



OUR LADY OF REPARATION RC CHURCH (ST MARY'S)

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (YEAR A) 28 DECEMBER 2025

PASTORAL TEAM

Fr Patrick Feyisetan (Parish Priest)
Fr James Yakubu, MSP (Ass. Priest)
Fr Leszek Szadowski (Ass. Priest)
Revd. Vincent Morrison (Deacon)
Shirley Nash (Parish Secretary)
Robert Haddad (Lead Catechist)
Yen Vu (Parish Safeguarding Rep)

SUNDAY READINGS

Parish Mass Book:
Order of Mass: Page 6
Please follow readings, responses and prayers in Parish Mass Book. Feast of the Holy Family – A Pp 106-109

Archdiocese of Southwark

**Pastoral Letter for the
Solemnity of the Holy Family 2025
To the Clergy, Consecrated Women and Men,
and the Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Southwark**

To be read at all Masses on Saturday/Sunday, 27/28 December 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

I extend to each of you, and to your families and loved ones, the peace and joy of this holy season of Christmas. Today, the Church places before us the Holy Family of Nazareth: the Lord Jesus, his mother Mary, and his foster-father Joseph. As the Jubilee Year of Hope draws to a close, we embrace anew the hope born for us at Bethlehem. Jesus Christ — who lived and was crucified, rose again, and is alive — is the hope of the world. In Christ, the radiant hope of God's love and mercy shines into every heart and family.

God encourages and comforts each of us according to our state of life: as husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, children and young people; as wider family members and single people; the elderly, the widowed, and as families who feel fragile, wounded, or incomplete. The Holy Family teaches that by remaining close to Christ, what is ordinary can, and does, become holy; that even our burdens and struggles are never without hope. Dear friends, whatever is happening in your family or personal life at the moment, receive the Good News: God sent his Son, the Lord Jesus, as hope for you. God is with you in Christ, and God loves you in Christ.

We know the Holy Family experienced upheaval and danger. They were refugees who fled to Egypt for safety, a reminder to us all to welcome those in need. Joseph kept faithful to what God had revealed, and Mary held everything in prayerful trust. (cf. Mt 2:13–23) When our own families face uncertainty, illness, grief, or broken relationships, we too need to hold fast in faith and prayer. The Holy Family stands close to the members of every home as, moment by moment, we trust that God is present, even when the way forward seems unclear.

Many families across our Archdiocese face heavy burdens: for example, the cost-of-living crisis, the pressures of work or study, sickness or disability. Added to these are the loneliness that grows behind closed doors and the grief that changes everything. The Church is a family of families. In Christ, there are no orphans. When one member of the family suffers, all share the burden; and when one rejoices, all share the joy. Our parishes, schools, and chaplaincies need to be places where people feel they belong and are known by name; where the struggling are welcomed, where wanderers know they can come home, where sinners find forgiveness.

In the mystery of Christmas, the love of God took flesh and dwelt amongst us. How can we work together, co-responsibly, to help make that love real? How can we reach out and accompany those in

need in our community: the housebound, the elderly, the bereaved, the isolated, the family new to the parish, and the person who sits alone at Mass? How can we strengthen what is already good amongst us: food banks, winter night shelters, parish support groups, care for prisoners, and school outreach? How can we make room for people who are troubled: those living with mental strain, addiction, or an uncertain future? Our faith in action, our loving practical charity, will always be attentive to the person in need before us, seeing Christ in them, even when this is challenging.

Today, we entrust our families, and our whole Archdiocese, to the Holy Family of Nazareth. Thank you to parents, grandparents, extended family, and carers, for your patience and quiet sacrifices that bring the truths of the Holy Family to life. Thank you for your efforts to hand on our beautiful Catholic faith to your children. Thank you, too, to our young people for your witness. None of us should ever be ashamed of the Gospel. Christ never diminishes life, but enlarges it. Those who entrust themselves to him are never disappointed.

As we give thanks for the graces of this Jubilee Year — not least our wonderful celebration at Aylesford — we recall how we have journeyed together more consciously as 'pilgrims into hope.' This hope remains with us and needs to be shared more widely as we become an ever more missionary and evangelising Archdiocese. The Holy Family reminds us that mission begins in the heart, and in the home; it grows in parish life; and it is called to bear fruit in the world.

May the Lord Jesus, Our Blessed Lady, and St. Joseph, keep us united in love and steadfast in prayer as, in the coming year, we set ourselves to reach out to others with the love of Christ.

