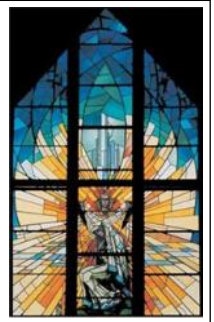




# Our Lady of the Annunciation



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**Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am - 3pm      Wednesday: Closed**  
**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**  
 Monday - Saturday: Before or After 10am Mass or By Appointment

## 19th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (page 127 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR C

### JOHN PAUL II ABOUT WEDDING AT CANA

In the first "sign" performed by Jesus, the Fathers of the Church glimpsed an important symbolic dimension, seeing the transformation of the water into wine as the announcement of the passage from the Old to the New Covenant. At Cana it is precisely the water in the jars, destined for the purification of the Jews and the fulfilment of the legal prescriptions (cf. Mk 7:1-15), which becomes the new wine of the wedding feast, a symbol of the definitive union between God and humanity.

3. The context of a wedding banquet, chosen by Jesus for his first miracle, refers to the marriage symbolism used frequently in the Old Testament to indicate the Covenant between God and his People (cf. Hos 2:21; Jer 2:1-8; Ps 44; etc.), and in the New Testament to signify Christ's union with the Church (cf. Jn 3:28-30; Eph 5:25-32; Rv 21:1-2, etc.).

Jesus' presence at Cana is also a sign of God's saving plan for marriage. In this perspective, the lack of wine can be interpreted as an allusion to the lack of love that unfortunately often threatens marital unions. Mary asks Jesus to intervene on behalf of all married couples, who can only be freed from the dangers of infidelity, misunderstanding and division by a love which is based on God. The grace of the sacrament offers the couple this superior strength of love, which can reinforce their commitment to fidelity even in difficult circumstances.

According to the interpretation of Christian authors, the miracle at Cana also has a deep Eucharistic meaning. Performing this miracle near the time of the Jewish feast Passover (cf. Jn 2:13), Jesus, as he did in multiplying the loaves (cf. Jn 6:4), shows his intention to prepare the true paschal banquet, the Eucharist. His desire at the wedding in Cana seems to be emphasised further by the presence of wine, which alludes to the blood of the New Covenant, and by the context of a banquet.

In this way, after being the reason for Jesus' presence at the celebration, Mary obtains the miracle of the new wine which prefigures the Eucharist, the supreme sign of the presence of her risen Son among the disciples.

4. At the end of the account of Jesus' first miracle, made possible by the firm faith of the Lord's Mother in her divine Son, the Evangelist John concludes: "and his disciples believed in him" (2:11). At Cana, Mary begins the Church's journey of faith, preceding the disciples and directing the servants' attention to Christ.

### Mass Intentions This Week

#### 18 January: Saturday

10:00 Ian & Thecla Sulzdorf RIP

18:00 All Parishioners ~

#### 19 January: SECOND SUNDAY

08:30 Len & Cella Dickens RIP ~ \*

10:00 Welfare of Coloma &

All Catholic Education ~ \*

11:30 Tatty Slater RIP ~

#### 20 January: Monday

10:00 Pat Salmon RIP

#### 21 January: Tuesday SAINT AGNES

10:00 John Devereux RIP

#### 22 January: Wednesday

10:00 Intentions of Betty Borfiga

#### 23 January: Thursday

10:00 Porick Fowley RIP

19:30 Boase Family Intentions RIP

#### 24 January: Friday

#### SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

10:00 Ashley Jacob RIP

#### 25 January: Saturday

#### THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

10:00 Harry, Michael & Harold Sweeney RIP

*Followed by Adoration - see overleaf*

18:00 Kevin Quinn RIP

#### 26 January: THIRD SUNDAY

08:30 Carole (5th Ann.) & Brian Simpson RIP

10:00 Sarah & Owen O'Hara RIP

11:30 All Parishioners

\* *With Children's Liturgy*

~ *With Foodbank Sunday*

### MEETINGS

**Padre Pio Prayer Group:** Tuesday 21st at 10.45am (Small Hall)

**SVP:** Tuesday 21st at 8pm (PRC)

**Bible Study with Fr Tomasz:** Wednesday 22nd at 11.30am (Large Hall)

**RCIA:** Wednesday 22nd at 8pm (PRC) *Sacrament of Marriage*



**Hearing Loop**  
Switch hearing aid to T-coil

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Fridays: 10.30am - 12pm**

In The Sacred Heart Chapel

### LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes    £ 466.20

Loose cash             £ 550.89

S/Os (Approx)         £ 1340.00

**Total**                    £ 2357.09

### \*\*\* DEFIBRILLATORS \*\*\*

There is a defibrillator located on the right hand side of the porch as you enter the church, and another on the wall outside the large hall entrance.

