

St. Mary's Catholic Church ~ Our Lady of Reparation

4th Sunday Sunday of Advent ~Year B ~ 24th December 2017

<p>70 Wellesley Road, Croydon CR0 2AR Tel: (020) 8688 1857 E-mail: parish@saint-mary.org.uk Website: www.saint-mary.org.uk Live internet Camera: 7am-10pm Church Opening Times: 7am-7pm</p>	 <p>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Wednesdays 12.45pm to 2pm Saturdays 10.30am to 12pm First Fridays 10.45am to 3pm</p> <p> Our Lady </p> <p>Fatima Devotion – First Saturdays Perpetual Succour All other Saturdays @ 12 noon</p>	<p>Rev. Fr. Michael Scanlon (Parish Priest) Fr. Celestine Ekwueme (Assistant Priest) Fr. Mark Binang (Assistant Priest) Rev. Vincent Morrison (Permanent Deacon)</p> <hr/> <p>✠ Sunday Mass times ✠ 7pm (Saturday) 8am., 9.15am., 10.45am., 12.15pm., 3pm., & 6pm</p>  <p>Daily Mass times Monday to Friday • 10am & 12.10pm Saturdays • 10am</p>
<p>Confession times <u>Saturdays</u> 10.30am-11.30am & 6pm -7pm <u>Wednesdays</u> 12.40pm – 1pm <u>First Friday</u> 10.30am ~2pm (and at call)</p>		
<p>Prayer times Rosary • 9.40am • Monday to Friday Morning Prayer • 9.40am • Saturdays</p>		

<p>2017 Saturday 23rd December 4th Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Tuesday 26th December St. Stephen, First Martyr 10.00am Dulciconia Noronha, RiP</p>	<p>Sunday 31st December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</p>			
7.00pm	James Okoye, RiP	11.00am	Church closed	8.00am	People of the Parish
<p>Sunday 24th December 4th Sunday of Advent</p>		<p>Wednesday 27th December St. John the Evangelist</p>		9.15am	All victims of suicide
8.00am 9.15am 10.45am 12.15pm	Cecilia Edbuhuzor, RiP James Maguire, RiP James Okoye, RiP For Christine Joyce	10.00am 12.10pm	Sapiencia Noronha, RiP Mrs Ubaldina F X De Souza, RiP	10.45am 12.15pm 3.00pm	Jack & Dorothy Stokoe, RiP Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, in thanksgiving Shereen (Sherry) Thompson, RiP
<p>Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve 6.00pm Children's Vigil Christmas Mass – for the Children of the Parish</p>		<p>Thursday 28th December The Holy Innocents 10.00am Dan Joe Cullony, RiP 12.10pm Mr & Mrs Reneaux, 25th Wedding Anniversary in thanksgiving</p>		6.00pm 10.00pm	Maria Rosiau, in thanksgiving Devotions & Adoration to welcome the New Year (doors open: 9pm) <i>Leading into midnight Mass to</i>
8.00pm	Early midnight Christmas Mass – Priests intentions			<p>Monday 1st January 2018 Holy Mary, Mother of God</p>	
11.00pm	Carol Service (doors open: 10pm) <i>Leading into midnight Mass</i>			12.00am <i>midnight</i>	People of the Parish
<p>Monday 25th December The Nativity of Our Lord</p>				10.00am	Private intentions
12.00am <i>Midnight</i>	People of the Parish	<p>Friday 29th December St. Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop and Martyr</p>		12.00pm	Priests intentions Church closed
8.00am	For new born babies	10.00am	Elfreda D'Souza, wellbeing	<p>✠Wednesday Word for 31 Dec 2017 <u>1st Reading</u> Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6 & 12-14 <u>2nd Reading</u> Colossians 3: 12-21 Gospel  Luke 2: 22-40</p>	
9.15am	For the sick and housebound	12.10pm	The De Oliveira Family, RiP		
<p>PARISH SURGERY Closed: Mondays 25th & 1st Jan Thursday @ 9.30am to 11.30am & 5pm to 6.30pm</p>		<p>Saturday 30th December 10.00am Maureen Donoghue's intention 7.00pm Clarence Gomes and his family, RiP</p>		<p>Parish Shop Times: Sat: 6pm to 8pm * Sun: 8am to 1pm * Wed: 10.30am to 12pm & First Fridays-10.30am to 3pm Closed: 24th Dec & 25th Dec</p>	

Peaceful Rest

✱ May BREEN, RiP
Rose NICHOLSON, RiP
(details to be confirmed)

and

Deceased Diocesan Clergy
Canon Tony Ford
Fr. Roy Dustan
Fr. Peter Madden
Fr. Kevin Pelham

Please remember our parishioners and Diocesan Clergy who have died. Fr. Peter and Fr. Kevin are both past priests of this parish. May the Angels lead them all into Paradise. To their families and friends and the communities who mourn them, we offer our heartfelt sympathies and all our support during these tender times.

The Holy Season

Please take a Parish Christmas Card which contains details of Masses & Services for Christmas and the New Year.

Note

Sun 24th Dec is 4th Sunday of Advent. The 7pm Saturday (23rd Dec) Vigil, the Sunday (24th Dec) 8am, 9.15am, 10.45am & 12.15pm Masses are all 4th Sunday of Advent Masses

Also, it is a Day of Prayer for all expectant mothers. Those expecting, will be invited at the above Masses to approach the Altar for a Blessing following the end of the bidding prayers.

