



# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (B)

20<sup>th</sup> December 2020



### Parish Office

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### Fr Antony Megalan Sellam

Parish Priest  
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**Joy is a great gift of the Holy Spirit**, which has been poured into our hearts at baptism. And it never leaves us, even if we're experiencing challenging times. 2020 has been a challenging year for us all. It has been challenging to see so many struggles with the virus – to see support services stretched to the limit, to see so many generous people volunteering and working hard.

As we once again gather at Holy Cross with loved ones, family and friends in celebration of God's immeasurable love for us, made known through the birth of His only Son Jesus Christ, I wish to offer my prayers and very best wishes for a holy and blessed Christmas.

May the New Year offer an abundance of health, happiness and peace. Merry Christmas!

Faithfully in Christ, Fr Antony

### THANK YOU

We extend sincere thanks to the **Filipino Community**, who once again have decorated our lovely church with a beautiful Christmas tree and decorations.

We are very grateful to **Tony and Marian Early** for putting together the Christmas Crib again this year. As always, the Nativity is a beautiful reminder of the peace and joy our Saviour brings.

Thank you to everyone who helped as a Welcome Minister and Church Care Team Member ensuring the safety of our parishioners, and also those who assisted the welcome ministers with sanitising the church after each Mass.

**Please Note:** Although the 'obligation' to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation will remain suspended for the time being, many individuals and families will want to go to Mass at Christmas. Please however remember it is on a first come basis.

**The Church regards each day in an Octave as if it were the solemnity itself. Thus, I would like to invite you to make full use of the Christmas Octave and, if it is not possible to attend Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day this year, to do so during the Christmas Octave.**

Liturgically, each of the days from 25th December until the 1st January is 'Christmas Day'. So, if you participate in any one of these Masses in these days, you fulfil the obligation of participating the Christmas Mass itself.

**An invitation to children :** Children attending any of the Christmas Eve / Christmas Day Masses are invited to dress as a character from the Nativity Scene.

**Children's Liturgies:** During this 4th week of Advent Please use the link: <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/shows/> and [www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/](http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/)

**Brian Philip Conroy R.I.P.:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Brian Conroy whose funeral Mass will be on 15<sup>th</sup> January at 12 noon.

**9 pm for Night Prayer:** Please invite your family also to join the Night Prayer of the Universal Church at 9pm every day. Let us pray together and receive God's blessings before going to sleep. **Meeting ID: 7578777461; Passcode: 333777**

**Confirmation :** Please pray for Jeron Justin who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this coming Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

<i>Christmas Masses:</i>	
24 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	<b>5pm</b> [Children/Family Mass] and <b>7pm</b>
	<b>11.30pm</b> – Carol Service
	<b>Midnight</b> – Festive Mass
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Friday</b>	<b>9am, 11.30am and 5pm</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	[11am – UCM & Diamond Club] [4pm - Tamil] 7pm
27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9am and 11.30pm [4pm -Filipino]
28 <sup>th</sup> Monday	7pm
29 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	9.15am [6pm – Nigerian]
30 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	9.15am
31 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	5pm [Thanksgiving Mass]
	11pm – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	12 midnight – New Year Mass

HOLY MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS					
<b>SAT 19</b>	7 pm	Jim Callaghan R.I.P.	<b>WED 23</b>	9.15 am	Brian Conroy R.I.P.
<b>SUN 20</b>	9 am 11.30 am	Thanksgiving Edwin Noronah R.I.P	<b>THU 24</b>	Please refer to the Christmas Mass timetable	
<b>MON 21</b>	7 pm	Libby MacNamara R.I.P. (15 yrs)	<b>FRI 25</b>		
<b>TUE 22</b>	9.15 am	The Deceased Members of the Diamond Club R.I.P	<b>SAT 19</b>	7 pm	Mary Monaghan R.I.P.

### Sunday Mass Readings

**First reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16**

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.’

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”’

**Responsorial Psalm [Psalm 88(89)] I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.**

**Second reading: Romans 16:25-27**

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel Acclamation: Lk1:38**

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. He went in and said to her, ‘Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.’ She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, ‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?’ ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ the angel answered ‘and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.’ ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord,’ said Mary ‘let what you have said be done to me.’ And the angel left her.

**Libby MacNamara RIP 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020.** Please remember in your prayers Libby, who was very much a key parishioner during her time at Holy Cross more than 20 years ago. Libby was very much the main organiser of the Hartley Hall project, overseeing all fundraising, building works and then she managed the Hall until her untimely death in 2005. We remember Libby and her family at this time of year.

May they all be blessed with much love, comfort and peace.