### COLLECTIONS

Last week's collection for *SPUC - White flower Appeal* amounted to £390.80. Many thanks. This week there will be an ACC second collection for *Pax Christi*. Please see the note overleaf and pick up an envelope in the porch.

*We pray for the sick in our Parish: Elizabeth Damsel, Lauren Horwood, Elizabeth Casey, Mary Ariaratnam, Christina Cahill, Marie Griffin, Ernie & Mary, Arthur Hughes, Peggy Wall, Canon Peter Stodart, Joseph Anand, Pat Joyce & all others*

*We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Sr. Mary Leontine, Ian Sulzdorf, William McHale, Ted Hanlon, James Concannon, Elsie Ryan, Harry Linton, Eithne Stolls, George Paice, Joseph Mizzi, Antonia Drabik, William Toole, Terence Flanagan, Mary Ellen Gillman, John Walsh, Mary Joyce, Maureen Morrissey, Jean Cruickshank, Kathleen Farren, James Shaw, Cedric Chopin, Grace Jennings, Edward Kingman, Phyllis Dovidonis, Diana Jeffries, Carole Simpson, Eileen Hudson, Elisabeth Piney, Eva Mahoney, Daniel Gorman, Ted Murphy, Marilyn Novell, Sylvester Seaton, Simon Quinn, Richard Walsh*

### SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

**Sunday evening entertainment commencing at 8.00pm**

19th January: Shane & Mervyn Owens

26th January: Cross Keys

2nd February: Finbar & Paul

9th February: Theresa Rodgers

16th February: Kieran White

23rd February: Barry Doyle & Sean Wilson

2nd March: TR Dallas

9th March: Pat Jordan

- **Declan Nerney & His Band** will appear in the Social Club on Friday, 14th March. All proceeds from this event will be given to St Christopher's Hospice & Guy's Hospital. To reserve Tickets at £15.00 each, please call **Pat Winston on 07734 250375**.

### RECENT DEATHS

We are sad to announce the recent deaths of **Brendan Curtis** and **James McHugh** (father of Audrey McGowan).

**James's** funeral will take place here at Our Lady's on Wednesday 5th February at 10am.

Details of Brendan's funeral will follow once known.

*Please remember them & their families in your prayers at this time.*

### ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING & MODERN SLAVERY SEMINAR

**Wednesday 29th January 6.30pm St Mary's Church**

Please come along and find out more about how the issues of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking are affecting people in the UK, London and globally. We have speakers from the Santa Marta Group and the British Red Cross. You will learn to recognise the signs of human trafficking and hear how the Church is responding, as well as the British Red Cross.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WDP) 7pm Friday 7th March At Our Church

This year our Church will celebrate with people all over the world the service prepared by Christian women from the Cook Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The Islanders have celebrated 200 years of Christianity and their worship service invites us to recognise that God has created each one of us with great attention and loving care.

This beautiful service will include singing, prayer and readings selected by the Ecumenical women of the Islands and will last for about an hour. There will be a collection for WDP and light refreshments after.

We would be very grateful for attendees who will undertake reading roles, all simple and within the service booklet which will be available before the service. If you are interested, please let me know at **Anne.Barcellos@btinternet.com**.

*All are welcome*

*and we look forward to seeing you at the service at 7pm.*

### PARISH ASCENT GROUP

Our Parish Ascent Group is part of "Life Ascending International". It is a Catholic movement for men and women who have reached a certain age in life. The three aims are first, developing Friendship, then growing in Spirituality and finally supporting the Church's Mission both at home and abroad.

**All parishioners are very welcome to join us.** We meet over tea and coffee to share in many different ways our understanding and experience of our Catholic faith, in the *Small Hall after 10am Mass on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.*

Tuesday 28th - Saint Benedict's way of praying Holy Scripture

### OUR LADY'S CENTENARY CALENDARS

Every weekend this year, the names of our loved ones listed in the current week of the calendar, will be read out during the bidding prayers.

**For Collection:** S Turner

**Rotas:** Eucharistic Ministers (Jan) Readers (January/February)

**Baptism Certs:** Should be collected from the parish office

### PAX CHRISTI - PEACE SUNDAY 19th January 2025

The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice.

**MASS AND ADORATION:** With prayer for healing on **Saturday 25th January from 10am**. Refreshments in the small hall afterwards.

*Please join us!*

### THE DAY OF FIDELITY

On **Wednesday, 22nd January after the 10am Mass**, the Padre Pio prayer group invites those parishioners attending the Mass, to celebrate "The Day of Fidelity". It is an opportunity to renew our baptismal promises, new life and the divine life received in Christ.

