

WELCOME TO



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. Oluwale Alayo & Rev. Anthony Wentworth

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

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

Holy Cross, 27 The Slade, Plumstead Common, SE18 2NB

Tel: 020 3722 7573, Email: plumstead@rcaos.org.uk

www.stpatricksholycross.org.uk

St Patrick's Primary School, Griffin Road, Plumstead, SE18 7QG Tel: 0208 854 3881 www.stpatrickprimary.org.uk

Head Teacher: Miss Mary Murphy

Archdiocese of Southwark is a Registered Charity: 1173050

Salvatorian Trustees Registered Charity No 231410



Parish Office: Tuesday & Wednesday – 9.00 to 3pm. Thursday 9.00 to 2.30pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent Ps4 28th December (pg90)

As Advent nears its end, the Gospel draws our attention to Joseph's quiet and faithful response to God. Faced with uncertainty and fear, Joseph listens to God's message and chooses trust over doubt. His righteousness is revealed through compassion, humility, and obedience, as he accepts Mary and the child she carries. In doing so, Joseph makes room for Emmanuel, God-with-us, entering the world.

This final Sunday of Advent invites us to reflect on how we respond when God's plans differ from our own. Like Joseph, we are called to welcome Christ into our lives with openness and courage. As we prepare for Christmas, may we learn to trust God's presence in the ordinary and unexpected moments of our daily lives.

Christmas

On Christmas Day, we rejoice in the mystery of the Word made flesh. God does not come with power or grandeur, but as a vulnerable child, born into the simplicity of human life. In Jesus, Emmanuel, God draws near to us, sharing our joys, struggles, and hopes. The light that shines from the manger is not distant or abstract; it enters our world to transform it from within.

This feast invites us to receive Christ anew, not only as a memory of the past, but as a living presence among us today. As we celebrate, we are called to welcome this divine light into our hearts and homes, and to carry it outward through acts of love, mercy, and peace for all.

CONFESSIONS *St Patrick*: Saturday after 10.00 Mass

Holy Cross: Saturday before 5.30pm Mass

There will be no EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT until further notice

Holy Cross

Mass intentions

St. Patrick

17.30 Anthony & Mona Pinto RIP	Sat. 20 th December FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT	10.00 Mary-Jane's intentions
8.45 Robert William Gordon RIP AND Tina Holmes RIP <i>anniversaries</i>	Sun. 21 st December FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT	10.15 Vera Pollock RIP <i>anniversary</i> AND Mary Peiris birthday thanksgiving & intentions 18.00 John Wishart RIP and family
10.00 Victor Pereira RIP	Mon. 22 nd December FERIA	9.00 Cecilia's intentions
NO MASS	Tues. 23 rd December FERIA	NO MASS
20.00 Welfare of Jo & Mike O'Connell	Wed. 24 th December FERIA CHRISTMAS EVE	17.30 Hughie & Michael Feehily RIP <i>anniversary</i> 12.00 <i>Midnight Peace</i> throughout the World
8.45 Eileen & Sandy Paterson	Thur. 25 th December THE NATIVITY of the LORD	10.15 Mary & Christy Costelloe Christmas greetings
10.00 Steve Fitzgerald RIP	Fri. 26 th December St Stephen, Deacon, the First Martyr	10.15 Donal Meade & Stephen Manning RIP
17.30 Margaret Synnott RIP <i>anniversary</i>	Sat. 27 th December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	St John, Apostle & Evangelist 10.00 Mado Kaching Zeng AND Chris Cullen RIP
8.45 Kathleen & Martin Conneally	Sun. 28 th December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	10.15 Thanksgiving 33 rd wedding anniversary 18.00 Bridget Wishart and family

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December: For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Please note – notices for the Parish Newsletter, with Father's prior permission, should be sent to the Parish Office by **Wednesday at 12 noon** (by email, 'phone or printed copy). We will do our best to include items, but cannot always guarantee this.
Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Offertory 13th December £981.80

The Christmas collection is your offering for the clergy of the parish. If you are a Gift Aid member, please use the dated Christmas envelope in your box. Donations can also be made by cheque to **RCAS PLUMSTEAD**, banker's order with the reference **CHRISTMAS**, or using the contactless machine at the back of church.

