

St Simon † St Jude

Roman Catholic Church Streatham Hill

Sunday 24th December 2017

4th Sunday of Advent [Year B]

Remembering especially "our families"

WELCOME TO OUR SUNDAY MASS

Please join in with the words below in bold and follow the prayers of the Mass in the laminated guide or hymn book.

**Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.**

A reading from the second book of Samuel [7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16]
The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm [88]

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans [16:25-27]
The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [1:26-38]
Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.

At the preparation of the altar and gifts:

Our sacrificial giving is part of our participation at Mass and a sharing of the blessings God gives us. We take our 1st and 2nd collections one after the other to give time for sharing God's gifts and space for reflection and prayer after Holy Communion. **Our second collection this week is for our Parish Refurbishment Programme.**

Thank you for your support.

Communion antiphon:

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name shall be called Emmanuel.**

Mass details	Intentions
Saturday 6.00pm	Maudie Murphy
Sunday 10.30pm	Graham and Paul Hayes RIP.
Sunday 12.15pm	Private Intention (Nerina)
Christmas eve 6.00pm	Raymond Horsman
Christmas 11:00pm	Eileen & James Sullivan RIP
Christmas Day 10.30am	Catherine Lonergan RIP Aniv
Tuesday 26 th 10.00am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 27 th 10.00am	Holy Souls
Thursday 28 th 10:00am	Frances Joseph RIP
Friday 29 th 10:00am	Malluzzo (Birthday)
Weekend of Dec.31st	Saturday & Sunday
Saturday 30 st 6.00pm	Eileen Clancy
Sunday 31 10.30am	Graham Hayes RIP
12.15pm	Holy Souls

Parish Priest: Fr. Habte Ukbay, OFM.Cap

The Priest's House 5 Hillside Road
Streatham Hill London SW2 3HL

Telephone: 020 8678 9051 Twitter @StSimon_StJude

Email: st_sj_office@btinternet.com

Parish website: www.streathamhillcatholic.co.uk

<http://www.justgiving.com/StSimon-and-StJude>

Archdiocesan website: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

Weekend Mass:

Saturday 6.00pm Sunday 10.30am & 12.15pm

Weekday Mass:

Morning Prayer at 9.00am with Mass at 9.15 am,
but please check the Mass Intention List for details.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mondays after Mass from 9.45am ending with
Rosary, Benediction and St Jude Novena at noon.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 5.30 – 5.55 pm and by arrangement.

Baptisms and Weddings by arrangement

Please see Father Habte to make an appointment.

Collections

Thank you: our collections last week raised:

£284.00 For the running of the Parish

£208.00 For the Refurbishment Programme

These sums include monies given in Gift Aid envelopes. Our thanks also go to those who donate by Banker's Order direct into the parish account.

REFLECTION – This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

No Benediction for the coming two weeks: - We will have no exposition of the blessed sacrament, benediction and Rosary for the next two weeks. We will resume on Monday 15th January 2018.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able to respond with obedience.

CHRISTMAS ROTAS – READERS, GREETERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, and COLLECTORS AND ALTAR SERVERS who volunteered to help over Christmas: Please check your rota on the Notice board. Many thanks.

Humour: A school play is being planned to re-enact the Nativity. The boy chosen as the innkeeper is reluctant because he doesn't want to turn Mary and Joseph away. Finally, he agrees to take the role. On the day of the play, standing on the stage, he graciously greets Mary and Joseph at the door of the inn and says, "Sorry, there's no rooms for you - but come in and have something to drink anyway".

Please take a Christmas card so that you and your family have the Mass times at hand over the Christmas season. In this way we render great help to our priest by not phoning to check for Mass times.

TRADITIONAL IRISH STEP DANCING AT STS. SIMON AND JUDE PARISH HALL: A traditional Irish step dancing starting in January. All abilities welcome- 5 years and upwards. If you are interested to join please contact Mrs Bridie Willis on 0208 764 7668 or irish.dance@btinternet.com.

THANK YOU to all who came on Saturday 23rd December to help with flower arrangement, decorating and cleaning the church.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING TO THE PARISH PRIEST:- Traditionally, the offering at Christmas is your gift to the Parish Priest. This offering forms a good part of the money that goes to make up his stipend over the year. The Christmas envelopes are available in the porch, the finance committee ask you to be as generous as possible to our parish priest Fr. Habte at Christmas. It is our way of supporting his expenses and saying thank you for his ministry among us. If you are going at Christmas please use the Red envelope and put it in the letter box whenever you can.

OFFERINGS AT THE MANGER: This year, we shall be collecting for the work of the Franciscan Capuchins in Ethiopia. The Franciscans through their Scholasticate adoption programme support disadvantaged children and families in need to help the children to go to schools by covering some of their school expenses please be as generous as you can be.

No Benediction for the coming two weeks:- We will have no exposition of the blessed sacrament, benediction and Rosary for the next two weeks. We will resume on Monday 15th January 2018.

OFFICE HOURS: The office is closed until Wednesday 3rd January. The answer machine will be switched on and messages will be responded to. In an emergency please come to the door and if no one is there, please leave a written message.

Our family Christmas Vigil Mass will be at 6:00pm, For the Christmas Eve Children's Mass, the prayers of the faithful will be led by the children. After the Family Mass all children and parents are invited to the hall for refreshment and celebration of Christmas with Pannetone and soft drinks. Parents if you would like to help in serving our children please contact Adeline Chan on (adeline.chan@hotmail.com) or call her on 07986 049672.

THANK YOU, as always, for your contributions to the Parish collections. **Our Second collection next week, is for our Parish Refurbishment Programme,** please be generous. Please also remember if you contribute via the Gift Aid scheme to use the envelopes provided. To help plan your giving please take enough envelopes home for the month so that you can complete the details of the envelope beforehand and bring them with you to church. If writing a cheque, **please make out a separate cheque for each collection,** payable to 'St Simon & St Jude RC Church'. Thank you.

PARISH DIARY AT ST SIMON & ST JUDE'S
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018:- First Holy Communion classes Parents' Meeting:- on Saturday 13th Jan, at 10:00am in the parish hall.

CHOIR PRACTICE:- Choir practice on Monday 8th January at 7:30pm.

Sunday 31st December 2017

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph [Year B]

Entrance Antiphon:

The shepherds went in haste, And found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

A reading from the book of Genesis [15:1-6; 21:1-3].
Your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.

Responsorial Psalm [104]

He, the Lord, is our God.

He remembers his covenant for ever.

A reading from Hebrews [11:8, 11-12, 17-19].
The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [2:22-40]. *The child grew, filled with wisdom.*

Communion antiphon:

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.