



Holy Cross & St Patrick Parish

Served by the Society of the Divine Saviour – The Salvatorians

Parish Priest: Father Fortunatus Banzi, SDS

Assistant Parish Priest – Fr Floribert Mulikita SDS

Deacons: Rev. Oluwole Alayo & Rev. Anthony Wentworth

The Priests House & Chapel, 1a Conway Road, Plumstead, SE18 1AQ

St Patrick’s Church, Hector Street, Plumstead, SE18 1QT

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Head Teacher: Miss Mary Murphy

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We wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas and New Year. May God bless you and your families and keep you safe and well.



THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED for CHRISTMAS from FRIDAY, 20th DECEMBER to TUESDAY, 7th JANUARY

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT YEAR C Ps 4 22nd December, 2024 (p 90+ sheet) ‘And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord’ Luke 1:45

Today’s Gospel reading is all about the Annunciation. Mary, Mother of the Saviour, is full of grace and the Lord is with her. Thus, Mary was graced from the very beginning. She was graced before sin could strike her. She was graced because the true Emmanuel, God with us, would be with her, within her, through her and made by her. This shows us that God in his wisdom had long ago prepared for us the most Blessed Virgin Mary.


On this last Sunday of Advent, we begin more intensively to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. There are the many practical things to do, such as the buying of presents, the shopping for food, and all the necessities of a great feast. But let us not forget that this great feast is in honour of the Lord and we take time to prepare ourselves spiritually as well. And if we look with objectivity at Mary, we will see in her simplicity and in her obedience to God’s will a wonderful model for our own lives. We cannot imagine very clearly what went through her mind on that day of the Annunciation. But all we know is that she placed herself at God’s disposal and that God found her to be a worthy vessel to carry his only begotten Son. She was not to build a Temple but to be the Temple of God.

Let us then pray today that we may imitate Mary and be so open and welcoming to God that He may make his true home in us and that we will carry him to all those we encounter.



Holy Father’s Prayer Intention for December: For Pilgrims of Hope Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith; helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope

Holy Father’s Prayer Intention for January: For the right to an education Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

 The Sanctuary lamp will burn for Anthony & Mona Pinto RIP, Manuel Cirne RIP and the Ferreira family at Holy Cross and for Linda Unigwe thanksgiving, Valentine Chukwunnwike’s birthday and Donatus Kofo Olawole RIP at St Patrick.

Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell: Bob Kapp, Philomena Flaherty, Jo O’Connell, Dave Kent, Mary Mulholland, Maura Nagle, Norma Barrett, Chris Britto, Eileen McPadden, Nuala McGovern, Vanessa Maloney, Aurora Miranda, Charles, Sarah, Sven & Lloyd, Jimmy Gjelaj, Pressie Fernandez, Kathy Mann, Betty O’Donoghue, Yolanda Perera, Pat Cullen, Marianne Ali, Trevor Brown, John McPartlin, Louise Perera, Sarah Young & family, Irene D’Souza, Alex Pollock, Kevin Murphy, Susannah Brown, John Colacco, Henry Agbadamusi, Dave Orrel, Stephen Brown, Erin Johnston, Maureen Cunney, Eddie White, **those who have died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Joe Roberts, Eric Kemp, Lourdes Howson, Lilian Brown, Elizabeth Deeney, Eileen Hennessey, Bill James, Peter Houlihan, Bonnie Kennedy, Linda Booker, Herbert Cox, Christine Murphy, Eugene Connor, Margaret Little, Janes Halles, Dagma Hakels. Ethna Joyce, Pat Moore, Frederick Appleby, Irene Calleja, Patrick Quinall, Marie Xoc, Fr Denis Barry, John Bevan, Michael Horne, Ivy James, Bill Gahan, Jane Halles, Heather Birney, Patrick Keogh, George Bradford, John Ingham, Catherine Paine, Brigid Hawkins, Eamonn O’Connor, Laura Coyla, Mary Eakin, Owen Kyne, Elizabeth Cassidy, Kathleen Kennedy

Readers *St Patrick*
22nd December: 10.15 Youth Mass 18.00 L Keys
29th December: 10.15 Anslem 18.00 L Kale
5th January: 10.15 Faith & Cynthia 18.00 B Davern
12th January: 10.15 D Ohia & A Saliu 18.00 N Brown

Holy Cross
21st Dec: 5.30 Divine 22nd Dec: 8.45 Abigail
28th Dec: 5.30 Brian 29th Dec: 8.45 Ian

CHILDREN’S LITURGY *St Patrick children under 10 years*
22nd December – Parish Youth Mass
29th December – NO CHILDREN’S LITURGY
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Please see separate sheet for the Mass intentions from Saturday, 21st December to Sunday, 12th January.



Your crib offerings are for the Catholic Children's Society, which supports disadvantaged children and families across London, Hertfordshire and the South East

The Parish Christmas Party for the over 60's last Saturday was a great success, enjoyed by all, thanks to your generosity and support of the fund-raising events and to all who helped. Special thanks to Audrey, Bernie, Celina, Dot, Esther, Ethna, Francesca, Hazel, Kathy, Laura, Louise, Priscilla, Tosin and Angelica & Modupe and all the Youth for your tremendous support and help. Thank you also to Andrew Johnson Funeral Directors for donating the Christmas crackers, which added the finishing touch to the festivities.



A BIG Thank you also to everyone who contributed to the Parish Christmas Hamper Campaign. Beautiful hampers loaded with gifts, Christmas treats and shopping vouchers were very gratefully received this week.



CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY COLLECTION
*for the clergy of the parish. Offerings can be made by cash, cheque (payable to **RCAS LUMSTEAD**), contactless card machine or by banker's order with the reference **CHRISTMAS**.*

NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK
Acc No: 79136796 Sort Code: 60-50-01
Acc Name: RCAS PLUMSTEAD

Offertory collection 15th December £955.75

Thank you for your continued support of our parish throughout the year

