

**ST JAMES' CHURCH, ISLINGTON N1 8PF**  
**27 December 2020 HOLY FAMILY YrB 20/52**

Welcomers: Maria Flavius  
 Readers: Matt Jean-Baptiste, Isabelle Sharples  
 Interceder: Lucy Haire  
 Cantor: N/A  
 AV editor: N/A

**Happy New Year!**

**Collect: Living God, you entrusted your Son to the care of Mary and Joseph so that he might know the trials and joys that touch the life of every family. Make us grateful for the blessings you give us and by closeness to your word may we be clothed in gentleness and patience and be united in love. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen**

**JUST THIS WEEK!** After five months since our last break - dominated by Coronavirus, streamed services on You Tube, a failed attempt to admit children to First Holy Communion and the ups and downs of trying to get a Consistory Court Hearing organized for the Organ Project, it really is time to take a week off before we begin all the demands of 2021! The full programme will resume on Sunday 3rd January (Epiphany) but not before Maria and I say a huge thank-you for all the kind gifts and messages this Christmas. They have been

**THIS WEEK**

Sun 27 **HOLY FAMILY** 8am Mass. 10am Said PARISH MASS (Fr Stephen).  
 Sun 3 January 2021 **EPIPHANY** 8am Mass. 10am PARISH MASS

**Calendar and Daily Prayer themes**

Sun 27 <b>HOLY FAMILY</b>	Nick, Isabelle, Maxwell and Leon Sharples; Vera Taggart
Mon 28 <b>DEL Xmas 1</b>	Alex, Claire, Kaitlin and Oliver Suksiri; Fr Stephen Taylor
Tues 29 <b>St Thomas a Becket</b>	Ken and Margaret Thompson/ Fr Victor de Waal
Wed 30 <b>Feria</b>	Sergio Villicana and Cecilia Son-Vicente; Tim Willis
Thurs 31 <b>Feria</b>	Belle Williams, Tom, Poppy, Pearl and Bow Wheatley
Fri 1 <b>NEW YEARS DAY</b>	Lucy McAllister, Jay, Ava, Ivy and Bella Wilson
Sat 2 <b>SS Basil and Gregory</b>	Chris Wright; Kate Yeats
Sun 3 <b>EPIPHANY</b>	Shannon Adams, Arabella and Rocco MacDonald

**PRAYER BOARD/NOTICES Requests for prayer welcome**

**BIRTHDAYS** Very many Happy Returns to Lucy Haire tomorrow, celebrating a very significant birthday, a day she shares with Nicole Jean-Baptiste; on Tuesday to Hope Dixey who will be 8; on Wednesday to Ivy Dennison who will be 4; on Thursday to Amariah Greenaway who will be 8, a day she shares with Cyril Daley. Happy Days all.

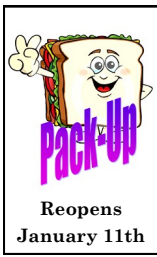
**SICK** Christopher Browne, Mariolina and Peter Freeth, Emily Grainger, Kris Hyde, Hayley Jenkins, John, Kingsley Lewis, John Scott, Charlie Sharpe, Vera Taggart, Geoff Turner and Melanie Toogood.

**ANNIVERSARIES** Today: 29th: Julia Humphreys (2001); 29th: Rose Fosker (1992); 31st: Fay Barnett (2012); 1st: Ada Finch (1991); 2nd: Francis Ryan (1983).

**INTERNATIONAL CHURCH LINKS** In the US: Suzanne Smith, Grace Church, Alvin, Texas. Suzanne's husband Travis is Rector of Holy Comforter, Angleton, 14 miles away. In Japan: Fr Sebastian and Yuki Naniwa serving in Ehime near Hiroshima.



**PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE** Our prayers continue for **Nazanin Zaghari Radcliffe** in the hope that some kind of formula can allow her to return to the UK as soon as possible.



Sir Nicholas Hytner is the co-founder and Artistic Director of the Bridge Theatre, having been an outstanding Director at the National Theatre. In an extended interview with Andrew Marr recently, he talked about the way we watch Shakespeare's plays - entranced at one level by the language and by his amazingly perceptive understanding of human nature.

But we also watch the plays in the middle of our particular political context. Hytner recalled how one of his productions of Henry V opened (by chance) just as troops were invading Iraq in the first Gulf War. The text was the same but the mind-set that people brought to the production was utterly transformed.

This picture of the Nativity, of the Holy Family, with a 'shepherd' clearly engaged in social media of some sort and the Three Kings riding Segway scooters and clutching Amazon parcels, may seem far-fetched. But aren't these much more likely to be familiar to modern audiences than camels and quaint gold boxes?!

If Hytner's Shakespearean characters are in modern dress there is always an outcry from some. But he does it to underline the fact that the themes first shown in the early part of the 17th century are just as relevant today.

As we start yet another year together at St James', the question remains: how much of our faith is obscurely wrapped up in the stereotypes and language common yesterday - or even further back in the past?

Perhaps we too need to be shocked out of our comfort zone to make those old texts 'come alive' - in Church just as much as in the theatre.