

CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

39 Duncan Terrace London N1 8AL

Clergy: Mgr Séamus O'Boyle (Parish Priest) Fr Martin Plunkett

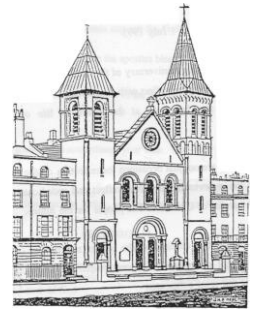
Also in residence: Fr Larry Milby

Parish Secretary: Lisa Mulvaney

Tel: 020 7226 3277 / **Fax:** 020 7704 8988

Website: www.st-johns-islington.org / **Email:** islington@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Office opening times: Tue - Fri, 10am - 2pm



HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

29 DECEMBER 2013

STANDING UP TO HEROD



Along the mantelpiece our Christmas cards depict angels and shepherds and the Baby Jesus surrounded by the love of his family. Today however we are given a picture of the Holy Family fleeing to safety from a ruthless and murderous dictator.

Herod, realising the wise men had tricked him was infuriated, and commanded that all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under should be killed. In a dream an angel appears to Joseph, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there, for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him." It is difficult to imagine anyone as cruel or as wicked as Herod. It is hard to imagine anyone so insanely jealous that they could put innocent babies to death. In the context of the 'Feast of the Holy Family' we have to admire how promptly Joseph responded to the angel's message and how well he protects his family from the formidable Herod. In the wider context perhaps the main point of the story is that no amount of wickedness or evil could sabotage God's plan. All over the globe people suffer tragedy and loss and terrible injustice, yet still they somehow manage to retain their faith in God. This has to be testimony to the presence of God in our lives, and testimony to the spirit in each of us that abhors evil.

A lot is spoken nowadays of family values, but sadly those values can often be more about becoming successful and making lots of money than becoming good people. The Holy Family reminds us that real family values are about standing up to the 'Herods' in our world and creating a culture of justice and love. Evil only exists if we allow it.

PARISH NEWS

MANY THANKS: To you all for your very kind and generous cards and gifts for Christmas – all much appreciated. Thanks also to all who decorated the Church for our Christmas Celebrations – many commented on how beautiful the trees and flowers looked – and also the Crib. An army of helpers also turned out for the 'Open Christmas' lunch – which was well attended. May God bless us all in A.D. 2014! Fr Séamus, Fr Martin & Fr Larry

DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK: For 2014 are on sale from the parish office for £4.50 each or ring-bound £5. They contain details of every church, school and organisation in the diocese. Limited stock so buy now!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CAROL SINGERS: This year we were fortunate to be allowed to sing twice at the Angel

Underground in aid of Our Parish Outreach Project in providing Christmas Dinner to the many people who will be Alone at Christmas. Special Thanks to St John the Evangelist School, pupils at staff who were a joy to listen to, I overheard a remark from one pupil who exclaimed "That was Wicked!" and they raised a total of £530 and St John's 10.30am Mass Sunday Choir and friends raised £291.47 bringing at total of £821.47 collected.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: The next course will be on Tuesday's 7th and 14th January 2014 at 7pm in the Church. Registration forms are on the table in the Vestibule.

WEDDING: John Edward Glover and Neisha Danielle Douglas on Saturday 4th January 2014 at 2.30pm.

DIARY

In an event of a fire or a fire drill taking place, please remain calm, and follow the safest exit routes that will be co-ordinated by the Church Fire Wardens, who will lead you to the designated assembly point.

TIMES FOR LEGION OF MARY THIS CHRISTMAS AND NEW

YEAR: Monday 30th December at 7pm – New Year meeting.

We return back to our normal meeting time of Wednesday 8th January 2014 at 7pm. All of course welcome. Christmas Blessings from Our Lady Queen of All Saints.

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NOTICES

SUNDAY COLLECTION 22 DECEMBER: Envelopes £417.62 / Loose £564.78

MARRIAGE: The Diocese asks that couples who are hoping to marry should give six months notice to their Parish Priest. Please do not make any arrangements for your wedding date and reception before meeting with your Parish Priest.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

REST IN PEACE: Please pray for those who have died, especially Andrew McCarthy, Andrew Martelly, Jean Bryan and Ana Cristine Demetrion (Cunha), Henry Jordan and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, Doris Margaret Fletcher, Thomas Joseph Healy, Valerio Martinez,

Lucille Maud Sismon, Jerimiah O'Shea, Joseph Gerard Grant, John Day, Moira Maguire, Esther Mulberry, Elizabeth Mattison, Gwendoline Pledger, Rosina Hall and Thomas Buckley.

HEALING: Please pray for parishioners and their relatives / friends who are ill, especially: Lisa Ip, Helen Hallissey, Sr Beatrice Immediata, John Sampson, Frances Jennings, James Rooney and Jerry Waldron.

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MY DAY BY DAY BOOKLETS FOR JANUARY ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FOR JUST £1.

THE WEEK AHEAD

DATE	TIMES	INTENTIONS	READINGS
Sat 28 Dec	6pm	Isabelle Crestina Jurado Cifuentes RIP	Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23
Sun 29 Dec HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	9am	Thomas Healy RIP	
	10.30am	Intentions of Fr Prakash Tigga	
	12noon	Joseph Money RIP	
	6pm	Mass for Parishioners	
Mon 30 Dec 6 TH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS	10am	Nuala Malone RIP	Luke 2:36-40
Tue 31 Dec 7 TH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS	10am	Grant Lewington RIP	John 1:1-18
Wed 01 Jan SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	10am	Intentions of Frances Jennings	Luke 2:22-27
Thu 02 Jan Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors	10am	Intentions of Anna Enright	John 1:19-28
Fri 03 Jan Christmas Feria <i>Friday abstinence</i>	10am	Jean Bryan RIP	John 1:29-34
Sat 04 Jan Christmas Feria	10am	Intentions of Mary Colgan	John 1 :35-42
	10.30-11.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	
	10.30-11.30am / 5.15-5.45pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
	6pm	Intentions of Sr Eugenia	Matthew 2:1-12
Sun 05 Jan EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	9am	Mr Correa RIP	
	10.30am	Trudy Rogers RIP	
	12noon	Pat Yearly RIP (5 th Anniv)	
	6pm	Mass for Parishioners	