

Welcome to our weekly newsletter. We hope you enjoy your time at St James' and we look forward to seeing you again next week.

Thank you for your offerings last week of £1,463. Mass attendance 559.

5th January (Saturday Vigil)	The Epiphany of The Lord 6pm People of the Parish
Sunday 6th January	9.15am Dr Margaret E Ledger (Foundation) 11am Elizabeth Horner RIP (Horner Family)
Monday 7th January	Feria of Christmas Time 9.30am Margaret & Roy Littlewood (B&G Ford)
Tuesday 8th January Please note change of time	Feria of Christmas Time 11am Requiem Mass for Teresa Adams RIP
Wednesday 9th January Whole School Mass	Feria of Christmas Time 9.30am Teresa Forde 10.45am Eucharist Adoration
Thursday 10th January	Feria of Christmas Time 9.30am Anthony Olivelle RIP (M Olivelle)
Friday 11th January	Feria of Christmas Time 9.30am Paul & Bridget Wiggins
12th January (Saturday Vigil)	The Baptism of The Lord 6pm Joan Hansford RIP (A Hansford)
Sunday 13th January	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Lewis Meacher RIP (Lawrence Murray)

Confessions are heard on Saturday, 5.00-5.45pm, or by appointment.

Morning Prayer takes place Monday – Friday at 9.10am. All are welcome to attend.

Pondering the Word (*Lectio Divina*) - A quiet reflective look at the following Sunday's Gospel. Mondays 11am-12 noon, except for Bank Holidays, here in the Church. All are welcome.

Rosary – Every day after Mass there is rosary. All are welcome.

Christmas Thank You

I would like to thank those of you who helped make our Christmas celebrations so wonderful. The decorations, flowers, crib and the entire church looked lovely. Also to all the servers, choirs, instrumentalists and everyone who took part in the Masses. Also, on behalf of myself and Fr Barry, I would like to thank you for all your cards, gifts and generosity too. Fr David, God Bless You.

Help Needed

Can we please have some helpers to take down the Christmas Decorations in the church and hall after this Sunday's 11am Mass. Thank You.

Fr David writes...

We find it easier to listen more to the ideas of those people who have a similar world view to ours. I feel elated when someone's wisdom speaks to the depth of my being. I connect intellectually and spiritually with people who are open and inclusive in how they envisage life in general. I feel less so, with people who in my opinion, I find to be close minded. To whose vision of life is one of protection and less based on risk and life. When I find people very dogmatic in their views, I usually struggle to hear what they have to say. Something in me becomes defensive and blocks what I consider to be an argument based on "fear". In doing so, I feel that I become as dogmatic as the other. I block the wisdom which exists in the other to influence me in any shape or form. I find myself categorising very quickly between those who live in "my" world and those who are "strangers" to my world. When I start judging the world vis a vis what I perceive to be true and right, I lose sight of true wisdom.

No one has the monopoly of Truth and Wisdom. When as a Church we believed that we held the key to the Truth and Wisdom, we lacked humility. The Imposition of truth was coming more from a place of insecurity and the desire to control rather than from a place of genuine desire to explore together for the truth. Wisdom emerges from diverse people, cultures, religions, ethnicities and creation. Truth has to include the wisdom of the human sciences which includes the fascination of neuroscience and the physical world of today. We can no longer just enclose ourselves within a confined system of knowledge disregarding the diversity of learnings and teaching which the contemporary world is opening us to. If we are frightened that by opening ourselves up to pluralism, we are bound to get confused and lose our faith, then our faith is based on sand and not on rock.

In today's gospel, creation itself proclaims the birth of Jesus to the Magi, the kings who are strangers in the land of Israel. They follow the star in their search for this new born king and when they find him not in a palace in Jerusalem but in a humble home in Bethlehem, they worship this baby and offer him kingly gifts. The Magi respond with joy to the revelation of Jesus. They are strangers. They are scientists. They are led by their research and their desire to learn more and be led by the truth. They have no hidden agendas. They are free to be led. Whilst Herod, who is "greatly troubled", is unable to receive the gift of Jesus or to offer Jesus the gift of himself. He remains hostage to his greed and lust for power. When in our search for the truth, we are still encumbered by our desire to control within our small world, we tend to find the truth in our way and, like Herod, are ready to character assassinate someone who is threatening our comfort zone by leading us to the truth about ourselves. When the truth hurts because it is too close to the bone, we might be tempted to close our ears and project hostility towards the one who is claiming it. Fear of loss of power and prestige and entitlement makes us sometimes do evil things.

The Magi quite naively come to Jerusalem claiming good news – the birth of a King in their midst. The "comfortable people" of Jerusalem, especially those who had a lot to lose, had ulterior motives for finding the child. When the Magi finally arrive at their place of destination led by a star, in today's gospel, it is significant to note that they worshiped the child Jesus. Here Jesus is no longer an infant. And it is clear that Mary is at her house, and Jesus is not in a manger, as Luke would have it. Again in the story, Matthew tells us about the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, to escape Herod's slaughtering all the male children in Bethlehem up to the age of two year old. This is a clear indication that the Magi visited the home about two years after the birth of Jesus. And the point here is theological. Jesus is brought to Egypt so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son" (Matthew 2:15; Hosea 11:1).

