



# SAINT JOHN FISHER KIDBROOKE

**Parochial Administrator: Fr. Anton Jerome**  
**141 Kidbrooke Park Road, London SE3 0DZ**  
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**Holy Family School:** Tudway Road SE3 9YX      **Head Teacher:** Helen Hart      **Tel:** 020 8856 2708

**Sunday Masses:** Saturday Evening:6pm; Sunday:10am & 5pm. **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday 5.15pm-5.45pm or by request.

**Parish Office Opening:** The office is not always covered so if your call is not answered, please leave a message and we will get back to you asap.

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:YEAR C: 23 DECEMBER 2018: Day of prayer for expectant mothers**

*Happy Birthday to all those celebrating their birthday this week.*

<b>23 Dec, Sunday</b>	6.00pm	<b>Michael Everest RIP and Paul Thomelin RIP</b>	(Helen, Barbara and family)
	10.00am	<b>Iris Chase's well being</b> (Lin O'Connell's mum)	(Christine Foster)
	5.00pm	<b>People of the Parish</b>	
<b>24 Dec, Monday</b>	9.30am	<b>Fr Anton and his family, living and deceased</b>	(Sr Augustine) <i>Feria</i>

### **THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

#### **THE VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

<b>24 Dec, Monday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>May and Tom Cockerill RIP</b>	(Mary Masters and family)
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#### **THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

<b>25 Dec, Tuesday</b>	<b>11.15pm</b>	<b>Christmas Carols followed by Mass</b>	
	<b>Midnight</b>	<b>Rev Tom Lynch's well being</b>	( Sr Augustine)
<b>26 Dec, Wednesday</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Anthonia Achebe's intentions</b>	(Catherine Azuka)
	9.30am	<b>Mrs Pat Burke RIP</b>	(Sisters of Mercy, Eltham)
<b>27 Dec, Thursday</b>	<i>Feast of St Stephen, the First Martyr</i>		
	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Divine Mercy prayers</b>	
<b>28 Dec, Friday</b>	9.30am	<b>Mary Cott RIP</b>	(Tim and Ellen Cott)
	<i>Feast of St John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>		
<b>29 Dec, Saturday</b>	9.30am	<b>Rene Bakelmun RIP - Birthday</b>	(Bakelmun family))
	<i>Feast of The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>		
<b>29 Dec, Saturday</b>	<b>7.00pm - 8.00pm</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction</b>	
	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration &amp; Rosary then Mass</b>	
	9.30am	<b>William and Lillian Hayward</b>	(Celia & Laurence Hayward)
<i>Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop and Martyr</i>			

## **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH: YEAR C: 30 DECEMBER 2018**

<b>30 Dec, Sunday</b>	6.00pm	<b>Teresa McGowan RIP</b>	(Terence McGowan)
	10.00am	<b>In Thanksgiving and for a Special Intention</b>	(Cordelia Douglas)
	5.00pm	<b>People of the Parish</b>	

**Please Remember to Pray for the Sick and the Housebound:** Karon Phillips-Allen, Bob Driscoll, Monica Whitaker, Rachel Camozzi-Jones, Jackie Rennie, Paul Foley, Joe Grandy, Agnes Parker, Alan Fitzsimons, Trixie Durey, Sandra Newman, Margaret Bondarenko, Lucas Lekule, Mary Coughlan, Mike Harris, Catherine Leeper, Joanna Connors, Annette Bain, Angelita (Lili) Mendoza, Gerard Quirke, Emily and Amy Longua, Vera Molloy, Camillo Atampugre, Joseph Many, Doreen Grandon, Anthony O'Doherty, Thelma Harnett, Anna Mellon, Michael Needham, Maria Mottau, Danielle Papie, Rod Feeney, Mary Grace Cruz, Callistus Iwu, Tom & Margot Nimmo, Gwendoline Phillips, Tina Borland, Chris Bakelmun, Sadie Felton, Barbara Hills, Seán Needham, Jinny Needham and all those not listed here.

### **Prayer for the sick and housebound**

*"Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son in this Eucharist. We now place before you all the sick and housebound of the Parish. As they share in this Eucharist with us, we pray that they may come to know the depth of your love for them, and the joy, peace and healing of your presence. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."*

**Pope Francis's Tweet:** "Advent is a time for us to prepare for the coming of Jesus, Prince of Peace. It's a time to make peace with ourselves and our neighbours."

The Holy Father's universal prayer intention for December is: "That the scandal of child soldiers may be eliminated the world over".



