

# ST MATTHEW'S FAMILY PARISH CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



**22<sup>ND</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/  
NEW YEAR**

**Parish Clergy:** Fr. Mpagi Alex KISASA, Parish Administrator, Rev. Deacon Anthony Murphy

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Items for inclusion in the newsletter can be sent to: [newsletterstmatthews@gmail.com](mailto:newsletterstmatthews@gmail.com)

Items must be received **before** the Friday prior to publication.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

Tuesday Christmas Eve Vigil: 5pm & 7pm (Christmas carols before the start of each Mass)  
 Wednesday Christmas Day: 9:30am, 11am.  
 Boxing Day: 12pm  
 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, New Year's Day: 12pm  
 All other weekday mass times remain the same: 10am

**CHRISTMAS TIME**

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	23 <sup>rd</sup> December/ (commemoration of St John of Kety, Priest)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	24 <sup>th</sup> December
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Christmas Day - Solemnity</b>
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>St Stephen, the first Martyr - Feast</b>
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>St John, apostle, Evangelist - Feast</b>
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs - Feast</b>
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>The Holy Family</b>
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	6 <sup>th</sup> day within the octave of Christmas
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	7 <sup>th</sup> day within octave of Christmas/(commemoration of St Silvester 1, Pope)
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Mary, the Holy Mother of God</b>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	3 January/ The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	4 January
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord - Solemnity</b>

**WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW'S**

A warm welcome to all visitors and friends this weekend, feel spiritually at home!

**PARISH COLLECITONS**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec: First collection £1276.31, Second Collection £738.71.  
 Second Collection 25<sup>th</sup> December will be for St Matthew's Junior School, Uganda. We are aiming to provide toilet facilities for the children.  
 Thank you for your continued generosity.



A note of gratitude to all volunteers in every aspect of our parish family. Throughout the year you have made our worship spiritual. Your kindness shows the love of Christ and helps our church grow stronger. May God's love fill your lives, just as your generosity has helped our church.



**ANGEL CANDLE**

The fourth candle of Advent is called the "Angel Candle" and symbolises peace and love, and is a reminder of the angels' message of "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men"

### CONGRATULATIONS

We have welcomed 27 children into our parish family this year through baptism. May almighty God, who has given them all a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, generously bless all of them and their families, who are his faithful children.

For those who received the sacrament of holy matrimony this year in our church. May your lifelong loving commitment, grace you in your journey together in love, faith and hope. And to all our models in marriage whose wedding anniversaries we have known and celebrated and those who silently celebrated them, and those whose spouses are already with God, may you all be blessed abundantly.

### DEVELOPMENTS 2024

Many thanks to your generosity; we have been able to make many needed improvements to the presbytery and church hall. We have fixed the roof and broken water pipes in the presbytery. The hall has been given a completely new kitchen, men's toilets, entrance flooring and new chairs.

### JUST A THOUGHT.....

#### A PARISH PRIEST...

If the priest preaches over ten minutes, he's long winded;  
If his sermon is short, he didn't prepare it.  
If the parish funds are low, he's a poor businessman;  
If he mentions money, he's money-mad.  
If he visits his parishioners, he's nosey;  
If he doesn't he's snobbish.  
If he has fairs and bazaars, he's bleeding the people;  
If he doesn't, there isn't any life in the parish.  
If he takes time in the confessional to help and advise sinners, he's too long;  
If he doesn't, he's not a good adviser.  
If he celebrates Mass in a quiet voice, he's a bore;  
If he "puts feeling into it", he's an actor.  
If he starts Mass right on time, his watch is fast;  
If he starts Mass late, he's holding up the people.  
If he tries to lead the music, he's showing off;  
If he doesn't, he doesn't care what Mass is like.  
If he decorates the Church, he's wasting money.  
If he doesn't, he's letting it run down.  
If he's young, he's not experienced;  
If he's older, it's time he retired.  
If he dies, there may be no-one to replace him.  
Because it takes a special person to be a priest!  
Please pray for the ones we have,  
And please pray for vocations!



### THANK YOU...

Thank you for all your Christmas messages and gifts to me and Deacon Tony. I wish every day was Christmas!!!

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2025. Fr Alex



**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January – The annual telling of the Epiphany story could have us take it all for granted: magi from far-away placed, guided only by a star, fabulously rich and so on. However they were gentiles, outsiders, detested by all! Yet they sought out the New-born King. Their gifts recognise that the Christ-Child is God (frankincense); that he is a king (gold); that he has come to die for us (embalmed with myrrh).

### **A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP....**

“Oh to be a child at this time of the year. What Excitement! What Expectation! What longing the children have for Christmas. They teach us what advent is all about: because Advent is a period of waiting, and they wait with such longing for they *can't* wait for Christmas to come.

For children of course, Christmas is all about toys and treats, gifts and games. Adults know that it takes more than these to satisfy the deep longings of our heart. So we too wait.

And as we wait: we hope for peace and justice; we yearn for bitterness and strife to cease; we long for an end to suffering and sickness, to sadness and sorrow.

### **PENTAHARPS**

On Sunday 29th of December 2024, Pentaharps will present a concert of Christmas music in St. Andrew's cathedral at 2pm. From the Annunciation carol to We three kings, an hour of familiar and not so well known Christmas music played on clarsachs. All welcome. Donations gratefully received.

### **CHRISTMAS BOUQUET MASSES**

Bouquet masses are being offered for those for whom they have been requested. May you all feel the presence of the graces of the new born baby Jesus in your life.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following:

#### **RECENT DEAD**

Eileen McCrossan, James Fitzharris, Mary Harkins, Louise cocozza, Bruce McDougall, Victor Legrix, Gary Fallon, Christopher Karaban, Rosemary Kilcoyne & Ian MacKinlay.

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Edward Smith, Margaret Lee, Tommy & Cathie Fitzpatrick, Charles & Bridget McLaren & Family, Peter Kelly, Stephen Robertson, Eileen McCann, Julia Frank & Richard Gourlay, Tilda Gilmour, Edward Smith & Eamon Lawlor.

### **WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED THIS YEAR**

We pray for those who have died this year, and pray with them for their first Christmas in heaven: Maureen Lang, Mary McGowan, Clare Nicolson, Andrew MacNiven, James Docherty, Joseph Constantine, Joseph Maguire, Bernard Martin, Paul Fitzpatrick, Irene Millar, Bernadette Vaughan, John 'Vinny' & Peter McGillion, Moira Mooney, James Greer, Eileen Reilly, Thomas Finnegan, Charles Loughlin, Margaret Callaghan, Barbara Walsh, John Fallan, John Magill, Mary Masson, Joseph McKenna, Margaret McNaughton, Therese King, Robert Rankin, Christopher McInally, Mary McLernon, Mary Shields, Margaret Weaver, Margaret Docherty, Elizabeth Gardner, Paul Renfrew & Bruce McDougall, Eileen McCrossan, James Fitzharris & Mary Harkins.

### **THANK YOU**

To all our parishioners who continually support our bereaving families throughout the year. Your prayers and attendance at our funeral masses is unwavering and greatly appreciated.