

Epiphany of the Lord (Year C) 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
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<i>MASSES:-</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>	6.00pm	People of the Parish	
	<i>SUNDAY</i>	9.00am	Maria Joaquinia & John Jacob Fernandes	
		11.00am	Julio DeSouza	
		6.30pm	Mary O'Shea	
<i>MON</i>	8.15am	Intentions of Donor		
	9.30am	Holy Souls		
<i>TUE</i>	9.30am	Brian Brazil		
<i>WED</i>	8.15am	Brenda Dalton – recovery & wellbeing		
	9.30am	Brian Illing		
<i>THU</i>	9.30am	Mazzini John Treneman		
<i>FRI</i>	9.30am	Michael & Josephine O'Connell	<i>Exposition after Mass</i>	
	7.00pm	Fr Ernest Arkosou-Ayithey	<i>Exposition after Mass</i>	
<i>SAT</i>	10.30am	Mary Cooke		
	11.00 – 11.30am and 4.00 – 4.30pm	<b>Confessions</b>		
	6.00pm	Nigerian parishioners' intentions		
<i>SUN</i>	9.00am	Cliff Ward -1 <sup>st</sup> anniv	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	
	11.00am	Knights of St Columba - centenary		
	6.30pm	John Denahy		

**Parish Coffee Morning Today** after 9am Mass in the small hall. All welcome for a cuppa & chat.

**The Blessing of the Waters** is today at **2pm**: The Greek Orthodox Community of Christ the Saviour, Welling invites you to share the celebration starting at Danson Road entrance with a procession to Danson Lake and prayers by the lakeside. Refreshments afterwards in St John's Church Hall.

**First Holy Communion Preparations** will begin with the first meeting for the parents on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in the parish hall. Please be on time. The first preparation session for the children will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am. Can I also remind the parents who have not yet returned the registration forms to return the forms with a copy of the baptism certificate of the child before Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January please. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Confirmation 2019:** Meeting for parents and candidates is on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 5pm in the parish hall. Classes will be before the Sunday evening Mass at 5pm starting in March. Bishop Patrick Lynch will be confirming young people on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm Mass. If you would like to take part and are in year 9 or above please write to Fr Romanus, explaining why you want to be confirmed. **Confirmation Helpers** - we are looking for some more leaders/helpers to encourage these young Catholics in their faith. Please speak to Fr. Romanus or Helen Woodcock.

**The Nigeria Community** would like to invite all parishioners to their Christmas and New Year party this Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> January. Mass at 6pm followed by refreshments in the hall. All welcome - come with your dancing shoes and there will be plenty to eat.

**White Flower Appeal:** The SPUC retiring collection is next week. We need a volunteer at each Mass to help with the collection please, because, as a charity, money for a political organisation is not supposed to appear on our books. Please contact Lorraine in the office if you can help.

**Children's Liturgy** will return next week, *Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January*, and run every other week for children aged 3 – 7/8yrs old. Please bring your child(ren) to the Fr Nevatt room (back of the parish hall) at 8.50am. If you are interested in helping please email Lorraine in the office – you will only be on the rota once a month.

**Church Cleaners Needed:** Ideally, we need two people per team for one hour every four weeks. Anyone interested please contact Lorraine in the church office.

**Bexley Winter Shelter** began on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan and runs until 31<sup>st</sup> Mar. Entrance to the shelters is by invitation only. There are leaflets (A4 size) on the table in the porch with contact information which can be given to any homeless man who may need to access the shelter. Please do not post the information on social media.

**Week of prayer for Christian Unity** 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January. I hope you will be able to come to one or more of the following ecumenical prayer services. Befriending, praying with and working with other Christians are the essential first steps on the journey to unity. As you see, we will be hosting on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>. It will be a Prayer & Praise Service at 7pm (No Mass). Refreshments served afterwards.

Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	St Stephen's
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Bishop Ridley
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	St John's
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Wellspring
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	St Mary's
	7.00pm	FCI
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am	Methodists
	4.30pm	St Michael's

**Many Thanks** for last Sunday's collection which came to £1149.17. The collection for the Seminary Fund came to £373.57. Crib donations to the *Catholic Children's Society's Crisis Fund*. This fund provides one-off grants to support children and families who are facing a crisis in their lives – gift aid envelopes available. The SPUC retiring collection is next week.

**Baptism:** If you would like your child to be baptised at St Stephen's between *1<sup>st</sup> March* and *30<sup>th</sup> June 2019* please attend the Baptism Preparation classes with Fr Romanus on Thursdays 7<sup>th</sup> February and 21<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30pm in the small hall.

**Children Starting Primary School in September 2019.** If you would like your child to attend St Stephen's school please note that you MUST apply using the Common Application Form for the borough in which you live - the closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019. You should also complete the school's supplementary form.

**The Big Breakfast** is on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February in aid of the homeless charity *The Passage*. Breakfasts will be on sale after 9am Mass. The Brownies, Rainbows and Guides will be running games & stalls and selling homemade cakes. We welcome the Guide Group & their leaders for their Church parade at 9am Mass. Raffle tickets on sale after every Mass to help raise funds for *The Passage*.

**SVP Help Needed:** One of the families you have so generously helped over the last few weeks has need of a tumble drier. If you have one you no longer use and would like to donate it to them please contact Lorraine in the church office. Once again many thanks for your willingness to help the needy in our local community.

**Please Support Deepdene Seniors Learning Skills Club** by registering online only once with the Co-Op. Their website is <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/24654> or Tel : 0800 023 4708 and confirm your support. Shopping at any of their stores for their own brand products as well as funeral care, the Club will be credited with 1% of your purchase cost. Thank you for your continued support.

**The 2019 Southwark Directory** is available in the repository for £3. A useful resource for diocesan information and the liturgical calendar.

**St Stephen's 2019 Diaries** are available at the back of the church (£1). Please put money in the box on the wall.

#### **More Dates for your Diary**

4<sup>th</sup> Feb: Parish Pastoral Council meeting 8.15pm in the small hall.

20<sup>th</sup> Jan: Pax Christi: Peace Sunday collection

10<sup>th</sup> Feb: Mission Appeal: The Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers)

2<sup>nd</sup> Mar: Flame at Wembley

9<sup>th</sup> Mar: Study Day at St Stephen's with Denis McBride: *The Passion Narratives*