

# ST JOSEPH'S STONEHOUSE AND THE ANNUNCIATION WOODCHESTER

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For Hall Bookings at St Joseph's please contact Angela Brazington

### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - PSALTER: NATIVITY / ST STEPHEN

ST JOSEPH'S			THE ANNUNCIATION	
Sun	9.00am	Mass intention: <i>The People of parish</i>	11.00am	Mass intention: <i>The People of parish</i>
Mon	NO MASSES		NO MASSES	
Tue				
Wed				
Thurs				
Fri				
Sat				

### LECTIONARY

Fri	Vigil	Is 62: 1-5	Ps 88: 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29	Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25	Mt 1: 1-25
	Day	Is 52: 7-10	Psalm 97: 1-6	Heb 1: 1-6	John 1: 1-18
Sat		Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59	Psalm 30: 3-6, 8, 16-17		Matthew 10: 17-22

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AT ST JOSEPH'S

Mike Gibbons and Olga, Julie Wood, Elizabeth Carr, Mary Evans, Rosemary Mabud,  
Aine Anderson, Mary Scully, Maggie

### AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED ABOUT THIS TIME

Vi Burrage, William Lipp, Arthur Stevens, Dorothy Bell, Molly Best, Carmen Abela, Michael Griffin,  
Michael O'Dowd, Santina Long, Raymond Sparkes, Arthur Richardson, Joshua Guy, Jane Perkins,  
Amelia Ginter, Audrey Sellick, Lilian McTighe, Karel Slintak, Catherine Devlin, Christina Sweet

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AT THE ANNUNCIATION

Fr. Richard Finn O.P. and family, Rebekah Hollingshead, Brendon Conboy, Della Cox, Barry Norris,  
Cynthia Stevens, Peggy Chapman, Barry Taylor, John Presland, Tony Thompson, Georgina Mazzone, Frances  
Little, Christopher Notley, Trese Hulbert, Elizabeth Lillinton, Chris Jay, Penny Gear, Lisa Parker

### AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED ABOUT THIS TIME

Dorothy Donkin, Sr. Francis Brazier-Creagh, Gerald Shepherd, Margaret Swoboda, Margaret Talbot, Sr. Mary  
Clare Harte, Isabella Knee, Winifred Burroughs, Iva Tandy, Sr. Helena Brett, William Hargreaves,  
Margaret Turner, Tom Breech

### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ may be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer

## THE THOUGHTS OF A PRIMARY CHAPLAIN ARE NO MORE THAN A BREATH!

“What’s your favourite colour?”

It seemed a good idea as an ice-breaker for the start of a term interrupted by lockdown. It caused quite a stir!

“Mine’s blue, because it’s like the blue sky and the sea.” Said Peter.

“Mine is red,” Emily was so eager, “because it is warm and cosy, like a sunny day.”

At the back of a forest of raised hands, you couldn’t miss Mwanga’s!

“All of them,”

“That’s greedy, you’re only supposed to have *one*,”

“Don’t interrupt, Ben, please!” “Yes, Mwanga:”

“... because *all* of them is what rainbows are made of, and they tell us that rain is coming and things will start to grow again!”

“Thank you, everyone!”

Phew!

It has been a year of many colours - up to March the greens and yellows came to bring in hope and cheer, but they were lost in the deepening grey of Covid.

For some, it turned black, very black: for them there seemed to be no consolation but the trials of isolation and even grief at the loss of loved ones.

Some light did come through - watery rainbows. We seemed to be on the way to something brighter, only to arrive here, with intensifying measures to deflect the attention of a new strain. Will there ever be the day when it isn’t raining on us?

Mwanga’s colours, depending on how you work with them, can make back, or white light. We get a flash of hope even in the dark (if it were not for the dark, we might miss it!).

About Jesus, St. John said: “A light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.”

For Christians, Christmas is not ‘cancelled,’ we see light breaking through, with the birth of Jesus, into a winter-world that has become so bleak.

“He [The Father] spoke,” (quoting St. Hippolytus, here) “begetting Light from Light.”

Let’s welcome His light, so dear to us. May He shine, not so much *on* the cracks of broken relationships, so often featuring in our minds at this time, but *through* these cracks. May He bring in rainbow colours that tell that things can grow again, even though it might take time.

May your Christmas be *rainbow*: hopeful yellow-green, warm orange and bright, clear blue, all coming from the Light that became flesh. And may the coming year be one when we will see, here and there, discarded face-masks and say: “*that was when we had the virus!*”

And let us never forget the blue of the NHS men and women who continue, even this Christmastide, with the fight for life and light, even as it costs *them* so dearly.

Fr Bill