

FROM THE DIARY

Sunday 31st Dec	6pm (Sat)	<i>Alice Birkett (Ann)</i>
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	7.45am	<i>Volunteer Counters</i>
	9am	<i>Vincent George Fraulo & Mrs Mary Anne Fraulo (Ann)</i>
	10.30am	<i>Maureen Enright-Richards (Ann)</i>
	12 noon	<i>Liam Allen (RIP)</i>
Monday 1st Jan		
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God	12 noon	<i>Sung Mass followed by refreshments of Mulled Wine and mince pies by KSC in the Newman Room</i>
Tuesday 2nd Jan	9.30am	<i>Emnica and Francisco Meniano</i>
Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen		
Wednesday 3rd Jan Christmas Feria	9.30am	<i>Seamus Troy (Ann)</i>
	11.30am	Funeral of Anna Upali (RIP)
Thursday 4th Jan Christmas Feria	9.30am	<i>Geraldine Keane (Int)</i>
	11.30	Funeral of Antonia Borzillo (RIP)
Friday 5th Jan Christmas Feria	9.30am	<i>Mary Maguire (Int)</i>
Saturday 6th Jan Christmas Feria	9.30am	<i>Michael Mullen (Ann)</i>
	10-11am	Catechism Programme (Newman Rm)
Sunday 7th Jan	6pm (Sat)	<i>Elizabeth Tims (Int)</i>
The Epiphany of the Lord	7.45am	<i>Eileen Winters (Int)</i>
	9am	<i>People of the Parish & Holy Souls</i>
	10.30am	<i>Susan Blasotta (Ann))</i>
	12 noon	<i>Louis Edwin Allas (Ann)</i>

MASS TIMES

Sunday (Sat 6pm), 7.45am, 9am, 10.30am, 12noon.

Mon-Sat : 9.30am (extra masses at 7am and 7.30pm on Holy Days of Obligation)

Morning Prayer: Weekdays 9.10 am Rosary: Weekdays after Mass & Sat 9.10am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Mon-Fri 2-3pm (except Bank Hol)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10.15-10.45am, 5.15pm– 5.45pm

St Monica's Church, Palmers Green

A parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster

Readings	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH	31st Dec
Parish Mass Bk Pg. 105	Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses	2023

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, and the purification of a woman after childbirth.

According to the Law of Moses as presented in the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered ritually unclean during her menstrual period and for a prescribed period of time following the birth of a child. After the birth of a son, a woman was considered ritually unclean for 40 days. After the birth of a daughter, a woman was considered unclean for 80 days. In order to be restored to ritual purity, a Jewish woman performed the appropriate rites of purification and made the prescribed ritual offering.

Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, he was called Jesus, the name he was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor.

Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross. The Canticle of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, *Nunc Dimitis*, is prayed at night prayer, or compline, during the Liturgy of the Hours.

Loyola Press

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Live Streaming of all services: www.churchservices.tv/palmsgreen

Parish Priest: Canon Mehall Lowry Assistant Priest: Father David Knight

Parish Sister: Sr Joyce Dionne 07752 050653

Youth Co-ordinator: Anna McMullan annamcmullan@rcdow.org.uk 07532 374291

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Graham Jordan palmsgreensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator & Secretary: Noreen Campbell

Parish Office hours: 9.30am-2pm Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri (closed Wed & Bk Hols)

PARISH NOTICES

We pray for all those who have died recently: Antonia Borzillo, Anna Upali, Yvette Walczak, Rosaleen O'Shea and for **those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** John Margol, Mary Mulvihill, Angeline Lyons, Rita Wheeler, Vera Meehan, Gaetano Bruno, Doris Nathalie, Mary Ramadar, Giuseppe Panente, Rachel McCaffery, Seamus Troy, Marie Bedier, Janiera Nolan, Desmond Derrig, Teresa Teevan, Bridget Melton, Romeo Tambini, Alfonso Pinto, Matthew Hanson, Gary Collins. **Please pray for all sick and housebound parishioners, especially those in our care homes:** Anastasia Lodge, Beaumont, Brookwater House, The Conifers, The Hollies, Queen Ann Care, Woodlands and **hospitals:** North Middlesex, Chase Farm. Pat Swift, Stella Whittaker, Baby Joseph Osbourne, Eddie McCann, Arleen Riley, Norene Steel Hristov. Liz

