



# St Joseph's Church

## Wealdstone and Harrow Weald

*Served by the Society of the Divine Saviour – The Salvatorians*

Father Alex McAllister SDS (Parish Priest),  
Father Auson Kamugisha SDS, Father Frank Waters SDS

**191 High Road, Harrow Weald, HA3 5EE**

tel: 020 8427 1955, email: office@catholicwealdstone.org

**www.catholicwealdstone.org**

Pastoral Assistant: Deacon Stephen Khokhar

tel: 020 8863 6339; email: stephen.khokhar@btinternet.com

Salvatorian Trustees Registered Charity No 231410



**Mary, the Mother of God**

**1st January 2017**

*She treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart*

### Mass Times, etc

<b>31st</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas</b>
		10.00
		10.30 Confessions
		18.00 Vigil Mass with Hymns
<b>1st</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mary, the Mother of God</b>
		08.15
		09.30 Folk Music & Little Church
		11.00 Solemn Mass
		12.30 With Hymns
		18.00
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>SS Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen</b>
		10.00
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
		07.30
		10.00
<b>4th</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
		07.30
		10.00
<b>5th</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
		07.30
		10.00
<b>6th</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
		07.30
		10.00
		18.15 Confessions
		19.00 First Friday Mass
<b>7th</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
		10.00
		10.30 Confessions
		18.00 Vigil Mass with Hymns
		19.00 Confessions & Exposition with Benediction
<b>8th</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>
		08.15
		09.30 Folk Music & Little Church
		11.00 Solemn Mass
		12.30 With Hymns
		18.00



### Mary, Mother of God

Today the Church invites us to celebrate a special feast dedicated to Mary in her role as Mother of God.

The origins of this title go far back in the history of the Church. However, in the first few centuries a great controversy grew up concerning the exact role of Mary. This was brought to a conclusion by decisions taken at the Council of Ephesus in AD 431.

The long-used title Mother of God had been rejected by Nestorius and his followers who believed that there could be no union between the human and the divine. However, the Council of Ephesus decided definitively that Jesus was truly God and truly Man and also that this inevitably meant that Mary was the Mother of God.

This is a position that has been held by the Church ever since and which is celebrated in this lovely feast coming as it does on the very first day of the year.

*Fr Alex*

#### Confessions:

Saturday 10.30-11.00 & 19.00-19.30, First Friday 18.15-18.45

**Adoration & Benediction:** Saturday 19.00-19.30

**Baptisms:** Sunday 15.00 (By appointment)

**Form Signing:** Mon & Weds 18.00-19.00 Term time only

**Rosary:** Tuesday & Thursday at 18.45.

Intention for January: Peace & purity in our world.

**Sunday Readings:** Year A **Weekday Readings:** Year 1

**Cycle of Prayer: Advent/Christmas**

Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees,  
Expectant Mothers

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from 18th to the 25th January 2016.

#### Form Signing

Form signing resumes on Wednesday 4th January 2016. Forms (passports, school applications, etc) are signed at 18.00 on Mondays and Wednesdays during Term Time. Please be aware that in UK law a passport countersignatory must know the applicant for two years. Besides the clergy wide range of professionals and officials can sign passports including teachers, accountants, bank clerks, etc.

---

## A big part of loving is listening

---

#### Scripture Study Group

The Scripture Study Group resumes on Friday 6th January at 10.30 in the Catechist's Office.

#### Little Church

Little Church is taking a Christmas break and resumes on Sunday 8th January, Feast of Epiphany.

#### Bulletin

If you would like to receive this Parish Bulletin by email each week please send a note to the secretaries at office@catholicwealdstone.org.

#### SPUC

Next Sunday there will be a second collection in aid of the SPUC White Flower Appeal.

#### Christmas Lunch

A big thanks to Deacon Stephen and all who helped to prepare and serve the Christmas Lunch which was a big success.

#### Bank Holiday

Please note there is no 7.30 mass on 2nd January which is a Bank Holiday.

---

## She is more Mother than Queen

*Saint Therese of Lisieux*

#### St Joseph's School

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Admissions for September 2017 (DOB: 01/09/2012 - 31/08/2013). Closing date for receipt of applications is 15th January 2017. Please download an application form from school website.

#### Silence

The more noise there is, the less we hear. 'Listen' is an anagram of 'silent' and the two are linked.

On Sunday, at my Church in Herefordshire, we will have our village carol service. Like thousands of services round the country we will start our candlelit worship with utter stillness.

This is followed by a single note from the organ before a child soloist sings the first verse. That silence, for me, is the most intense part of the service — the point when we hear most keenly the vulnerability of the Christmas infant.

*Quentin Letts (Daily Mail 13/12/16)*

#### Forthcoming Dates

First Friday ..... 6th January  
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ..... 18th-25th January  
Mary's Meals Rags to Riches Collection ..... 19th February  
First Communion ..... 6th, 13th, 20th May  
Confirmation ..... 9th, 10th, 17th May



### 200 Club

The 200 Club draw takes place this Sunday. If you would like to join please fill in a form available at the back of the Church.

#### First Friday Devotions

There will be Confessions and Exposition at 18.15 followed by Mass at 19.00 on Friday 6th January.

#### Marriage in 2017

If you are considering getting married in 2017 please contact Father Alex as soon as possible so that the preparation process can be started in good time.

#### Pastoral Care of the Sick

Please remember to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is ill at home or in hospital, so that the correct pastoral care is made available – the priests do need to be made aware if a visit is expected! If you require a priest **in an emergency**, please call the presbytery day or night for assistance. If you get the answerphone, the message will give you an **emergency contact number** which may be used in such circumstances.

