



ST JAMES' CHURCH, ISLINGTON N1 8PF
CHRISTMAS WEEKENED EDITION Year B 17/46

Jesus did not just come for one day: Jesus changed things for ever. He comes to every person who - however shyly - turns and looks for him. With open arms and a heart full of love Jesus reveals a new quality of life, a new way of feeling wanted, secure and fulfilled. So whether we are full of the joys of Christmas or are having to face huge personal challenges which seem overwhelming, Jesus offers new hope. If Jesus can be laid in an unwanted manger, there is nowhere and no one who is unfit to receive him. (Adapted from Archbishop Justin Welby's 2014 Christmas Sermon)

PRAISE BE! LONDON GETS ITS FIRST WOMAN BISHOP

EX-NURSE MADE CHURCH'S MOST SENIOR FEMALE CLERIC
SHE VOWS TO BE VOICE FOR 'PEOPLE ON THE MARGINS'

Melanie McDonagh and Ross Lydall

Mullally, 55, gave up a career in the NHS to become a full-time priest. She vowed today to speak out for "people on the margins" and to be "a bishop of London but also for people on the margins".
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GOOD NEWS Each Christmas we inevitably look back at the year and do all we can to celebrate the good things that have happened. Just in the nick of time, before the bells ring for the New Year, we have the news that Sarah Mullally is to be the new bishop of London. And no one saw it coming! Which is one of the extraordinary things about being a Christian: God works in all kinds of unseen directions. Of course these are very early days and we don't know what gifts and strengths she brings to this high impossible role. But as we celebrate the birth of the homeless child Jesus to a mother who appeared to have none of the skills she would need, I hope we can allow Bishop Sarah

WELCOME to everyone in Church today, especially those visiting for the first time.

- Please ask the nearest person to you in the pews if there is anything you need. There is a carpeted area in the south aisle for our smallest children. A full service booklet is available and the T-loop system works well.
- A collection of money is taken during Mass (see back page for giving by text).
- At the time of communion, please feel free to come forward to the front of Church - either to receive communion or a blessing. Jesus invites everyone, you too!
- Finally, do stay for a drink after Mass if you can and say hello before you leave. If you would like to keep in touch, please fill in a white Contact Card and we'll respond asap.

St James' Islington: discovering how to live like Jesus in the 21st century

the time she will need to grasp the scale of the task she has been given, assured of the prayers of the whole Diocese at the start of not just a new year but a new generation. May she be granted every opportunity to grow into the role and may we, locally, take up the same challenge for 2018, asking afresh where God wants us to proclaim his Good News.

NOT JUST SCHOOLS MINISTRY I cannot tell you how thrilling it has been to welcome so many school students into St James' again this week. For the first time the whole of New North Road Junior



Academy held their Carol Concert at St James', showing just how high the standards can become when music is made a priority. But this picture from 840, the contemporary music group who played here on Saturday, reminds us that these links just go on and on. We pledge ourselves to be open to all.

WHAT'S ON AT ST JAMES'

Sun 24 *ADVENT 4* 9am Mass only 6pm CRIB SERVICE. 11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS.
 Mon *CHRISTMAS DAY* 8am Mass. 10am CHRISTMAS MORNING 'HOUSE PARTY' MASS.

No weekday Masses on Tuesday and Wednesday. They resume at 10am on Wednesday 3rd.

Sun 31 *NEW YEAR'S EVE* 8am Mass. 10am All Age PARISH MASS 'ringing out the old, ringing in the new....'

Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

Sun 24 *ADVENT 4* Vivienne Carlton; Carter family
 Mon 25 *CHRISTMAS DAY* For the whole Parish
 Tues 26 *St Stephen* Shirley Chinery; Liz Clark
 Wed 27 *St John* Cyril Daley; Dennis Davis
 Thurs 28 *Holy Innocents* Will Ellsworth-Jones; Adam Dickson
 Fri 29 *St Thomas a Becket* Falcioni family, Lisa and Sonny
 Sat 30 *Feria* Wendy Fisher-Gordon; Maria Flavius; Flynn
 Sun 31 *NEW YEAR'S EVE* Ros, Chris, Bea and Seb Ford

PRAYER BOARD/NOTICES Requests for prayer welcome

BIRTHDAYS We send our love and warmest best wishes to Hope Dixey whose 5th birthday is on Friday 29th. Watching her manoeuvring her green walker up and down the aisles of the Church is so encouraging and of course everyone loves her. May the year ahead be a good one for her and all the Roden family.

IN OUR PRAYERS Robert Addington, Amy, Claudette Baker, James Baker, Carol Brierley, Olive Cairns, Jane Carey, Vivienne Carlton, Peter Comerford, Marian Davis, Geraldine, Lisa Grigg, Kelly Harding, Jamie, Leigh, Lorraine, Celia Marshall, Rene, Violet Shuman, John Scott, Paul Smith, Sue, Janet Young.

ANNIVERSARIES 29th: Julia Humphreys (2001); 30th: Rose Fosker (1992).

PLEASE PRAY FOR Families coping with bereavement or separation. The Homeless and those in temporary accommodation. Our ability to welcome and encourage Church visitors



PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE The latest news is that, having served a third of her sentence, it is possible that Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe will be available for parole from her detention in Tehran. Her conditions have improved since the visit of the Foreign Secretary a fortnight ago but we continue to pray for a speedy release so that she, Richard and Gabriella can finally be reunited.

MONDAYS
12.15-1.15pm

No cash for the collection?

Text **STJ01** and the amount of your donation (£10/£5/£3/£2) to **70070** Thank-you!

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