentous night, we not only discovered the meaning of Christmas. **We discovered the meaning of love, and the meaning of life.** God in Christ, entered our world so we could we could enter his. God sent his only Son, so we might live through him (1 John 4:9). There is no clearer message of God's love. It's a message of love the world desperately needed to hear, and still desperately needs to hear. - - - It's not simply, as St John tells us elsewhere in the Scripture, that we have loved God "but that he loved us" (1 John 4:10), and that is why he sent his Son: **so that we could be saved from sin and death.** This is the meaning of the Incarnation. That God, through his Son, dwelt among us so that we can know his love in our hearts and rejoice in his glory. This magnificent glory of the Lord can feel overwhelming and that is why we sometimes seek to distract ourselves with all manner of things. Remember, it certainly overwhelmed **the shepherds who were filled with great fear.** But we are called to hold fast to the words of the angel of the Lord, who turned to them and said "fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy" that born this day is "a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:9-11). In the baby Jesus, born as **Emmanuel, God with us** – we can find hope and meaning. In the Lord Jesus we find joy and love. - - - **In turn, all the Lord Jesus asks of us is to not be afraid and to say yes to him, to draw close to him, to love him.** So my dear friends, the next time you are asked the meaning of Christmas, answer emphatically, with joy in your hearts, that Christmas means God in Christ Jesus **loves me and he loves you.** - - - I wish you and those you love a blessed and very merry Christmas, may the Lord Jesus fill you with his peace and his love and may you "walk in love", as Christ loved you (Ephesians 5:2). **John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark**

You can watch and read

the full message: rcaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025

PAUL JOHNSTON RIP

Paul's funeral service will take place on Thursday 15 January at 11 am here at St Catherine's. At Paul's request, we have been given permission by the Archdiocese to offer a Tridentine Latin Mass at his funeral. Fr David Howell, who knew Paul, will be offering this Mass. Parishioners are welcome to attend. Please continue to pray for Paul and for Daphne, his widow.

YVONNE SHORT RIP

As many of you will already know, Deacon Stephen Short, who served in our parish for many years and assisted at our recent Golden Jubilee celebration, has informed us with great sorrow that his beloved wife, Yvonne, died on Saturday, 6 December. May she rest in the peace of Christ. Dcn Stephen writes: "Despite her serious illness, Yvonne was determined to attend the Jubilee celebration and to visit with the parishioners who have known her throughout the years. Sadly, remembering some beloved friends who have now gone to their eternal reward."

RITA'S SOCIAL CLUB FOR THE OVER 60s

The next Rita's Club will be held on **Friday 9 January 2pm to 4 pm**, the second Friday of the month, because the first Friday is too close to New Year's Day.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS IN THE JOY OF THE INCARNATION OF OUR LORD JESUS TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN

My dear brothers and sisters, I send you my warmest wishes, love and blessings this Christmas and New Year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. We are so blessed to have been given the gifts of faith, hope and love through Jesus. I thank you all for the help and support you have given me. We have sustained one another through our love of Christ. This is not the time to mention our achievements. Rather, this is the moment to thank and praise God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

LECTIO DIVINA – BIBLE STUDY

RESUMES ON WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 8 PM

Please do join us even if you have not attended before.

REFLECTION: CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE!

This Sunday, we see in the Scripture readings God's plan continuing to unfold to save us from sin and death. God has never abandoned us, even becoming one of us to save us. We on the other hand turned away from him with such a force of pride that we find it so difficult, even now after Baptism, to feel and accept God's love through the fog of life. We find it difficult to live with our human selves and our conscience. We do not believe we truly deserve to be loved by God. We may shudder to think that God sacrificed himself for us. Instead, we console ourselves with all the wrong things. We become addicted to one thing or another. We then may hate ourselves all the more, and when we hate ourselves, we suppress our conscience and we begin to hate others, our brothers and sisters, even our parents, our children, our husbands, our wives. Only God can save us from this self-destructive existence. My brothers and sisters, "lift up your hearts" and lift them up to the Lord. Today, bathed in the new and eternal covenant purchased by the very blood of Jesus Christ, we are free to accept and cherish God's love for each one of us. We can appreciate how he has prepared humanity to be loved so that we may walk with God again in an even closer relationship than our first parents. Yes, there is so much that remains a mystery to us, but what do we expect? - we are in a relationship with an infinite being, infinite in every way, infinite in love, infinite in truth, infinite in understanding and mercy. Just as he prepared Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist and his parents, Zachariah and Elizabeth, so God is preparing us through the Sacraments to welcome Christ into our hearts, and to spread his love across the world. **For the run-up to Christmas and the birth of our Saviour, let us say "I humbly accept your beautiful gift of love, dear Lord. I trust you and want to do your will."** Fr Peter

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

especially Cindy Albright, Sally Baker, Patrick Beglane, Tyler Curniffe, Renita D'Silva, Louise Dovey, Delia Gallagher, Eileen Gathercole, Marie Gilbert & Family, Paul Jarvis, David Jordan, Solomon Justin, Georgia Kelly, Paul Kwan, Adrian McDermott, Teresa McDonald, Sally McKenna, Pauline Murphy, Ryan O'Loughlin, Mark Peace, Jean Penycate, Zenaid Richards, Kathy Richardson, Debbie Ruberg-Smith, Chloe Sheead, Mary Sheehan, Dharmaotee Soodin, Anne Srivastava, Coby Thomas, and residents of Amy Woodgate Home.