

OUR LADY OF GILLINGHAM



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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO, registered charity 1173050

29 December 2024

✠ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph ✠

Year C

Reading 1	1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28	<i>Samuel is made over to the Lord for the whole of his life.</i>
Psalm	Ps 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 r.5	<i>They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.</i>
Reading 2	1 John 3:1-2, 21-24	<i>We are called God's children, and that is what we are.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	cf. Acts 16: 14	<i>Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son.</i>
Gospel	Luke 2:41-52	<i>Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the doctors.</i>

Readers this week

6.30pm Oliver Perez/Kieran Shannon	9.30am Susanne Inya/ Doris Chiamaka Eke	11.30am Chelsea Atoe/ Titus Eneh	6.30pm Chidubem Uche/Joan Aruma
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Readers next week:

6:30pm Benedict Kenechukwu/ Augustine Eghmare	9.30am Samuel Robson/ Nnamdi Eke	11.30am Danielle Ibeh/ Shakira Kara	6.30pm Chidubem Uche/Ugochi Uche
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✠ Please pray for Beryl Brooker †, Julieta Gomes†, and Maureen Chadwick† who have recently died and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

✠ Susan Bishop, Alfred Dean, Norah Smith, Thomas Parsons, Estelle Flannery, Leslie Hollingsworth, Jack McIntyre. Mary Miceleff, Karen Slater, Patricia Videt, Rodney Kirwan, James (Jim) Fitzgerald and Betty Kelly.

May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen

Collections Last week's collection amounted to £599.17 of which £104.20 was Gift Aided.

The QR code for contactless payments is shown here.



PARISH NOTICES

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: Fr. Dennis and Fr. Pascoal express heartfelt gratitude to you for your generous donations during the celebration of Christmas which amounted to £3,106. May the Almighty God bless you.

PARISH CHOIRS: Congratulations and thanks to all our choirs for the nice presentations of the Christmas carols on 24th December.

CONTACTLESS MACHINES: We apologize to you that our contactless machines at the back of the Church are not working due to the internet connection problems. All the parishioners who make donations and church collections by card use the **Contactless machine at the Sacristy.**

FR PASCOAL GOMES: As a parish we shall have a memorial mass for the repose of the soul of the mother of Fr. Pascoal (Julieta Gomes) on Monday 6th January 2025 at 6.30pm. Let us make effort to be there. Julieta was buried in Angola on 3rd December 2024.

FR. DENNIS BUKENYA: Due to the ill health of his mother, Fr. Dennis will be travelling to Uganda on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

BLESSINGS OF HOMES: Please return the completed forms as to help us in organizing the pastoral visits and blessing of your families during this Christmas season. Those who did not get the forms, you can collect them at the back of the Church.

FOOD BANK - The S.V.P. wish thank all our parishioners for their generous donations at Christmas and during the year 2024. There are many families in our community who have benefited from your support.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025: Today we launch with the local Churches across the world – the Jubilee Year 2025. Entitled the **Jubilee of Hope**, it will be an important milestone for our Archdiocese as we advance into the next phase of our **Called to Bear Fruit** journey, offering renewal and deeper engagement with our mission. The Pastoral message of the Archbishop for the launching of the Jubilee year is at the back page.

MASSES FOR THE NEW YEAR DAY 1ST JANUARY 2025

We shall have two masses, the first Mass at **10.00am** and second Mass at **6.30pm**

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL – meets on the second Sunday of every month the after 11.30 Mass

PASTORAL SUPPORT TO PARISHIONERS – Those in need of spiritual direction, pastoral guidance and counselling, please book an appointment with Fr. Dennis, Fr. Pascoal or Deacon Michael.

Many thanks and New Years' Blessings to all our parishioners, and gratitude to all the teams; volunteers, stewards, altar servers, OLOG Seeds, lay readers, cleaners, parish staff, decorators, pious groups, Catechists and all those who have assisted in the running of the parish. May the grace of God uphold you in 2025!

