



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH



208 Sangley Road, Catford, London SE6 2JS

antonymegalan@rcaos.org.uk
www.holycross-catford.org.uk

Fr Antony Megalan Sellam [Parish Priest]
020 8698 3672

21st Dec/22nd Dec 2019

4th Sunday of Advent year A - Page 90 in the Parish Mass Book

The Forth Week of Advent Prayer

Lord God, our minds and hearts are filled with hope. We long to hear the voice which tells us of the coming of the Christ Child. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy and give us the strength to grow in love. Amen.



Christmas Eve 5pm Family Mass: For the Family Mass, kindly dress your children up like shepherds or any other characters of the crib please. They will be gathered in front of the altar during the homily.

Christmas Mass Times

[Tues] 5pm – Family Mass

7pm – Vigil Mass

11.15pm – Carols

12 midnight – Festive Mass

Christmas Day

10am and 11.30am

Meaningful Crib: May Finaldi builds a lovely Crib every Christmas. This year she does it under the theme of the Mystery of the Incarnation of our Lord. You are most welcome to visit her Christmas Crib on Sunday 29th from 13.00 to 18.00 pm at 69, Bargery Road.

Admirable Signum (The Importance of the Nativity): Many Catholics consider the presence of a crib scene as essential to celebrating the seasons of Advent and Christmas in their home. Pope Francis has recently written an Apostolic Letter: Admirable Signum, on the meaning and importance of the nativity scene, which continues to inspire and amaze people of all ages. Kindly use the link below to read the document on line.
http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20191201_admirabile-signum.html

Crib Offerings: The crib offerings this year go to Mini Vinnies [Children SVP].

The Holiday Season: Many people will be going away on holiday. If you are a reader or Lay Minister of Communion, please remember to plan ahead and arrange a substitute for your absence. Many thanks.

Please note: The collections at all the Christmas Masses will be your gift to Fr Antony. Thank you.

Pray for the sick: Let us pray for the sick including Pat Doyle, Gloria Israel, Mariam Philomin, Rose Calver, Charlie Hyam, Anthony Sullivan, Agatha Lewis, Myra Hannon, Elizabeth Goba, Florence Nosgobie, Gala Lobo and Ann Whittington.

Altar Servers: Christmas and New Year Masses: Please sign up for ONE Christmas Mass on the sheet in the sacristy and arrive at least ten minutes before the Mass to pray and give thanks for God's greatest gift. Please sign up for ONE New Year Mass on the sheet in the sacristy and arrive ten minutes before the celebration of God's love. How will YOU be a good friend of Jesus in 2020? Thank you!

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers - Christmas Rota: Please volunteer to cover one of the slots on the Christmas Rota. Go to the Welcome desk at the back of the church and offer to fill one of the slots. Thank you. If you would like to do a reading at one of the Christmas services, please make sure you provide an email address so that we can send you the reading. You will be expected to attend a practice session (details will be in your email).

Children's Mass Books: Parents are asked to encourage their young children to follow the Mass using the new Children's Mass Books. Please return the books to the back of the church before you leave.

Have a safe journey: If you are making a journey to your native land to celebrate Christmas, please be assured of our prayers for you and your family. Though we will miss you here in these days, we wish you a blessed and joyful time with your family members and friends. Kindly remember Psalm 91:11 when you travel: "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways...". Have a safe journey and we wish you a Happy Christmas.

NEW YEAR MASS IN HOLY CROSS

Adoration and Benediction from 11pm
New Year Mass begins at midnight
Holy Mass in Tamil - 7.30am
New Year Mass – 10am

MASS INTENTIONS

MASS TIME	This Week (21 st – 27 th Dec)	Next Week (28 th Dec – 3 rd Jan)
[Sat 21] SUN 22	6.30 pm 10.00 am 11.30 am Libby McNamara R.I.P. People of the Parish R.I.P. Francesca Candita Simpkins R.I.P. Baptism: Aniya Chloe Faith Bethel	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH John Organ R.I.P. John Baptiste Thomas R.I.P. Franz Busuttill R.I.P.
MON 23	9.15 am Eileen Kelly R.I.P.	10.00 am Philomin & Stella – 48 th wedding anniversary St Sylvester I, Pope
TUE 24	9.15 am Michael Herlihy (Foundation Mass) R.I.P.	10.00 am Theresa Green R.I.P.
WED 25	Details of Mass time given elsewhere – All Masses offered for the People of the parish	Mary, the Holy Mother of God 10.00 am New Year's Day Mass
THU 26	10.00 am Stephen Baldwin R.I.P.	Brendan Sullivan R.I.P.
FRI 27	7.30 pm 8.00 pm Adoration and Benediction Mary Monaghan	Adoration and Benediction TG for the favours of St Anthony/Blessed Mother
Parish Contacts Parish Office - Open Wed & Fri [10am -3pm] Josepha Flahive [secretary] Lisa O'Hara [volunteer] 020 8698 3672; catford@rcaos.org.uk Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Holy Cross Bookshop, 020 3441 8240 Holy Cross School 020 8698 2675 Miss Mary Collins & Miss Giovanna Finaldi www.holycross.lewisham.sch.uk		Repository: To buy gifts and cards, the church shop is open after all weekend Masses. St Vincent De Paul [SVP] 07835 188411 Safeguarding Line 07598 524024 Third Thursday Time TTT Email: thirddthursdaytime@gmail.com Hartley Hall [Angela Allen] Culverley Road, SE6 2LD Email: hartleyhall@holycross-catford.org.uk Finance: £630.30; SO £503 Newsletter matters to be sent to antonymegalan@rcaos.org.uk by Wednesday.

Welcome Corner: the welcoming ministers after weekend Masses help you to find the following: Parish registration Form, Baptism Application Form, Baptism Certificate Request Form, Altar Server's Application Form, New Reader's Application Form, Standing Order Form, Gift Aid Form, New Volunteer's Form, SVP Referral Form, Third Thursday Time Application Form and so on. You may also find the Holy Mass request Form there. Kindly use it.

Our parish has continued to reach out to the more vulnerable members of our community during advent in many different ways: SVP and TTT supported 22 adults and children to attend a local pantomime and delivered hampers and toys to families. The mini vinnies put the hamper bags together and some of the YSVP helped deliver them. Several parishioners took part in a bucket collection at the local train stations for the 999 club, a local charity who helps those who are homeless and is the Mayor's chosen charity. Members of the Diamond Club and children from Holy Cross went carol singing round some of the local care homes and the local Co-op store bringing festive cheer. There is a three course "Bring me sunshine" event for older people on the 28th December at Brownhill Road Baptist Church, 11am-3pm and a New Year luncheon celebration and service on the 11th January, 11.30am-3.30pm in the school hall for our older parishioners and housebound members of the parish. For more info call 07729 785843.



The Soup Kitchen at 1 Bromley Road, Catford is offering warmth, food and company on Christmas Day. Please see the poster in the porch. Lewisham Foodbank opening times are also displayed.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to ensuring our church is open and welcoming. Throughout the year there are many groups of people who work together in and out of the church throughout the community, spreading God's message in their kindness and generosity. I wish you all a wonderful, fun-filled and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Many thanks to the **Filipino Community** for decorating our Parish Christmas Tree.

Many thanks to **Tony and Marian Early** for setting up the Christmas Crib.

Tony Early has also built a lovely bookcase for the Parish Mass books. Thanks.