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Ecc 3:2-6, 12-14, Col 3:12-21, Luke 2:22-40

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Ish 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3, 5-6, Matt 2:1-12

MESSAGE FROM FR MEHALL

On behalf of the parish team and myself we wish you a peaceful and joyful Christmas. Thank you for supporting St Monica's in your prayers and its outreach activities. We also want to thank everyone who has given their time and service throughout the year; special thanks to the cleaners, the counters, food bank volunteers, and those who take Communion to the housebound.

Christmas (and Easter) collections are your gift to your priests. The contributions make up the annual salary which does not come from parish offertories or Standing orders. Thank you for your generosity. **Fr Mehall**

Envelopes at the back of the Church. Online banking details: Bank: **HSBC**; A/c no: **41096176**; Sort Code: **40-05-20**; A/c name: **WRCDD Palmers Green**; Reference: Priest Gift.

Thank you from the Parish Team to parishioners for their cards, gifts and good wishes given during the Christmas season. Your prayers, support, encouragement and generosity are very much appreciated.

MASS INTENTIONS –FEBRUARY

Can be booked from 10am on Tuesday 2nd January. Please only book 1 Mass during the first week; extra Masses can be booked from 12th Jan.

SACRAMENTS

Catechism Programme Saturday 6th January 10-11am in the Newman Room.

Confirmation Parents meeting Monday 8th January 7.30-8.30pm in the large hall.

Confirmation Preparation starts Tuesday 9th January 7.30-9pm in the large hall. Please keep the candidates in your prayers as they begin this time of formation and discernment.

Baptism Preparation Course. The next course will take place on Sunday 4th February in the Newman Room, 3-5pm. Please contact the office to book.

Marriage Preparation If you are planning to marry here or elsewhere, please contact the parish office to register for our course taking place in February 2024.

Do you know somebody who is interested in knowing more about Christianity and the Church? There could be somebody just waiting for you to invite them to be Baptised or Received into the church. Speak to Fr Mehall after Mass to find out more.

PARISH GROUPS

St Monica's Parish Quiz Night This popular event is on Saturday 20th January 2024 in the Large Hall and tickets are now on sale priced at £15 each, to include a curry meal or vegetarian option. Teams of up to 8 and individuals are very welcome and so please

book early to avoid disappointment, at parishquiz@yahoo.com or on 07484 134 848.

Would you be interested in joining the 200 Club to raise funds for the Parish? The subscription per entry is only £5/month. Please contact the parish office.

THE WEEK AHEAD

St. Monica's Catholic Primary School open afternoon Friday 5th January 2024. starting **promptly** at 1.30pm. It is essential that you call or email the school office to book a slot at one of the open afternoons – 020 8886 4647 or office@st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk. Consultation information on Admission Arrangements and Policy for 2025-2026 can be found on the website.

OTHER

The Chosen Series 3 - Every Monday after Mass, starting **8th January** in the Newman Room. Come & experience Jesus in a new & heartfelt way through this multi-series drama on His life and the people who encountered Him.

St. Monica's Church Foodbank will re open on Monday 8th January.

Vinnie Packs The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal. You can donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk

[ipc](#) or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected which gets funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who are working alongside communities helping those most in need. Please see the poster in porch with the QR code. Thank you for your continued prayers.