## **At a Glance**

• **Choir practice** - 15 minutes before 10am Mass on Sunday.

• **Dates for your diary:**

**Baptism Course: every 1st Sunday of the month at 12 Noon** followed by Baptism on the **last Sunday of each month at 12 Noon** (unless exceptionally agreed with Fr Anton).

**8 January 2019: 7pm: Meeting of the Social Committee**

### ***Parish Finances:***

**Offering: for the upkeep of the Parish: w/e 16/12/18: Total collection: £752.52 including £159 in Standing orders.**

2nd Collection for Poor Fishermen of India: **£207.02**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

**Gift Aid:** If you wish to sign up for Gift Aid or donate by Standing Order, please complete a relevant form from the porch.

**R**osary: please join us for the rosary at **9am every Saturday before the morning Mass.**

The **first Saturday** of each month is devoted to the **Fatima Rosary** which is a special devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

**C**hurch Flowers: Please post any requests and/or donations through the box in the porch.

**Tea and coffee is available in the Parish Hall after the 10am Mass every Sunday.** All welcome.

**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk

Check out easyfundraising on the website: [www.sjfkcc.org.uk](http://www.sjfkcc.org.uk). If you shop online, please sign up and support the Parish.

It won't cost you a penny but for every £ you spend at a number of retailers, the Parish will receive a small percentage.

### **Message from Fr Anton:**

**C**hristmas **M**asses: please remember to pick up a leaflet giving the times of all the Masses during the Christmas Season. Why not take a copy for a neighbour or relative who may be visiting over Christmas.

**N**ew Hymn Books - at long last our new hymn books have arrived. Thank you to everyone who supported the various events which helped raise the funds for the books and in particular thanks to Amina who raised the most money through the sale of her pies.

Please treat the books with care and I look forward to hearing many voices joining in the hymns!

Thank you to everyone who submitted application forms for the **First Communion and Confirmation Programmes for 2019:** Watch this space for further details of the programmes which we intend to start in January 2019.

**C**hristmas Event - thank you again to everyone who attended and supported the event in any way. We raised **£561.95** which will go towards the cost of furniture for the Church Hall and Presbytery. The Christmas Hamper was **won by Margaret Riley**. There is still one unclaimed prize which was won by **Marie Isabelle**. Grateful if Marie Isabelle could contact the office. Once again many thanks to the Social Committee for organising the Raffle and the evening's event.

**RCIA** programme; if you are not a Catholic, have never been confirmed or would like to study more about the Catholic faith, please speak to Fr Anton or call the Parish Office. The Programme is underway but it is still not too late to join. Application forms are also available in the porch. The next session is **on Wednesday, 14 January at 7pm in the Presbytery**. The theme will be "Pentateuch".

**B**lessed Sacrament Adoration: Each Friday at 7pm there will be an hour of Exposition followed by Benediction. Please come and spend an hour before the Blessed Sacrament.

**Stewardship in the Parish:** Thank you to everyone who has completed a form. We are in the process of evaluating them and will be in contact shortly. It is still not too late to submit your form. Copies are available in the porch.

**M**ass Intentions: Why not offer a mass for yourself, a loved one or a friend or indeed for the repose of the soul of a loved one. **Brown Mass intention envelopes** can be found in the Church porch.

**C**hildren's Liturgy: Thank you to **Eileen Usher and Claire Greenfield** for leading last Sunday's children's liturgy. There will be no children's liturgy until **Sunday, 13 January 2019.**

**C**hristmas Offering envelopes: Remember to pick up a Christmas offering envelope from the porch. As you are aware, the Christmas Offering is your gift to your Parish Priest.

Please note that an incorrect date of **23 December** has been printed on the Christmas Offering Gift Aid envelope in your box. They should, of course, be used on 24/25th December. The ordinary Gift Aid envelope for the 4th Sunday of Advent should be used on the 23rd December as usual.

## Christmas Message from Fr Anton:

### Christmas in the Modern World

Christmas: How is it going to be different this year?

For the last two weeks, I have been googling “different ways of celebrating Christmas”. There are lots of articles under that title which appeared on the screen. Unfortunately these articles were not what I was looking for. They are purely about spending money and having a good time but with no mention of Our Lord! They are about how to do shopping and where I can go shopping. They told me when I can send greetings and how I can deliver my gifts. I am not criticising these articles because this is the reality we are living in! This is our modern consumerist society. But it is not enough!