Mass intentions for the week of 29th December 2024

Saturday 28 th	10.00am 1.00pm Vigil Mass	Good Health for Liz Willis Filipino Mass Lee Family Intentions
Sunday 29 th	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	In Thanksgiving In Thanksgiving Holy Souls
Monday 30 th	10.00am	Intentions for Gillian Knight and Family
Tuesday 31 st	10.00am	Thanking God 2024 Lucky, Fransisca Onyikimba & Family
Happy New Year		
Mary, the Holy Mother of God Wednesday 01 January	10.00am 6.30pm	Repose of the souls of Dilisio & Cannavina Families Holy souls
Thursday 02 nd	10.00am	Repose of the soul of James A Lane
Friday 03 rd	10.00am 7.30pm	Repose of the soul of Una Brice Holy Souls
Saturday 04 th Vigil Mass	10.00am 6.30pm	Repose of the soul of Nicky Richardson Followed by Exposition and Confession Repose of the soul of Beryl Brooker

PASTORAL MESSAGE FOR OPENING THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Peace and joy to you, and to your families and loved ones, in this holy season of Christmas. Today's Feast of the Holy Family marks the opening of the Jubilee Year in our Archdiocese and across the Catholic Church worldwide. Its theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope.' As we launch this Year of renewal in faith, we seek to learn from the blessed household in Nazareth where the Lord Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, lived in simplicity, in love, and in faithfulness to the Father's will.

Looking to the Holy Family, we too are called to be pilgrims of hope, just like Mary and Joseph. As they journeyed with faith and trust, so must we. So, how do you live hopefully in light of Christ? In a world yearning for the tender closeness of Christ, how are you his hopeful presence to others?

‘See what kind of love the Father has given to us,’ explains St John, ‘that we should be called children of God.’ (1 John 3:1) Our identity as beloved children of God is the foundation of our discipleship as the family of God. The Lord Jesus came into the world in the embrace of a family. Through him, we are drawn into the very life of God as brothers and sisters in Christ.

This Jubilee Year is a summons to live together as pilgrims of hope. This is not just about being optimistic, or trying to keep cheerful. Christian hope means living with the desire for the kingdom of heaven and eternal life. It means relying on Christ’s promises and the help of the Holy Spirit. (cf. CCC 1817)

Our world needs witnesses to this hope. It needs disciples whose lives shine with the certainty that the Lord is near, even in times of darkness and suffering. Our hope grows stronger, not by avoiding difficulties, but by facing them with faith. God in Christ is Emmanuel - God with us always, no matter what. The famous words of Padre Pio, St Pio, encourage us all – ‘Pray, hope and don’t worry.’ Or, at least, pray, hope and try not to worry. The Lord is with us, the Lord is with you. Trust him and draw closer to him, especially through prayer and the Scriptures, through confession in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, through the Holy Eucharist, and through adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. As pilgrims of hope, in this Jubilee year of grace, I invite you, dear brothers and sisters, to renew your spiritual life and your service to others.

The Holy Family reminds us that evangelisation and mission begin in the heart and in the home. To parents I say ‘thank you’ for teaching your children to love the Lord Jesus, to pray, and to understand their faith; and, not least, to know the friendship of the saints. To our young people, I say ‘do not be afraid to embrace your faith with courage.’ The Lord Jesus is calling you to great things. Know, love and serve him, and he will guide your steps

So many people today carry heavy burdens — whether of sickness, grief, or loneliness, or in others ways, sometimes hidden. Know that you are especially close to the heart of the Lord Jesus and his Church. You can be powerful missionaries of hope, showing the world that God in Christ is near to the broken-hearted and raises up those who are crushed in spirit. (Cf. Ps. 34:18) The Church is a family of families. There are no orphans in Christ. We all have a home in the Church. In Christ, we are united as brothers and sisters, called to bear one another’s burdens and rejoice in one another’s happiness.

In this Jubilee year, I ask everyone in our Archdiocese to renew our commitment to building a culture of welcome and belonging within our parishes and schools. Let us seek out those on the margins — people who experience isolation, poverty, and despair. Let us be a Church where all feel at home, where the wounded find mercy, where the weary encounter rest, and where we all journey together in faith, hope and love.

As we begin our Jubilee pilgrimage, may our lives shine with the light of Christ, and, through him, may we bring his hope-filled joy to everyone we meet along the way.