Mass times cards

Cards are at the back of church – please take one for friends and neighbours and encourage them to join us over the Christmas season. **Please note: the correct time of Mass at Holy Cross on Saturday, 27th December is 5.30 pm (not 5pm as on the printed card)**

READERS *St Patrick*
21st December: 10.15 Guides/Brownies 18.00 N Brown
28th December: 10.15 Youth Mass 18.00 L Keys
Holy Cross
20th Dec: 17.30 Brian 21st Dec: 8.45 Jason
27th Dec: 17.30 Mike 28th Dec: 8.45 Ian

CHILDREN'S LITURGY *St Patrick* **children under 10 years**
21st December to 4th January – **NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

The **Sanctuary Lamp** will burn for Anthony & Mona Pinto RIP at Holy Cross and Mary-Jane and Cecilia's birthdays at St Patrick.

Guides (girls aged 10 – 14) *Brownies (girls aged 7 – 10)* **Mondays 6 – 7.30pm**
For more information on joining please contact:
Tatayana – 07921500555 Natasha – 07941967414

We would like to wish you and your dear ones all the Blessings of Christmas and the New Year
Fr Fortunatus, Fr Floribert, Deacons Tony and Wole

The Sanctuary Lamp burns red to remind us that Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle. Sanctuary Lamp intentions can be requested for many reasons – remembering loved ones, thanksgiving, get well wishes, birthdays/special occasions. The list is now available at the back of church

CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT

This is how we are reaching out to our neighbours in need:

***GREENWICH FODBANK.** Tinned & packet foods, toiletries, nappies can be brought to church at any time. **We will continue to have our monthly collection of food every fourth Sunday of the month (Youth Sunday). No fresh food please**
*** Christ the King 6th Form Christmas Toy appeal,** We delivered 4 boxes of toys to the College in Lewisham. Thank you to all who donated to help make Christmas enjoyable for children.

In his annual Christmas message, **Archbishop John Wilson** said: "The beautiful truth of Christmas is that because of God in Christ we are never lost. God chose to be near us, to stay close to us always, to draw us to himself, always. In his endless mercy, the Lord Jesus chose to love us, so we could know and believe that "God is love" (1 John 4:16). 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". You can watch and read the full message at

rcaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025



Please pray for those who are unwell: Margaret Ollin, Pat Cullen, Christopher Nnabike, Yolanda Perera, Norma Barrett, Bridie Maguire, Loretta, Sophie & Pablo Picola, Hana Gjelij, Bob Kapp, Philomena Flaherty, Jo O'Connell, Dave Kent, Mary Mulholland, Maura Nagle, Chris Britto, Eileen McPadden, Nuala McGovern, Aurora Miranda, Charles, Sarah, Sven & Lloyd, Jimmy Gjelij, Pressie Fernandez, Betty O'Donoghue, Louise Perera, Marianne Ali, Trevor Brown, John McPartlin, 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, **for those who have died, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Harry Johnston, Joe Barrett, Joe Roberts, Eric Kemp, Lourdes Howson, Lilian Brown, Elizabeth Deeney, Eileen Hennessey, Bill James, Peter Houlihan, Bonnie Kennedy, Linda Booker, Herbert Cox.



USED POSTAGE STAMPS
in aid of the London Air Ambulance

Please save any stamps from letters you receive – after Christmas, there will be a box at the back of church to collect your used stamps for charity.

Account details: NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK
Acc Name: RCAS - PLUMSTEAD
Acc No: 79136796 Sort code: 60-50-01
Please make cheques payable to: RCAS PLUMSTEAD