

The Arena Weekly

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newsletter

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CANDLEMASS 2021 In the round of events in Church we have hit another mile-stone. Our Christmas tree has finally come down and the Crib has been put away for another year. The Church looks rather bare again! But the story moves on and this Sunday we are remembering the time when Mary and Joseph took their child to the Temple for the first time and one of the old priests recognised Jesus as 'the light to lighten the Gentiles (ie the world)' and praised God for his arrival.

We are also experimenting yet again. On YouTube our 'Service of the Word' will be All Age, and is designed to allow you to take an active part if you want to! As the opening organ music plays you will see a notice inviting you to set up as many candles as you can on a safe table near you. Please don't light the candles but have a match or lighter with you so that they can be lit at the right time. With the help of some of our young people we hope that we too will be able to welcome Jesus into our homes so that his light can shine in a new way for each of us.



UNITY WEEK Over the last four years members of St James' and St John's RC Church have gone on pilgrimage together to one of the big London Cathedrals or special places of interest. That wasn't possible this year so I was delighted that so many were able to take part in last Sunday's service which had Inter-Church families as a major theme. We have several such couples in our congregation. The preacher was Joe Ammoun who spoke very well of the need to look for our greater unity in Christ. Surrounded by wonderful music I took the hint from Ken Thompson and sent the link to Bishop Joanne who promised to watch it.

From left to right: Adam Dickson, John Roden, Jane Falcioni, Miranda Jules, Joe Ammoun (ordinand on placement), Ros Ford, Luigi Falcioni, Ken Thompson, Teresa and Richard Dennison.

THIS WEEK

- Sun 31 **CANDLEMASS** Streamed 'Service of the Word' at 10am.
- Wed 6pm Grace Church, Alvin, Texas: zoom prayers. Fr John leads the meditation
- Thurs 11.45am Funeral of Martin Rutherford, Islington Crematorium.
- Sun 17 2nd **SUNDAY BEFORE LENT** Streamed 'Service of the Word' at 10am.

Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

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| Sun 31 CANDLEMASS | Alastair and Diane Hume; Kris Hyde |
| Mon 1 DEL WK 4 | Matt, Nicole and Eve Jean-Baptiste |
| Tues 2 Feria | Barry, Hayley, Theo and Freddie Jenkins; Grace and Elrose Joseph |
| Wed 3 Feria | Miranda Jules; Roy, Eva, Jerome and Zuri Kasella |
| Thurs 4 Feria | Charlotte, Josh, Olivia and Alfie Kennedy |
| Fri 5 Feria | Philip Kingston; Kingsley Lewis and Pauline McGovern; Beryl Lloyd |
| Sat 6 Feria | Kurt, Julia and Florence Maile; McBrien families; Bill Murphy |
| Sun 7 2 b LENT | Paula, Gianni and Giandre Morrison; Isabel Nisbet |

You do not need to have your own Facebook account to be able to access our streamed services on the St James' Islington Facebook page.

PICTURES OF THE WEEK



A snowman built on a frozen car bonnet, seen during the distribution of Sunday School crafts on Sunday morning!



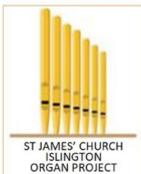
Oscar Yeats building a snowman in Edinburgh. Oscar and his dad Brian have just relocated to Scotland. This week marked the 1st anniversary of Caroline's death in January 2020.



Olive Murphy putting together the craft relating to the story of Samuel. I am sure she was very good at telling him to 'wake up'!

WEBCAMS Rob and Ian from CAVS have been busy all this week installing web cameras into St James' so that we can live stream our services. This is a pretty complicated piece of kit and it will take us a little while to get the hang of it all. In the meantime we are still waiting for BT to install the broadband connection - they cancelled the order four times because they couldn't work out the Church's postcode! When it is all working Adam Dickson our administrator will be our chief 'techie' and will be able to control the broadcasts from the organ bench. How clever is that?!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CRAFTS Those of you involved in 'home schooling' will know only too well just how much work is involved in preparing materials for our young children, making sure they are stimulating and fun – and educational. Throughout the lockdowns Maria and Sinead have been working incredibly hard. In the first three months they were preparing envelopes full of crafts for 40 children; more recently that has slimmed down to a more manageable 21. But it is still at least half a day's work to get it all together - and they both work full time! With no idea of how long the current lock-down will last we need to have a bit of a review of what is possible long term. Two things we are agreed on: we don't just want to download a picture off the internet for the children to colour in; nor do we feel it right only to send out materials for those children who are (ordinarily) in Sunday School every week. But it may not be possible to continue as we are until the summer. There are no crafts this week as it is an All Age Sunday.



UPDATE A series of papers have been sent to the Chancellor this weekend indicating the main points of the opposing arguments and nominating expert witnesses. There will be yet more too-ing and fro-ing of such documents before the main Consistory Court hearing, by zoom, on Thursday March 4th. I hope you will hold this difficult process in your prayers in these coming weeks.

PRAYER BOARD/NOTICES Requests for prayer welcome

- BIRTHDAYS** Many Happy Returns on Aly Carter who is 21 today; to Fr Victor de Waal who will be 92 on Tuesday; to Beatrice Awoonor-Renner who will be 90 on Wednesday; and to Mark Hodge who, in comparison, is no age at all!
- SICK** Christopher Browne, Mariolina and Peter Freeth, Emily Grainger, Alastair and Diane Hume, Kris Hyde, Hayley Jenkins, John, Kingsley Lewis, John Scott, Charlie Sharpe, Vera Taggart, Lyn Thompson, Geoff Turner and Melanie Toogood.
- DEPARTED** We pray for the soul of Arnulfo Munoz, grandfather to Sergio Villicana, who died suddenly on Sunday morning in Mexico. Neither Sergio nor Cecilia were able to get to the funeral and we remember them too; also Martin Rutherford (Terling Walk) to be laid to rest on Thursday at 11.45am.
- ANNIVERSARIES** Today: Mary Burniston, (Fr John's sister, 1971, 50th anniversary).
- INTERNATIONAL CHURCH LINKS** In the US: Suzanne Smith, Rector of Grace Church, Alvin, Texas. Suzanne's husband Travis is Rector of Holy Comforter, Angleton, 14 miles away. 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.

Please keep in touch and let me know if there is anything more we can do for you.

As ever, John

Donation to St James



May God bless every £1 we give so that St James' will be here, not just for today and for tomorrow, but for the future he wants to create.