#### Harrow Winter Night Shelter

Harrow Winter Night Shelter will give up to twelve homeless men and six homeless women accommodation from January to March. The shelter needs volunteers to spend one night sleeping there to support the Night Supervisor who stays awake all night with the guests in their dormitory. The overnight volunteer sleeps separately and leaves early in the morning. The shelter cannot run without an overnight volunteer. Contact Mary: 07976 759968/maryprazer.mp@gmail.com for info.

---

## As mariners are guided into port by the shining of a star, so Christians are guided to heaven by Mary

*Saint Thomas Aquinas*

#### Second Collections

Next Sunday SPUC White Flower Appeal.

#### Counting Group

Today Group 4: Next Sunday Group 5.

#### Church Cleaning

Thursday 5th January, Group 1, 11.30 – 12.30.

#### Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Rota

**1st** Sat 18.00 G Teague, S Mantio, T Kinsella; Sun 8.15 M Correa, R Yep, T Drew; 9.30 J Donohue, J Fay; 11.00 I Walker, A Jervis; 12.30 J Conneely, L McGloin; 18.00 E McCarthy, A Arrigo. **8th** Sat 18.00 G Teague, C D'Souza, T Kinsella; Sun 8.15 E D'Souza, M Correa, T Drew; 9.30 J Donohue, P Horne, J Fay; 11.00 I Walker, M Kelly; 12.30 J Conneely, L McGloin; 18.00 E McCarthy, A Arrigo.

#### Readers' Rota

**1st** 18.00 C D'Souza; Sun 8.15 E Amalathas, A Yep; 9.30 P Horne; 11.00 M Kelly, P Singh; 12.30 **Reader Required**; 18.00 P Arrigo. **8th** 18.00 **Reader Required**; Sun 8.15 B Adeboye, E Arjune; 9.30 A Avenia-Viney; 11.00 **Reader Required**; 12.30 **Reader Required**; 18.00 E Amexo.

#### Recently Deceased

*Margaret Hoban*, Byron Road, Harrow. (wife of John). Funeral: Wednesday 4th January at 19.00 followed by burial in Ireland. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to St Luke's Hospice.

*John Curran*, Brinsley Road, Harrow. Funeral: Tuesday 10th January at 10.00 followed by cremation at Breakspear.

*Margaret Barton*. Friday 13th January at 10.00 followed by cremation at Chiltern's Crematorium.

*Anthony Meehan*, Grant Road, Harrow. Reception: Monday 16th January at 19.00. Funeral: Tuesday 17th January at 10.00 followed by burial at Carpender's Park.

*Michael English*, formerly of this parish. Died in Galway.

*May they rest in peace*



**Pastoral Letter for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
1 January 2017**

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

My mother taught me many things. One was this: that a mother can never forget her child, even if that child is no longer in her presence and care. The bond between them endures. It is written into her heart and flesh. A mother carries the hopes of her child as her own; she feels the anguish of her child; she suffers whatever pain befalls the fruit of her womb.

This lesson helps me to understand why, on this Feast Day of Mary, Mother of God, we do so well to turn to her. Mary is our mother. She bears us as her children not by conceiving us in her body but by adopting us within her heart. She is our mother in all things, above all our Mother of Sorrows and our Mother of Mercy.

Because we are her children, she carries our hopes and our pain always within her. Today she stands with us on this first day of a new calendar year, at this moment when we reflect on our hopes and joys, our sorrows and fears. Here she is, sharing our New Year with its promises and prayers.

Often, as a youngster, I would go into the kitchen to tell my Mum all that had happened, what I had done and, sheepishly, what had upset me. In today's Gospel we heard that the shepherds did the same thing and that Mary 'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart' (Luke 2:19). We can be sure that in the same way Mary will treasure and ponder all that we whisper to her.

Have you noticed that in most statues of Our Blessed Lady she is holding her son? In fact, she is holding him out to us, showing us the blessed fruit of her womb, Jesus. It is to him that she wants us to come. She brings him to us and us to him. In him we find and receive all that we need, for he is our foundation, our hope and our joy. In the words of St Paul, he is the one sent by God, born of a woman, to redeem us. He makes it plain that, in all truth, we are truly sons and daughters of God for 'God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries out "Abba! Father!"' (Gal 4:4-6).

This, then, is how we best set out into the New Year: with the Spirit of Jesus in our hearts; with the prayer, 'Abba! Father!' on our lips; with Mary holding her mantle of protection and love over us all. Then we shall walk steadily, never losing the poise of grace, and always confident of who we are in the eyes of our loving Father: precious sons and daughters.

Mary conceived the Eternal Word of God in her womb, giving him the gift of her flesh and blood. We, in our lesser way, are to do likewise. We are called to give him our flesh and blood in the actions of everyday which we hope will express his love and compassion, his forgiveness and joy, to all whom we meet. This truth is beautifully expressed in these ancient words:

'Christ abode for nine months in the tent of Mary's womb; he abides until the consummation of the ages in the tent of the Church's faith; he will abide for ever and ever in the knowledge and love of the faithful soul.' (Cf Blessed Isaac of Stella, 12th century sermon 51 for the Assumption of Blessed Mary).

At this New Year I wish you all every blessing. In this I can do no better than to use the words of the First Reading as my own:

'May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you his peace' (Numbers 6:25).

And may the prayers of our Blessed Lady sustain us both now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Yours devotedly,

+ Vincent Nichols

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
Archbishop of Westminster