### LARGE HALL KITCHEN USE

We have recently had a clear out of the large hall kitchen, and hope to maintain it in good order. To this end, **please can all users ensure that ALL food (including bottled sauces etc) is removed from the fridge after each event and taken home.** We need to keep an empty fridge so that any person using the hall has full use of all the facilities. **Any food currently in the fridge, will be disposed off at the end of the month.** If you have left items in the kitchen, please remove them asap! *Many thanks for your co-operation!*

### BIBLE STUDY SESSIONS WITH FR TOMASZ

Topic: *The Faithful Love of God in the Old Testament*

### OLA GOLDEN PENNIES JARS

Thanks to everyone who collected a jar to fill and to all those who have dropped them back. We want to do the counting by end of this month so please do bring your jars in. Feel free to pick up an empty jar from the porch! Best wishes *Nike*

### BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE

This is a one-day marriage-enrichment course aimed at couples with average-to-good marriages who would like to try and make them better.

There is no charge and no group sharing. Couples have the opportunity individually to explore their relationship and levels of communication, which is the key to relationship.

These BABM days start at 9.30am and finish by 4.30pm. Dates and venues for 2025 are: March 15th, East Sheen; April 12th, West Croydon; June 28th, Kingston-upon-Thames; and September 13th, Amigo Hall, Southwark.

More details – T: **07983 524727** or E: **mflkent@rcaos.org.uk**

### RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2025

**Sunday, 16th February**

**St George's Cathedral, Southwark**

**Venue:** St George's Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HY

**Time:** 10am (Please be seated by 9:45 AM)

**Dress Code:** Traditional attire (optional)

**Special Feature:** Bring a national flag to represent your heritage

**After Mass:** Refreshments and community gathering in Amigo Hall

See the poster in the porch for more details via QR code

### MILK BOTTLE TOP RECYCLING

We are no longer able to take milk bottle tops for recycling, due to circumstances beyond our control. Please see the online third page of this newsletter for details. Many thanks for all you have done over recent years, *Andy Bebington, for the JPIC Group*

### HOUSEBOUND & WANTING COMMUNION?

Do you know of any parishioners who are housebound and unable to come to Mass? Would they like to receive Communion at home? If so, please contact the parish office with their details, and home visits can be arranged for those in need.

## **MILK BOTTLE TOPS - WHY HAVE WE STOPPED COLLECTING THEM?**

A company in Hilsea, Portsmouth, recycles milk-bottle tops into park benches, picnic tables and new milk-bottle tops, among other things. As part of their raw materials, they collect, every few months, from people not too far from Portsmouth, the tops which are collected by people like you and me and passed to one of those “collecting points” (or “clearing houses”).

The system has been described as each household being a twig, and relating to a local collecting point – a branch. Each branch (that’s us) delivers to a clearing house – a tree – whence the tops pass, along with those from other “trees”, to the factory – the forest.

The clearing house we used for the parish’s Justice & Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Group is a lady in Bookham, Surrey, past whom we used to drive weekly as we went to look after our two grandsons in Guildford. This was very convenient, of course, but no longer; the lady there stopped at the end of 2024.

She had been taking deliveries from collectors such as us since 2010 and reckons that she has sent 1.1 tonnes to Portsmouth in that time. The company makes a small charitable donation for each 80 bin-bags they collect and she tells us that she has raised over £350 but that that was not her motivation. Like us, she was motivated by the need to stop using oil to make plastics, while dumping plastics in landfill. The oil could be put to better use and the landfill needs could be reduced – as the advert says: both for the planet and for the charity, every little helps. We have checked with the company and they do not collect from anyone even vaguely convenient ... but, anyway, it would be daft on an ecological balance to burn petrol getting to another non-convenient clearing house, if the motivation is indeed the environment. They say that we could deliver to them (but we have no reason to visit Portsmouth regularly) or post them (but the cost would be prohibitive).

The only solution is to stop acting as a feeder to a clearing house. This is hugely regretted but we are proud that we were able to contribute to the “local” delivery of over a tonne of raw material, which will have reduced the amount of “raw” raw material the factory has had to use, as well as contributing to keeping down our need for landfill.

Of course, if any does have cause to visit the Hilsea area of Portsmouth routinely or regularly, I’d be glad to pass on the address and to have them take over collecting locally and delivering centrally.

Thank you to those who delivered to the church porch – or to our porch – but please stop now. In future we shall be putting our tops out for kerbside recycling, trusting that they will eventually find themselves back in the supply chain as raw material for someone.

Andy & Liz Bebington, for JPIC