

Can you spare 90 mins once a month? If so, the church cleaning teams urgently need new volunteers. Please contact Siobhan on 020 8807 5583 if you can help.

FROM THE DIARY	
Sun 31st December The Holy Family	
Mon 1st January Mary, Mother of God	Bank Holiday—Office Closed. Church closes after 12noon Mass 10am Mass (Polish) 12noon Mass, followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Tues 2nd January Ss Basil & Gregory	
Weds 3rd January Christmas Feria	Office closed as usual 7.30pm Confirmation Catechists' meeting, Newman Room 7.30pm 'No Agenda', Church
Thurs 4th January Christmas Feria	
Fri 5th January Christmas Feria FIRST FRIDAY	10.15am-7pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.15am Christian Meditation, Newman Room 10.30am Memory Lane Dementia Café, Parish Centre 7.15pm Youth Club meet before Pantomime, Newman Room 7.30pm Mass
Sat 6th January Christmas Feria	10-11am Catechism, Newman Room 11.30am Baptism of Indigo Goga, Phoebe Schon, Isabella Phelan, Frederick Phelan, Thomas Roche 6pm Children's Choir Practice, Small Hall
Sun 7th January Epiphany	5.30pm Worship Band play at Mass

**MASS TIMES**  
**Sunday (Sat 6pm), 7.45am, 9am, 10.30am, 12noon, 3.30pm (Polish) & 5.30pm**  
**Daily 9.35am, Morning Prayer 9.10am**  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions): Sat 10 - 11am & 5.15 - 5.45pm**  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mon 4-5pm, Fri 4-5pm, Sat 10-11am**  
**Weds: 2nd, 4th & 5th 7pm Holy Hour; 1st & 3rd 7.30pm 'No Agenda' prayer & praise**  
**Thursday 7pm Rosary Hour Friday 7pm Stations of the Cross (resume 12th Jan)**

St Monica's Church, Palmers Green		
A parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster		
Newsletter	THE HOLY FAMILY	31st December
'Every family is always a light, however faint, amid the darkness of this world.' Pope Francis		2017

One of the interesting features of the family of Jesus is how it reaches into many situations of our own time. We live in an age where (at least in the West) traditional family units have been undergoing change. One of the facts of contemporary life is the fact that many start a family and then get married, other situations such as divorce may mean that children belong to a unit where there is only one natural parent, the other, rather like Joseph takes on a new family. I am glad that the Pope is reminding us to take a more pastoral attitude to these situations.

However my intention is not to start a reflection on family life as it ought to be, rather how can the image of the Holy Family, taken from the scriptures (for that really is our only source) help us in our own lives? Firstly I suspect we can take hope from the whole story of Joseph and Mary, they do not fit into what we might term a normal family at all. Mary's acceptance of God's gift, her generosity in allowing the Holy Spirit to come upon her, and carrying the living child to full term is a sign of a brave woman. Giving birth to him, with all its potential problems, in a situation far removed from the security of her own family, shows a determination to see things through no matter what people might say. So for us Mary stands for the courage to live a life that is real and accept the truth even if others cannot believe.

Joseph is a more complex character, a person who thinks deeply, has a generous spirit and is a just and honourable man. He is also somebody who, like Mary, is unafraid to step outside normal boundaries and trust in God's goodness. Beyond the joy of the birth of Jesus and the coming of the shepherds and Magi are hints at dark things going on. Shepherds are outcasts, the Magi gentiles; all are somehow caught up with deeper, more unpleasant forces, so much so that Joseph has to flee with Mary and Jesus, refugees from violence.

Maybe the feast of our Holy Family calls us to look beyond the problems of relationships today and focus on the one thing necessary, the power of love to change and transform.

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**email:** palmersgreen@rcdow.org.uk **Website:** www.stmonica.co.uk  
**Live Streaming of all services** www.churchservices.tv/palmersgreen  
**Parish Priest:** Fr Mehall Lowry **Assistant Priest:** Fr John Warnaby  
**Parish Sister:** Sr Joyce Dionne 07940 500908 **Youth Co-ordinator:** Anna McMullan 07532 374291  
**Parish Secretary:** Monica Maxted Jones  
**Parish Office hours:** Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri, 9.30am-2.30pm (closed Weds.)  
**Polish Chaplain** Fr Krzysztof Chaim 07902 432343

## PARISH NOTICES

We pray for Guiseppa Monachello, Christina Ellis, who have died recently and Isabel Nockolds, Eleanor Rattray, Albina Necchi, Michael Lyons, Winifred Curran, David Andrews, John Margol, Mary Mulvihill, Angeline Lyons, Rita Wheeler, Gaetano Bruno, Doris Nathalie, Natasha Collins, Rachel McCaffery, Eileen Murphy, Marie Bedier, Bridget Melton, Romeo Tambini, Matthew Hanson, Gary Collins, whose anniversaries occur now.