With every blessing for this Christmas Season and the New Year, and the assurance of my prayers and gratitude
Yours devotedly in Christ

+John Wilson

Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark

Given at Southwark, 21 December 2025, the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests; help them to be strong in their vocation and become instruments of your love and grace. Send your Holy Spirit to give courage and guidance to all those you are calling to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life in our Archdiocese. May those called hear your voice and respond wholeheartedly to become the person you created them to be. Heavenly Father, form us all in the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd, so that we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully. We ask this through Christ, Your Son, the Eternal High Priest. Amen

PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,

reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the
whole cosmos in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us,
Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Roseline Ejaife, Richard Kalu, Eleanor Trier, Joan O'Connor, Remedios Parinas, Peter Kitara, Micheal Williams and Jobin Matthews. May they rest in peace, Amen.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

28th to 31st December: Usual weekday Programmes
31st December: Masses at 10am, 12:10pm and 6:45pm
10pm: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11pm: Mass of thanksgiving to usher in the New Year
1st January 2026: Masses at 8am, 10am & 12noon
4th January: Second Sunday after the Nativity
6th January: Epiphany of the Lord (End of the Jubilee Year)
11th January: The Baptism of the Lord (End of Christmas Season)

PARISH GIVING: We are grateful for all you do to support the parish. Setting up a Standing Order is the most efficient way to make a donation to the parish without incurring fees. You can use the following details for one-off donations or set up a Standing Order: NatWest Bank; **Account Name: RCAS Croydon West. Account Number: 36004219 Sort Code: 60-50-01** If you are a taxpayer, you can **PLEASE** sign up for Gift-Aid at no extra cost to you.

GIFT AID GIVING For those of you who left your email details regarding Gift Aid giving and have not heard from the Parish Office, could you kindly email the office directly and the form will be sent. Not all email addresses were clear and may not have been delivered. croydonwest@rcaos.org.uk

TAP TO GIVE: Use the contactless terminals available in the church to donate. Just tap your card or phone to make a donation. Don't forget to sign up to Gift Aid. May God bless your generous hearts.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

The Life in the Spirit Seminar is here again! If you missed the last two, there is another opportunity for you to wake up from slumber and get active with the Fire of the Holy Spirit. 2026 Seminar will take place between 6 February and 17 April. Forms for registration are available at the back of the church. Fill and drop your form in the box also at the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS:

Malcolm Fernando is requesting all those who helped in selling Christmas Raffle tickets to hand in money and ticket counterfoils plus unsold tickets to himself, Florence Baptiste or the Parish Office.

NATIVITY COMPETITION: Nativity painting /drawing and Christmas photography competition by the Knights of St Columba For Nativity Painting/ drawing: A scene of the nativity of our Lord drawn or painted which includes bible chapter and verse for: Ages 4-11. **PLEASE** include with your entries: your name and name of school. **Deadline:** 28/12/2025. Drop off at the back of church in sealed envelope clearly marked: KSC.

CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT: Called to Bear Fruit consultation response published. Thank you to the thousands of people who took part in the Called to Bear Fruit consultation. We are

MASS INTENTIONS/CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 28 December: FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY—A

8:00am Dickie & Bonnie Wegwermer, RIP
9:15am Gerrard & Michelle Lee: 30th Wedding Ann.
10:45am Missa Pro Populo
12:15pm Michael Tran, RIP
3:00pm Fatima Balde, Rip; Narcisa Mendes, RIP & Eliza Lima Gomes, RIP
6:00pm Ivo De Jesus: Birthday thanksgiving

Monday 29 December: ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, Feast

10:00am Emmanuel Benedict, RIP
12:10pm Peter Da Costa, RIP
6:45pm Augusta & Anthony Epenga: Wellbeing

Tuesday 30 December: 7th Day of Christmas Octave

10:00am Holy Souls
12:10pm Clarence Edward Gomes & Deceased family
6:45pm Michael Tran, RIP

Wednesday 31 December: 7th Day of Christmas Octave

10:00am Michael Tran, RIP
12:10pm FUNERAL: Jobin Matthews, RIP
6:45pm Holy Souls
10:00pm HOLY HOUR
11:00pm Thanksgiving Mass to usher in the New Year

Thursday 01 January: MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, Solemnity

8:00am Shirley & family: In thanksgiving
10:00am Eslinda Pereira & family: In thanksgiving
12noon Joaquim Fernandes & family: In thanksgiving

Friday 02 January: SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN, Memorial

10:00am Shane Myers, RIP; Jacob Bahoum, RIP
12:10pm THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND
6:45pm Mary & Vernon: Wedding Anniversary

Saturday 03 January: Feria of Christmas

10:00am Shane Dominic Myers, RIP
7:00pm Holy Souls; Joan O'Connor, RIP

grateful to you all for sharing so openly your hopes for the life of the Church in our Archdiocese. The consultation response, which includes 15 actions points for renewal, is available at rcaos.org.uk/calledtobearfruit and hardcopies have been sent to every parish. The consultation revealed a burning desire within our parishes to be missionary and evangelising disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, who work together to help people encounter His love. So, as we move forward on the next steps together, let's build up the Body of Christ in Southwark with faith and confidence, becoming ever more a community of missionary disciples filled with joy and hope for the future.

CONFIRMATION 2026: Registration forms are out for booking a place in the Confirmation programme for 2026. Forms are at the back of the church, on the website and in the Parish Office. Candidates for Confirmation must be 14 years and above this year. **Completed application forms must be returned by Friday 16th January 2026.**

CALL FOR NEW ALTAR SERVERS: Children who have made their First Communion may now apply to become Altar Servers. Pick application from the Parish Office and submit it before 31st December. Training will commence in January 2026.

MAY THE COMING YEAR BE A TIME OF PEACE AND RENEWED JOY IN OUR FAMILIES AND PARISH. AMEN.