The gifts of the Magi reveal the nature of Jesus to us. Gold is a gift befitting a king. Frankincense was a precious incense burned at the temple as a sign of the presence of God. Myrrh is mentioned in the gospels surrounding Jesus' death. It is offered to Jesus on the cross mixed with wine, which he refuses

to drink, and it is among the perfumes and spices which Nicodemus brings to prepare Jesus' body for burial. The gifts proclaim Jesus king, God and human. In today's feast, the scripture is offering us the truth, that the search for God is offered to us in everyone's heart and soul. There is no community entitled to salvation more than others. Everyone is the chosen people. It is not a matter of belonging to a clan that leads us to God, but whoever is opening himself or herself up to this desire to search for the truth. This could be a life long journey. Like the Magi we need to be open to learn from creation and other sources to grow in our search for God. Are we listening to the signs and the people on our pilgrimage of life to what God wants us to be surprised with? Especially those who might be challenging our comfort zones?

"Drop-In" Evening Surgeries – The next drop in surgery with Fr David will be on **Tuesday 22nd January 2019 between 5pm-7pm**. No appointment needed.

Second Collections

This week's second collection is for The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). Please note that this donation cannot be gift aided.

Next week's second collection will be for the parish maintenance fund.

Help Sofia (Twinkle Toes) raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital...

Sofia Cotta, Stuart & his daughter Zoe will be kick starting their new year (13th Jan) with a cool 20km 'winter walk' across the streets & bridges of London, along with 2,000 others to raise money for GOSH. Zoe (now 14yrs old) has been an in & out patient of GOSH since she was born with a rare condition called Goldenhar, and so very keen now that she's able, to give something back. Please help us support them on this chilly experience! Sponsorship form for their Team: "Twinkle Toes" will be at the back of church or online <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/twinkietoes>

Church Cleaners Required

As a New Year's resolution have you considered volunteering as a church cleaner? We are short of cleaners at present. Cleaners are rostered every few weeks: the more cleaners we have the fewer times you are needed. Please email the parish office if you can help.

Evangelisation Pillar

Journey in Faith

Journey in Faith continues on Sunday 13th January at 2pm in the Community Centre.

Readers' Meeting

On Monday 11th February at 8pm in the church there will be a meeting for all existing Readers and anyone interested in becoming a Reader.

Eucharistic Ministers' Meeting

On Monday 4th March at 8pm in the church there will be a meeting for all existing Eucharistic Ministers and anyone interested in becoming a Eucharistic minister.

Confirmation 2019

The third preparation session is on Monday 7th January from 7.00pm-8.30pm.

First Holy Communion 2019

The first preparation session is on Saturday 12th January from 4.30pm to 5.45pm

A DATE FOR YOUR 2019 DIARY

From **10th to 16th March** next year we are holding another **Week of Accompanied Prayer**. Previously, such Weeks have been really appreciated.

Details of the Week will be published in the New Year, but in the meantime, you are invited to **note the Week in your 2019 diary**.

Eucharist Adoration – Be Still in the Presence of the Lord. Your time set aside in your hectic life – wasting time in silence with God. Takes place for an hour **each Wednesday** shortly after the Morning Mass and the Wednesday Café starting at 10.45am and finishing with Benediction at 11.45am.

First Friday of the Month. A time of silent meditation in an evocative atmosphere created by soft background music and candles. From 7.30pm till 9.00pm. The **next will be on Friday 1st February**. ***All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.***

Pilgrimage/Cultural tour to Oberammergau & Salzburg – 25th May to 30th May 2020

We are organising a pilgrimage/ culture tour to Oberammergau for May 2020. This is the famous Passion play that is performed every 10 years. We need to establish the level of interest and potential numbers so please contact the parish office if you are interested.

Social Pillar

New Year's Eve Party

A massive thank you to everyone who helped put together a hugely successful New Year's Eve Party. It was a truly warm, community event. Looking forward to next year's already!

Parent and Toddler Group

The St James' Parent and Toddler group has reopened on Friday afternoons between 1.30pm-3.30pm. £2.50 per family.

Monday Craft Club

The next Craft club will be on Monday 14th January 2019.

Dad and Me

The next Dad and Me will be on Saturday 19th January, 10am to 11.30am.

Youth Group

The next youth group will be on Saturday 19th January, 12pm to 2.30pm.

Film Night

Our next Film Night will be at 7.30 pm on Saturday, 12 January. We will be showing the 2017 Film "Phantom Thread", starring Daniel Day-Lewis. Running time is 2 hours, 10 minutes. The storyline is as follows: "Set in the glamour of 1950s post-war London, renowned dressmaker Reynolds Woodcock (Daniel Day-Lewis) and his sister Cyril (Lesley Manville) are at the centre of British fashion, dressing royalty, movie stars, heiresses, socialites, debutants, and dames with the distinct style of The House of Woodcock. Women come and go through Woodcock's life, providing the confirmed bachelor with inspiration and companionship, until he comes across a young, strong-willed woman, Alma (Vicky Krieps), who soon becomes a fixture in his life as his muse and lover. Once controlled and planned, he finds his carefully tailored life disrupted by love."