### Please Pray for Sick and Housebound Parishioners

Cath, Patrick Gallagher, Ernestina Henry, Lima Sanmuganathan, Sue Clifford, Madeleine Murphy, Giovanni Rospo, Victoria Clark, Ted Southam, Marianna Ioannou, Martin Fleming, Theresa Dowling, Eileen Duffley, Michael Cassidy, John Flanagan.

**FINANCE** thank you for your generosity.

**17th Dec** Envelopes: £1693; Loose £1315.

**24th Dec** Envelopes: £1727, Loose £1543.

**Christmas Offering** £9638. The Christmas Offering goes towards the taxable income of your priests.

### READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Is 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3a.5-6, Mt 2:1-12

### TODAY

**Thank you** to all who gave of their time and talents in so many ways to make the Christmas celebrations so special. Visitors really appreciated the prayerfulness and welcome. **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 is very much appreciated.

**Crib Offerings** Money left at the crib over the Christmas season will be given to the Catholic Children's Society, who support vulnerable families through their family centres and counselling & therapy service. Please give generously.

**First Friday** there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.15am-6.45pm. Please sign up at the back of church today.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Parish Office** is closed on Bank Holiday Monday 1st January.

**February Mass Intentions** can be booked from 10am on Tuesday 2nd January. Please only book one Mass during the first week of bookings.

**Children's Choir** Next practices are at 5.15pm in the Small Hall on Saturdays 6th and 13th January (and will sing at 6pm Mass on 13th). If your child is in years 4-8 they are most welcome to join! Please contact Christine on [callenN4@aol.com](mailto:callenN4@aol.com) or 07966 140508.

**Monthly Charities Collection** will not take place next Sunday as there will be a White Flower Appeal for SPUC on 14th January.

## YOUTH NEWS

**Youth Club** trip to Sleeping Beauty at the Intimate Theatre on Friday.

**Red Caps** In Year 11+ and thinking of volunteering to help at Lourdes next July? Contact Anna for more details.

**Confirmation** parents meeting, 9th January in the Large Hall. Contact Anna if you haven't received an email with groups.

**Sponsored Sleep-in (Years 9-13)** will take place in the Large Hall on Friday 26th January to raise awareness of homelessness and raise money for homeless support charities. Contact Anna if interested.

## OTHER NEWS

**Catechists' half-day retreat** on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January from 10am-1pm, followed by lunch, at Vita et Pax, Cockfosters. Contact the parish office if you haven't received an email with details.

**Ministers of the Word Day of Recollection** is on Saturday 20th January in the Small Hall, starting with coffee at 10am. Please return your reply slip to the parish office by 12th Jan, or send an email. Thank you.

**Come and See** group for people interested in the Catholic Faith starts again on Monday 8th January at 7.30pm in the Newman Room.

**Temporary Closure of Bourne Hill** for 50m from junction with Green Lanes will take effect from 3rd January for several weeks. Please allow extra time to get to Mass.

**Enfield Churches Winter Nightshelter** commences Mondays from 8th January at St John's church. Volunteers urgently needed for shifts - early evening (6pm-10pm), overnight (10pm-6am) or breakfast (6.30am-8am). If you can help please contact [nickburch77@hotmail.com](mailto:nickburch77@hotmail.com)

**Annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes** 2pm Saturday 10th February in Westminster Cathedral. Sacrament of the Sick to be administered. If you wish to attend in a wheelchair, please contact the parish office by 28th Jan so that a space can be reserved for you.

