

**PRESBYTERY**  
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Greenwich,  
London,  
SE10 8HG  
0208 858 0662

**PARISH PRIEST**  
Rev. Fr Thomas Lynch  
frtomlynch85@gmail.com

**PARISH DEACON**  
Rev. Duncan Aitkens

**PARISH SECRETARY**  
Leigh Ott  
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**SAFEGUARDING**  
Sophie Sadler  
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**PARISH WEBSITE**  
ourladyestaroftheseagreenwich.church

**DOMINICAN CONVENT**  
38 Hyde Vale  
SE10 8QH  
Tel: 020 8692 3382

#### **DONATIONS**

Nat West Bank  
Sort code: 60-09-16  
Account number: 25240676  
Account Name: RCAS Greenwich

*This parish is part of the RCAOS registered  
Charity Number 1173050  
Thank you for your kindness and generosity.*

**ST. URSULA'S GIRLS CONVENT  
SCHOOL**  
Head Mr O'Shaughnessy  
Crooms Hill  
SE10 8HN  
Tel: 020 8858 4613

**ST. JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Head Ms. Long  
Commerell Street  
SE10 9AN  
Tel. 02088584182

#### **LAST WEEK**

**ATTENDANCE**  
292



# **OUR LADYE STAR OF THE SEA**

**CATHOLIC CHURCH • GREENWICH**

DECEMBER- DEDICATED TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

## **✠ HOLY MASS FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

**MISSAL: PRAYERS AND READINGS pg. 106**

### **SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> December**

6.00pm      Vigil Mass      Sean Coogan RIP (10<sup>th</sup> Ann)

### **SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> December** **FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY**

9.00am      Sung Mass      O'Donoghue family  
11.00am      Sung mass      People of the Parish

### **MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> December** **SAINT THOMAS of CANTERBURY**

8:30am      Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament      In Reparation  
9.30am      Holy Mass

### **TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> December** **6<sup>th</sup> DAY of the CHRISTMAS OCTAVE**

6:00pm      Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
7:00pm      Holy Mass      Frances and Keith Emblin (50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anni)

### **WEDNESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> December**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> DAY of the CHRISTMAS OCTAVE**

8:30am      Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
9.30am      Holy Mass      Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood

### **THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> January** **MARY the HOLY MOTHER GOD**

11.00am      Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
12noon      Holy Mass      For the New Year

### **FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

#### **SAINTS BASIL and GREGORY**

8:30am      Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
9.30am      Holy Mass      For Pope Leo XIV

### **SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> January** **MOST HOLY NAME of JESUS**

6.00pm      Vigil Mass      People of the Parish

### **SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS**

9.00am      Sung mass      For Peace  
11.00am      Sung mass      Bishop Elect Father Gerard Bradley

*(FRIDAY ABSTINENCE)*

#### **Confessions**

Saturdays at 10.00am – 10.30am and 5pm - 5.30pm. After weekday Mass – please sit by the confessional.

#### **Adoration**

One hour before every weekday mass.

## **Spiritual Thought**

Christmas time is such a beautiful season in the church's year – and we are fortunate not just to celebrate for one day but for a whole season. Firstly we celebrate the Octave of Christmas – the eight days following a feast, in which we keep the joy flowing.

Then we celebrate Christmas-tide, we celebrate the unfolding of the mystery of the Lord's presence and revelation – the great feasts of the Epiphany and his Baptism.

This stretching of the feast is important, we don't have one blast of joy and then forget what's happened, move on to something else – feast days are not a facebook reel. Rather we hold on to what has been given, we inspect it from different angles and discover new joys, we hold on to the things that have been given.

As the shepherds enter the cave of Bethlehem, directed by the angels, they tell the story of what they have seen – and "Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." (Gospel of the Dawn Mass) This is such a beautiful way of expressing this 'holding on' – can we do the same?

Our Lord has come to us, he has come into our very difficult world, and personally into our very difficult and complex hearts. He is already here amongst us – what touches me most about this reality? What is the feeling I get when pondering this? Is there anything particular I need to ask Him, or something personal I would like to say to Him?

Perhaps we can begin to see this great mystery from another person's standpoint, perhaps we could think about Blessed Mary's experience, or that of the shepherds, or even of the angels. These are all ways of looking at this treasure from different aspects, seeing its beauty in different lights.

As we hold on to what has been given to us our heart unwraps itself, opens up, creating more space for God to dwell, and more opportunities for God to give us grace.

Happy Christmas, Happy Christmas Octave, Happy Christmastide! Happy Birth of the Savior into the world! Happy growth in grace! Happy pondering these things in our hearts!

## **Christmas Thank You**

The first Christmas in a new parish is one of those big milestones, the masses here were very prayerful and joyful, thank you for making my first Christmas in Greenwich so beautiful.

Thank you also for all your many cards, kind greetings and presents, which are very much appreciated.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made the masses so beautiful – all the readers, servers and musicians.

## **Christmas Donations**

The collections at the Christmas Masses are for the priest of the parish, and is a major source of his

income. These offerings can also be made at the DONA points, the gift-aid from these donations is collected by the parish, so do remember to gift-aid any gifts. Thank you for your generosity, it is very much appreciated.

The Christmas Crib donations (which can be made at the DONA points) are for the Friends of the Holy Land, which helps maintain the Holy Places in the Holy Land, and supports the local Christian communities in Israel and Palestine.

## **Our Lady's Stars – New Children's Club**

We are excited to announce the launch of Our Lady's Stars, a new children's group at our Parish. With so many children in our community, we will run monthly gatherings for all primary school children (and younger siblings as well). The aim is to create a welcoming space to build friendships, grow in faith and share what matters most to children.

Our first session will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> January, after the 11:00 am Mass. Snacks will be provided for the children and tea or coffee will be available for parents. We also warmly welcome any parents who would like to help with running or supporting these sessions. If you are interested, please talk to Fr Tom or Justyna John.

We warmly invite all children to join us as we begin this new and joyful chapter in our Parish life.

## **Christmas Hampers – Raffle Winners**

Congratulations to the lucky winners of the Christmas Hamper Raffle. Please check your tickets to see if you have won.

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Orange 22 Julia (collected)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Yellow 457 E Davies (collected)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Blue 344 Mandy (collected)**

**4<sup>th</sup> prize – Blue 261 Cecilia**

## **A Message from the Manna Centre**

We have been given the wonderful opportunity to have our donations doubled up until 29<sup>th</sup> December – whoopee! The Aviva Community Fund (ACF) will match all donations made (up to a maximum of £250 per donation). Our page can be accessed via the red 'Donate' button on our website

<https://www.mannasociety.org.uk/> Our target is to raise £48,000 - one month's running costs for the Manna Centre. The Manna Centre provides help, housing and meals for the London Homeless at London Bridge.

## **Pastoral Letter**

Copies of the Pastoral Letter can be found at the back of the church, and online at the Southwark Archdiocese website: [rcaos.org.uk](http://rcaos.org.uk)

## **Feast of the Epiphany**

Please remember Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January is a Holy Day of Obligation.