Sun 24th Dec is also Christmas Eve and Christmas Masses are: 6pm, 8pm, Carol Service at 11pm leading us into midnight Mass for Christmas day, Mon 25th Dec

Sun 24th Dec 2017

No Mass at 3pm

Mon 25th Dec 2017

No Mass at 3pm or 6pm

Your Christmas Newsletter

Will be available from the 6pm Mass onwards on 24th Dec (Christmas Eve). Please also see the parish web site and porch noticeboard.

The Parish Pastoral Council are pleased to present
7-day Parish Mission Lent 2018, 17 Mar to 23 Mar
Led by the Redemptorists – please hold the dates

Services & Masses with Music for Christmas

Sun 24 Dec

6pm Children's Vigil Christmas Mass
8pm Early Midnight Christmas Mass

11pm Parish Christmas Carol Service

Followed by Midnight Mass into Christmas Day (25 Dec)

Mon 25 Dec Christmas Day

Music @ 9.15am, 10.45am & 12.15pm Masses

Sun 31 Dec

New Year's Eve

31 Dec (5th Sun of month)	9.15am 10.45am 12.15pm	Cantor /organist MVC (male voice) Main choir & musicians
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Adoration

& Devotions @ 10pm
Followed by Midnight Mass
into New Year's Day
Monday 1st January 2018

**Bible Studies & Charismatic Prayers
Closed 29th Dec 2017
Re-starts 5th Jan 2018**

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)

**stmarysucm@gmail.com
7pm Parish Prayer Room
Tue 19 Jan 2017**

Many thanks to those who provided 'shoe box' presents for the homeless and vulnerable guests who will be visiting St Mildred's for lunch on Christmas Day. Over 60 colourful boxes were delivered to the church on Wednesday. St Mildred's have asked us to pass on their thanks to the parish for your support and generosity as each guest will receive a gift from us this Christmas. We hope you had as much fun as we did searching for things useful, fun and a bit special to include in your box. The UCM are looking forward to working together with St Mildred's again next year including supporting them at Easter. More details about that next year. We would really like to hear your ideas for future projects so please email us or come along to our next meeting.

Christmas Message from Fr. Michael

Peace be with you! May the Infant Jesus be born again in your hearts and in the hearts of all your loved ones.

This last year has seen many amazing events, practical and spiritual in the life of this our Parish which is consistently, 2,000 strong in parishioners and Mass-goers. We have seen the numbers increase in recent years and over recent blessed occasions such as the Padre Pio weekend, the Visitation of the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, the additional Masses to seek the intercession of the Saints together with important Feast occasions such as Divine Mercy Sunday. These, and the many other occasions of prayer together with our regular devotions, like the Rosary and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, have brought countless spiritual benefits to the Parish community and we thank God unceasingly and Our Lady, the Mother of our Parish, to whose Immaculate Heart this Parish was earlier this year, along with our three parish schools, consecrated.

Days rich in blessings! We have had many infant and toddler Baptisms. A wonderful number of children for First Holy Communion and First Confession. Many of our young people became soldiers for Christ when they received the Sacrament of Confirmation. We have been delighted by the numbers for the Sacrament of Marriage and we have prepared them for marriages both here in the Parish and overseas. Our First Friday Anointing of the Sick, continues to be very special, welcoming people from across the Diocese which sees many joining with us in person with their carers and via the internet so that they come to know that the Lord is with them in all their suffering. There have been many healings bodily, in mind and most importantly spiritually. We thank Heaven for all these healings. Our Ministry to the sick is very important to us as priests and as a parish.

As we ready ourselves to celebrate the birth of the Jesus, on a sad note, we remember those who have died. Well over 40 parishioners together with clergy such as our dear friend, Fr. Andrew Fernandes, who lived out their lives of Faith, have passed away this year. Many more have died amongst our extended families and communities. I myself lost my brother Larry and many of you have lost grandparents, parents, siblings, cousins, in-laws and other family members, both here at home and abroad. We continue to pray for their peaceful rest and assure those who grieve, of our prayers and sympathetic support.

Our prayers were answered when the set-backs with our Parish Centre, were overcome with the policy paying out and the remedial works getting underway swiftly so that we could actually start to use it. I'm sure you'll agree, that it is a very pleasing venue giving us lots of activity and space for parish life and helping out with Deanery and Diocesan events. There is still some work to do, so please bear with us!

Our Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council and Youth Council are now starting to take shape with their contributions becoming evident as we all walk towards "Our Parish, Our Future". Part of this is our schools with whom we have a good relationship. Congratulations to the students and staff and all the school communities who have gone from strength to strength; we continue to pray for their ongoing success.

This is also a chance to thank each and everyone of you for the contributions you make to the running of the Parish, from the very practical to the Liturgical. I thank you for your prayers, kindness and support for me and my fellow clergy, Fr. Celestine, Fr. Mark and Deacon Vincent, whose help, wisdom and support, I am grateful for.

I want us to move into 2018 together. It will be another year of grace and blessing with the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool – "Adoremus" and the Holy Father's visit to Dublin for the **World Meeting of Families**. These two very important events in the life of the Church in the UK, will be celebrated in the heart of our own Parish Mission. From 17th March, the Redemptorists will lead us in a week-long Mission as we celebrate in unity, the special events of the year.

May the Lord bless your life on earth. May it make a difference to many. May your witness to the one true Faith open the doors of the Heart of Divine Mercy to bless you, strengthen you, encourage you.

He is The Lord with Our Lady of Bethlehem. May your family home become a house of prayer.

Merry Christmas and thank you.....Fr. Michael Scanlon