**Westminster Yearbook 2018** now on sale in the Repository.

**Enfield Refugee Welcome Group** Our first family is now well settled into family / community life, with the children attending school and mum attending college to learn English. We are looking for new volunteer members to support a second refugee family to settle into the borough. In particular we need: a housing representative to search for suitable housing; Befriender co-ordinator; Befrienders (who offer practical support and advice, assisting the sponsored family to adjust to life in London); Interpreters (Arabic). If you are interested in any of these volunteer roles, please get in touch with parishioner Alan Seldon on 07884 187446.

**Marriage Preparation** 6 months' notice has to be given for marriage so that the various elements of preparation can be organised. Our next Marriage Preparation Course is in Spring 2018. If you are planning to marry next year please contact one of the priests.

**St Monica's Baby and Toddler Group** If you have a child below school age why don't you try out our group? Term time every Mon and Weds 9.30am-1.30pm at the Parish Centre £1.50/session. Indoor and outdoor toys, singing and arts & crafts. Please call Katie on 07960 281068 for more info.

**The Parish Centre** is at 6 Cannon Hill and open to all parishioners. The bar is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 8pm-11pm and on Sundays from 1pm-4pm and 8pm-11pm. The bar will only open on Saturdays from 8pm-11pm if there is an event. **Bookings:** the Parish Centre is available for hire for parties or other events. If you wish to make a booking please contact Annette on [palmersgreenpcadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:palmersgreenpcadmin@rcdow.org.uk) or 07955 037251. **Parish Centre bar** is closed and will re-open on Thursday 4th January at 8pm.

**St Monica's Brownies** meet on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm – 8pm in the Scout and Guide HQ in Cannon Rd, Southgate. Brownies are aged between 7 and 10 years old. If your daughter would like to join Brownies it is better to put her name on the waiting list when she is 5 or 6 years old. To do this, go to the Guiding Website [girlguiding.org.uk](http://girlguiding.org.uk) find GO and follow the instructions! For more information please phone Doreen on 020 8807 2221.

**Soup Run** is doing a stock-take and does not need any items at the moment. We will ask again when we do. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**Deadline** To ensure notices are included in the newsletter they should be submitted by noon on Wednesday.

**Job Vacancies** for the diocese are online at <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/>

**Consideration to Neighbours** Please park with consideration when attending Mass. Remember, not every car will necessarily be departing immediately after Mass! Younger parishioners please consider walking (or parking further away and walking). Please park only in the marked bays in the Large Hall car park and please do not park across or restrict residents' driveways or other access.

**Baptism Preparation** The next Baptism Preparation Course takes place on Sunday 4th February, 3-5pm in the Newman Room. Please contact the parish office to book on to the course. If you live outside the parish, a letter of permission from your local priest is required. Dates for Baptism cannot be set until the Course has been completed.

**Soup & Conversation** 12noon-2pm every Wednesday at Grange Park Methodist church, Old Park Ridings, N21. Further details available from 07930 920941.

**Catholic Singles** is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information tel 0161 941 3498 or visit [www.catholicssingles.org.uk](http://www.catholicssingles.org.uk)

**Prayer Ministry** You can be prayed with on Wednesday mornings after Mass and after the evening Mass with the Worship Band on the 1st Sunday of the month.

**The Calix Society** offers a Catholic ministry to addicts in recovery and their families. Meetings each Thursday (see poster in porch).

**Homeshare** is a scheme whereby someone who needs a small amount of help to live independently in their own home is matched with someone who has a housing need and can provide support or companionship. For further details see [sharedlivesplus.org.uk/about-shared-lives-plus/home-share](http://sharedlivesplus.org.uk/about-shared-lives-plus/home-share)

**Winchmore Hill Community Care** is a neighbourhood scheme offering help and support for the elderly and housebound in our area. We would love to hear from you if you are able to volunteer for a couple of hours a week to support someone in the community. If you know anyone who would benefit from a visit or help with shopping or small errands please get in touch on 020 8882 7824 or e-mail [infowhcc59@gmail.com](mailto:infowhcc59@gmail.com)

**Tea & Coffee after Mass** The main purpose of this is to bring parishioners together, to welcome new parishioners and build community. Please bear this in mind if you are arranging a raffle - people can be invited to buy tickets but not harassed. Also, if you are

selling a strip of five tickets you are indicating that there are five chances of winning—so tickets should be separated before the draw.

**Health & Safety** we take the safety of everybody very seriously and the diocese provides a company who assist us with regular checks of all our buildings. Please observe any safety notices **including in the car park** and let a member of the parish team know if you spot anything of concern.