Firm Believers

Starts again on Tuesday, 8th January.

St James' Inter-Church Fun Fitness class is open to all ages, abilities and fitness levels.

Tuesday nights in our Community Centre led by Jo Gallier, a local fitness instructor.

Term time only, at 7pm for 45 minutes with the option of a cuppa and a chat afterwards!

Classes are a mixture of aerobics, pilates with some core and stretch working, and dance.

Improves all aspects of fitness, flexibility, muscle strength, toning and general well-being.

It's just £5 a time, no need to book, just turn up! All welcome.

Liturgy Pillar

Music Workshop

We invite all music lovers to our next workshop which is being held in the Community Centre on 26th January, led by Meg Shepherd. Please put this date in your diaries.

Justice & Peace

Foodbank donations

Special thanks to the person who generously donated £60 of Tesco vouchers, and to another for their earlier donation of £30 worth. These are much appreciated because one voucher will give Foodbank clients an opportunity to make their own choices at the supermarket. The Foodbank would like us to use this list until further notice: cold meat, cooking sauce, tinned potatoes, custard, rice pudding, male and female razors, shaving foam, washing-up liquid, large nappies (size 5 and 6), and shampoo. Thank you very much for all the support you gave in 2018. Justice & Peace Group.

Message from CAFOD

Lend Your Voice to help our global family

Do you enjoy inspiring people by giving talks and presentations or would you like to learn? Are you free two weekends a year to inspire others with stories of CAFOD's work with people facing poverty and injustice? How about joining our team of CAFOD volunteer speakers across Southwark Archdiocese? Your passion and skills will bring CAFOD's work to life and get more people involved in making the world a fairer place. For more information and to book on our next training day on Saturday 16 February in Waterloo, please email southwark@cafod.org.uk or call 020 8466 9901.

Pastoral Pillar

St James The Great 'Memory Café'

Here at St James' we run a Dementia Café on the first two Tuesdays of each month from 2pm to 3.30pm in the Community Centre. This is a time for guests with dementia and their carers to come for refreshments and a chat in a comfortable and safe environment and if they wish, join in with activities such as quizzes, games and music. If you would like to know more, please contact: pastoral.care@stjamespettswood.org or telephone the Parish Office: 01689 827100. **We look forward to welcoming you.**

Helplines and Counselling Services.

A list of helplines and counselling services is available on our website, and in the church porch, for anyone who might need this.

Finance Pillar

Fundraising by shopping online

Several parishioners over the last few years have helped the parish by raising donations through easyfundraising.org.uk. Recently we reached the milestone of £3,000, for which we thank everyone who has made purchases that way. Over 3,400 retailers including Amazon, eBay, M&S, John Lewis, Argos, Booking.com, tour operators, now make donations on every purchase (from 0.5% to 5% of cost). The top supporter parishioner has raised £388 (all transactions are completely anonymous), so why not embrace the idea and help St James'? To get started, follow the item on the left menu bar of the parish website. Once you've registered, you have the option to install an automatic donation reminder in your browser to make sure no purchase misses its reward.

Any questions, please contact roger.wright@stjamespettswood.org. Thank you.

Polite Reminders

Parking

- The Parish disabled parking spaces are for Blue Badge holders only.
- Please be aware of our neighbours in the surrounding roads, please do not block driveways or double-park your car.

In Church

Please refrain from eating and drinking while you are in church.

Seeing a Chaplain if You Are Admitted to Hospital

- **Protecting personal information** (data protection) is really important when you become an inpatient in hospital.
- **So please specifically ask hospital staff to pass on your details** to the hospital's Roman Catholic chaplain as soon as you are admitted if you would like a Chaplain to visit you.
- **Fr David would always be very happy** to visit you too, so please ask a relative or friend to let him know about your admission. You, or they, can email Fr David on: father.david@stjamespettswood.org, or phone the parish office on 01689 827100.

Rotas for this week: *Thank you for helping*

Weekend 12th/13th January

Cleaning the Church

Eucharistic Ministers

Wednesday Coffee 16th Jan

Sheila Barradell, Madeleine Howell

13th January 2019

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	M Walters	F Mace M Howell	Uniformed Groups
Readers	L Rusmini A Prifti	H Denham P Lowe	Uniformed Groups
Ministers of Holy Communion	P Crosland C Cosgrave P Cosgrave J Gribben P Cantopher	W David T Forde M Howell S Cotta A Ward	P May S Ingle R Del Guercio Z Bajorek T Troy
Bar			F Simon B Fleeman
Coffee		G&D Brookes	C D'Arcy T Lowe
Altar Servers	Roisin Fintan Peter	Zoe Daniella	Emily Valentino

	Nathan Jude		
Tellers	A&S Barradell		