



# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

208 Sangley Road, Catford, London SE6 2JS

**Christmas 2020**  
**[Nativity of the Lord]**



## Parish Office

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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



**THE CRIB Offering:** The crib offerings this year go to our Vincent De Paul Society [SVP] and the collections at all the Christmas Masses will be your gift to Fr Antony. Thank you.

## 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.

<i>Christmas Masses:</i>		<i>Mass Intention</i>
24 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	5pm - Children/Family Mass	For all children- baptised, received Holy Communion, Confirmed at Holy Cross in 2020 [People of the Parish]
	7pm	For all our catechists [People of the Parish]
	11.30pm - Carol Service	
	Midnight - Festive Mass	People of the Parish
25 <sup>th</sup> Friday	9am	For Altar Servers, Readers and Choir Members [People of the Parish]
	11.30am	For Welcome Ministers and different Committee members [People of the Parish]
	5pm	The Elderly and Housebound and the Eucharistic Ministers [People of the Parish]
26 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	11am - UCM & Diamond Club	<b>Saint Stephen, the first Martyr [morning]</b> For UCM & Diamond Club [People of the Parish]
	4pm - Mass in Tamil	For the Tamils [People of the Parish]
	7pm	<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b> Mary Monaghan R.I.P.
27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9am	John Baptiste Thomas R.I.P.
	11.30pm	People of the Parish
	4pm - Filipino	For the Filipinos [People of the Parish]
28 <sup>th</sup> Monday	7pm	<b>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</b> Theresa Green R.I.P.
29 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	9.15am	The Green Family – Wellbeing
	6pm - Nigerian	For the Nigerians [People of the Parish]
30 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	9.15am	Alan Clarke – 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary R.I.P.
31 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	5pm - Thanksgiving Mass	People of the Parish
	11pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Mary Mother of God, New Year 2021</b>
	12 midnight - New Year Mass	People of the Parish

## **RCIA Programme (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Hall)**

Are you interested in finding out more about our Faith and joining the Catholic Church please come and see if this is for you. If you are a parishioner, be an Apostle, invite friends, family members and acquaintances to take the opportunity to look at their lives and maybe find some answers to the big questions. Please contact Fr Antony or Judy Chen [drj\_chen@msn.com]

**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/)

**A joyous welcome into the Catholic faith:** Many congratulations to baby Eddison Alfred Foley-Stone who was baptised here at Holy Cross on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Music at Mass:** Holy Cross has always been blessed in the number of people willing and able to use their musical ability to enhance our celebration of Holy Mass. We have made a tentative return at some of the Masses, but now we need more of you to build on that for the future! There are many members of our congregation with voices or instrumental ability; please think about offering your time and unique gifts.

For both 9am and 11.30am Masses, we need those of you able to play the organ, piano or guitar to accompany singing; and those of you willing to lead the congregation in singing, as a cantor, or as part of a small group. You will be supported in this, and we plan to hold some 'workshop' sessions - when restrictions are beginning to lift.

**If you are interested in playing for or singing at the 9am Mass in future please speak to Fr Antony.**

**If you are interested in the 11.30 Mass, please speak to Anne Mellis or Fr Antony.**

**There will also be a list in the small porch as you exit the church, please write your name and contact details on there if you prefer.**

We would also like to re-establish a choir (or even choirs!). There are people with many different backgrounds and cultures in our congregation, so it would be wonderful to sometimes hear music from your communities too! Let us all 'Sing a new song to the Lord'!

## **A Bright Light of Joy**

[Lisa O'Hara]

It's been a dark and worrying year Filled with much dismay  
But now the final month is here Let's hope joy comes our way

The spirit, the fun, the festive cheer The Christmas songs we sing  
May they fulfil in us the strength of hope That Christmas usually brings

In years gone by our Christmas time Was filled with lots to do,  
With shopping trips and carol singing, Watching nativities, to name a few.

Dressing up for Christmas parties,  
And dancing all night long, drinking mulled wine and eating mince pies, Singing a carol song!

But despite this awful year, my dear I pray you'll feel the light  
The light of love, the light of peace The light that shines so bright.

May it fill you with hope,  
May it bring you good news,  
May it show you good fortune and peace,  
May it light up your days with a precious warm glow

May it stay with you my friend, always