Our Ladye Star of the Sea
(Crooms Hill) West Greenwich
www.greenwichcatholic.org
Email: kevinrobinson@rcaos.org.uk
Fr. Kevin Robinson BD MA AKC
Facebook: Our Ladye Star of the Sea

Feast of the Epiphany **Sunday January 5th 2025** ***Mauve Book Book Page 89***

Happy New Year to you all. Let us take the 'joyful hope' of Advent into the New Year.

Brian Mooney writes about an intriguing new discovery as the old cork flooring is removed:

To the more prosaic, the collective hard work of a growing band, is evident as more and more of the original floor is revealed. In November, ***Isabela*** discovered something unusual that had been hidden for 60 years. With a little help from ***Kathy, Sean, Maeve & me***, we exposed the colour of a square of Pugin encaustic tiles…
(I forgot to take a photo of ***Maeve*** - sorry!)

Essentially:

1) It is a '***votive square'***, for offering prayers/intentions to Our Lady, in front of the Pugin statue of The Virgin & Child.

2) On the square would have stood a brass candle stand, for those offering a prayer to light a candle.
(Possibly also by Pugin.)

3) on each corner of the square is the monogram of Our Lady, ***(MR).***

Adjacent to each is a gold ***fleur-de-lis***.

(The lily symbolises purity, the Immaculate Conception and therefore associated with the Virgin Mary.)

4) The tiles are "***Minton***", designed by ***Pugin*** (possibly commissioned specifically for OLSS).

5) The outer edge is marble, between black lines almost certainly would have been brass.

6) The church originally had only one altar rail. The addition of a forward rail, (pre 1900), explains why the step covers the marble at the top of the votive square.

We probably need to go back with scrapers, clean better and then polish!!

As always, thanks to the team. May God bless you all.

As one observer has commented:
'just great to uncover a bit of Pugin that's been there for more than 170 years. Can't be many 'new' Pugin finds.'

To get involved please speak to Brian
mooney.brian1@btinternet.com

Entrance Antiphon

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One,
has come; and kingship is in his grasp,
and power and dominion.

Collect

O God, who on this day
revealed your Only Begotten Son
to the nations by the guidance of a star,
grant in your mercy, that we,
who know you already by faith,
may be brought to behold
the beauty of your sublime glory…

First reading **Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all round, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm **72(71)**

All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice,
and your poor in right judgement. **(R)**

In his days justice shall flourish,
and great peace till the moon is no more.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the bounds of the earth. **(R)**

All the nations on earth shall fall
prostrate before you, O Lord.
The kings of Tarshish and the islands
shall pay him tribute. **(R)**

The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. **(R)**

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry,
the poor who have no one to help.
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the needy. **(R)**

Second reading **Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

Brothers and sisters: I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy Apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 2:2**

Alleluia, We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship the Lord.

Gospel **Matthew 2:1-12**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.' After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the

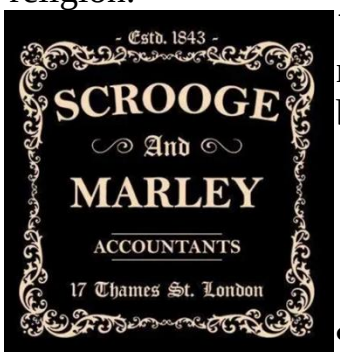
child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his <u>BOWELS OF COMPASSION</u> from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"
1Jn3v17 KJV

Dear Friends, I wonder if you caught that old B&W film of ***Scrooge*** on Boxing Day? It was not the celebrated 1951 version starring ***Alastair Sim*** but an older production from 1935 (90 years ago!) starring ***Seymour Hicks***. There was something dark, much less romantic and not at all child friendly in the stark unfolding of the story.

Let us consider what Dickens was doing when he penned "***A Christmas Carol***": it was first published in December 1843. By the following Christmas it was a runaway success. It had to be reprinted 13 times. Dickens was already a successful author. However, by 1843 with six children of his own, having sustained financial losses from ill-advised business ventures, he was, until then, in some difficulty himself. To gain real insight for the harsh reality of London life, he would take long night time walks through the back streets of the city. Dickens carried his own memory of Childhood trauma when his father was made bankrupt and the whole family were taken to a debtor's prison.