DONA CONTACTLESS MACHINES. (Contactless Giving) If you would like to donate by card we have two DONA machines and the **QR Code** on the newsletter. Machines are located in the church porch and in the parish office. For example: donations can be made for: **Sunday Collection; Votive Candles; Repository** purchases; and for **Mass Offerings**. Please select the option you want and then the amount you wish to donate. If you require assistance using the machine or the QR code then please ask any member of the parish team who will be happy to help you. Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

St Michaels's Catholic Grammar School have two vacancies. Head of Religious Education (closing date Friday 26th January) and Physics Technician (closing date 15th January). Application forms are available on the school website. applications@st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk. Please also see adverts in church porch.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

COST OF LIVING

The **Healthy Start Scheme** provides help with buying healthy food and milk, and is open to people receiving Universal Credit or Child Tax Credits, who are pregnant or have a child under 4. Find out more here - <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

Those on a lower income and claim Pension Credit - with the onset of colder weather, the Warm Home Discount Scheme with your energy provider is now open. You are also entitled to a council tax discount and, if you are over 75, a free TV licence. Speak to Citizens Advice Enfield about what else you maybe entitled to.

Small grants programme for elderly people living on low incomes, offered by Friends of the Elderly, and as identified by Caritas, the Diocesan fundraising department. Grants are c£400, cost of living grants c£250 according to their guidance. [Grants For Older People | Grants for the Elderly | Friends of the Elderly \(fote.org.uk\)](#)

Grants to help pay off energy debts - People who are in debt to their energy supplier might be able to get a grant from a charitable trust to help pay it off. See <https://fuelpovertyresource.org.uk/focus-on/fuel-debt-and-trust-funds/>

Financial Resilience and Cost of Living Martin Lewis, the Money Saving Expert, provides information about the cost of living support package. Click on the following link for this and other topical issues [to https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/cost-of-living-survival-kit/](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/cost-of-living-survival-kit/)

The Heet Project is a charity providing free services to low income, aged and vulnerable people to help improve home insulation and reduce energy bills. If you live in the London borough of Enfield, Waltham Forest or Redbridge or know someone who can benefit, please see their website for further details <https://www.theheetproject.org.uk/> or telephone 0208520 1900.

JOB VACANCIES

Diocesan jobs - For further details, please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

OTHER

St.Monica's Church Foodbank. Since the beginning of the year we have seen a 45% increase in the number of households we are helping. Add to this the current cost of living crisis and it is proving increasingly difficult to keep up with demand. We have had to restrict who we can help to those who live in the borough of Enfield or within 3 miles of the church hall. **More than ever we need your help to support neighbours who are struggling. You can do this by making a financial donation to parish bank account (see bank details below) using reference "food distribution". Or you could donate food to us directly on a Monday morning at the church hall.** Items like cheese; eggs; tins of corn beef; ham; long life milk; tea; coffee; cooking oil; washing up liquid; and toiletries would be most welcome.

The Legion of Mary have two statues of Our Lady for family Rosary and prayers in your home. Please contact Gloria 0208 360 3554. **Every Saturday** the Legion of Mary gather and pray the Angelus and Rosary at 12 noon at the Triangle in Palmers Green; all are invited to join them.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Laudato Si' Animators UK "Human beings must be recognized as a part of nature. Human life, intelligence and freedom are elements of the nature that enriches our planet, part of its internal workings and its equilibrium." (LD 26). "The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?" (LD 65). Join the [Laudato Si' Movement](#) by subscribing for online updates. [Laudato Si' Animators program to support your "ecological conversion" journey with fellow Catholics from all continents](#). Pope Francis Laudate Deum.

Irish Dancing Classes have resumed in the small hall. Beginners welcome. Contact Margaret on 07932056163 or email m.brennan@hotmail.co.uk.

The Mass explained by Bishop Robert Barron in 7 short videos that are currently available to watch for free <https://videos.wordonfire.org/themassepisode1> If you would like to get more from Mass, watch to discover what is happening and Who we encounter.

Proud to be the Pope's charity for world mission, Missio ignites God's love by helping local missionaries work alongside global communities who are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Whatever our missionaries need to help them share the joy of the Gospel, Missio strives to provide it. Visit www.missio.org.uk/about-missio St Monica's parish has a long history of supporting Missio—once your red box is full please return it to the presbytery and take an empty box from the church porch.

Gap Year opportunity: Step into the Gap is a fully funded year of volunteering (18-30 year olds) with food, accommodation, stipend and training within a UK placement plus a Rome and Assisi pilgrimage. Visit: cafod.org.uk/gapyear