As I was reflecting on why there are so many guidelines for celebrating Christmas, I thought about our parents, who never had anything like this. Christians have been celebrating the Birth of Christ for the last 2000 years. At no time in the past have they had anything like this. So why do we have it today and do we need it?

The answer would be that “expectations are very big”. People are expecting more from us.

Who are these people? Our family members, children, friends, relatives, neighbours, and our work colleagues!

It all started with the Three Wise Men who brought gifts to the Infant Jesus. **John 3:16** explains the meaning of a true gift and helps us understand why the Wise Men did this and why we give gifts to each other today. **Look it up!** Giving gifts is our way of expressing our love and gratitude to people who journey with us. But in the modern world it has become an added pressure to many families.

One of the things people ask us during this season is: Are you looking forward to Christmas? This can be interpreted in several ways: Have you planned your celebrations? Are you going somewhere? The question itself comes with some panic and pressure.

We know the world has moved forward. We are living in a digital world. Computers do most of the things we humans used to do. Computer based results are always accurate, perfect and the best. I think these three concepts have entered into the minds of all of us.

Without exception, everyone thinks that what I give as a gift should be the best. A wonderful idea but, given the cost of things today, the cause of a lot of anxiety. During this time of the year I come across so many people with so much stress. You know what the real cause of their stress is: Christmas gifts! I have to wrap it up properly! I have to deliver it nicely! Will they accept it? Are they going to appreciate me for the gift? So much anxiety!

I mentioned about accuracy, perfection, and the best. We hear of these three things from the beginning of our childhood. We hear it at school, at home and in the work place, where unbridled competition is given utmost importance. A friend of mine has written an article with the title “Towards wholeness”. In other words we are all on a journey [a spiritual journey]. This journey is on-going! We can say that we are marching towards perfection, wholeness. Nobody can say that we have achieved that perfection.

I think the feeling of accuracy, perfection and the best comes from **God alone**. There isn't a particular point or stage where you can say ‘that is perfection’. It varies from person to person and place to place. What we consider accurate or perfect today is overtaken in a short space of time.

Let us not be worried about these concepts. Everything is changing. Nothing is permanent. God alone is permanent. He is the unmoved mover and the uncreated creator. We are celebrating the birth of Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. His Birth is the ultimate gift to the whole world, made by God the Father.

When the celebration focuses too much on material things then it leads to panic and anxiety. On the other hand, when it focuses on the spiritual aspect of the Birth of Christ then it adds meaning to our life. We accept this great Gift of Divine love from God and in return we give the gift of human love and devotion.

This is a time for renewing our relationships with one another. At the end of the day, if you think about your life, relationships are everything. God is our Father and we are all his children. Let us take time to reflect about the ways of renewing our relationship with God and with each other. We all need to think about the practical ways in which we can reach out to other people.

It's also a time to come out of the small shell that we have created for ourselves. We seem to think that it is our comfort zone but it is not really. It is affecting our growth and our development. It can prevent us from showing that love and affection for each other that the Infant Jesus showed to us on that first Christmas Day!

The birth of Christ was first announced to the Shepherds, people on the margins of society! Today there are so many in our midst, on the margins, crying out for help. Good Samaritans wouldn't ignore this fact of suffering humanity. Let us spend some time thinking about these people. How can we help them celebrate this Christmas?

We should also think of the war-torn countries where thousands of women and children are fleeing persecution. They are refugees in a foreign land. When Jesus was born there was a threat on his life from Herod. For fear of Herod, Joseph and Mary took the Child to Egypt. So the Holy Family also had the experience of fleeing of being refugees! How do we treat refugees?

Also, we have several care homes and nursing homes in this area. Elderly people there are looking for someone to visit them. Or perhaps some of our elderly parishioners, the sick and the housebound are waiting, and hoping, to spend a little time with you. Have we got time for our elderly? Loneliness is perhaps the worst of all things at Christmas!

Finally, my dear brothers and sisters, we need to celebrate. Celebrations are good and are necessary! But we must make the celebration more meaningful! I do appreciate that many of you are inviting your whole family and cooking for all of them. It is a good Christian practice and one that should be promoted. We are not only celebrating the birth of Christ but also we teach our children the value behind gathering together as one family and the importance of giving and sharing with one another.

Let us all start everything with God. It is not just about colours or lights or gifts.  
It is about Jesus and his birthday.  
May God bless all of us and our parish!

Have a Happy and Holy Christmas!