The "***Christmas Carol***" may or may not be a religious parable, but it is an accurate account of how old pre-reformation Christmas traditions were re-emerging in early Victorian England. After the execution of ***Charles 1st*** (1649) during the period of ***Oliver Cromwell's***, Puritan Government all revelries relating to Christmas were banned. ***Christ's Mass*** was a misplaced remnant of the old popish religion. Scripture, commanded no such celebration. Dancing and festivities were forbidden. Parliament was required to sit on Christmas Day and shops & businesses were expected to remain open. There were now no ***"Holy Days".*** It was only in the early 19thC that Christmas festivities began to reappear both in the Church and in the open streets of England. ***Queen Victoria & Albert*** popularised the use of *Christmas Trees*. Significantly all this coincided with the revival of Catholicism newly "*Emancipated*" (1829)! Concurrently, the advent of the "***Oxford Movement***" within the CofE did much to recover pre-reformation Carols and to create new ones. We take for granted today ***O Little Town, Once in Royal, Hark the Herald*** etc. as being integral with Christmas, but these were all new compositions. Wesley had paved the way but elsewhere carols were simply drawing room melodies to enjoy at home or worse, profane drinking songs from local ale houses like "***While Shepherds Watched***" (to the tune ***Ilkley Moor bar t'At***). Puritan Protestantism permitted only the singing of Psalms as sacred music in church (***Scripture Alone*** and all that). There is no doubt that the "*Christmas Carol*" is an open expose of the deep impoverishment of ***Calvinist*** teaching that insists on Salvation as a matter of "***Faith Alone"***, whereas Catholicism emphasises that ***"Faith without (good) works is a dead thing!"*** Jms2v26. Now we can see why Scrooge cried ***Bah Humbug*** for these new-fangled Christmas fripperies. Whatever… in his case it seems he had neither ***Faith nor Good Works,*** but something brought about a new birth within him that changed both his identity & his eternal destiny.



O Holy Child of Bethlehem
descend to us we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in
"<u>BE BORN IN US TODAY</u>"
& throughout 2025 God Bless Fr K

Medjugorje Apostolate Annual Retreat
Friday 7th to Sunday 9th March 2025
at the Kairos Centre, Roehampton, London
led by Fr Marinko Šakota OFM

Fr Marinko was parish priest in Medjugorje from 2013 to 2022 having served there as an assistant from 2010. The retreat is residential but there are places for day participants.

For info & booking please contact:
Paul Spencer at pilgrimsofmary@hotmail.com
or call 07710567183 before 31/1/25

"Dear children, out of love towards you, God has sent me among you, to love you and encourage you to prayer and conversion, for peace in you and in your families and in the world. Little children, do not forget that true peace comes only through prayer, from God Who is your peace. Thank you for having responded to my call." (25.09.2024)

Weekdays after Epiphany Sunday 5th -12th January.

Satd 4th	6.00pm	Int: Ted McFadden	(RiP 1mth)
Sunday 5th	9.00am	Int: Jadryga Verbaitiene	(RiP 1mth)
	11.00am	Int: Tom Delaney	(RiP/BD)
Tues 7th	NB: 7.00pm	Int:	
Wed 8th	9.30am	Int: Thkg for the Draper Charity	
Thrs 9th	9.30am	Int: Thkg to St Padre Pio	
Frid 10th	9.30am	Int:	
Satd 11th	6.00pm	Int:	
Sunday 12th	9.00am	Int:	
Bptm OLJC	11.00am	Int:	

Holy Mass continues each week at the Qn Elis' Cottage Chapel at 4.30 each Saturday

Children's FHC will commence NEXT SATURDAY at 10.45 in the Church

Epiphany

The Wise Men have arrived at the Crib. We will leave the crib until ***Feast of the Presentation*** Feb 2nd the 40th day of Christmas.

Message from the Finance Group re Gift Aid

To Gift aiders: We are happy to provide certificate for tax returns for year 2023/24, but please do not leave it to the 31st January to request. Email **greenwichgac@rcaos.org.uk** We are very grateful to all our Gift Aid supporters for your generosity throughout the year. If you would like to join the Gift Aid scheme but have somehow never got around to it please message as above.

RCIA (Catholicism 101) We will resume meetings at the Presbytery on Thurs 23rd at 7.30

Baptism Preparation There will be NO meeting in January. If you are seeking the Baptism of a Child please come to OLSS at 7.30 on Wed 12th February.

Times of Mass and OTHER Services

Saturday Vigil at 6.00pm at The Star of the Sea (For Livestreams cf: Facebook: Our Ladye Star of the Sea)
Sunday Masses at 9.00 am & 11.00am **Twitter:** Stella Maris@MarisCrooms benchandpew@yahoo.com
To make an online gift via BACS Please use Nat West – RCAS Greenwich Sort Code; 60-09-16 AccNo 25240676 OLSS
Weekday Masses: Tuesday NB at 7,00pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.30 am
Confessions: Saturday at 10.00am Tuesday from 18.15 at the Star of the Sea or by appointment
The Presbytery 68 Crooms Hill London SE10 8HG Tel: 020 8858 0662
BAPTISM Preparation & Arrangement evenings on the 2nd Wednesday at OLSS 7.00pm (Check this N/L)
Dominican Conv: 38 Hyde Vale SE10 8QH Tel: 020 8692 3382
St Joseph's RC Primary School Tel: 020 8858 4182 Commerell Str SE10 9AN H/T: Suzanne Long
St Ursula's Girls Convent School Tel: 020 8858 4613 Crooms Hill, SE10 8HN H/T: Mark O'Shaughnessy