

If you have a child for **baptism** please contact the office for an application form. You will be contacted once the form has been received.

Welcome to Tracey Ward, Nikolai Segura and Carolyn Montgomery who are officially accepted as learners or catechumens at 11.30 Mass today. Please pray for them. Congratulations Tracey, Nikolai and Carolyn!

Thank you to all the Confirmation candidates who have helped out at Sunday Mass, please continue your involvement and lend a hand where needed over Christmas. Volunteers needed to lead the young children to the crib at 6pm Christmas Eve Mass. NB If you missed the deadline for Confirmation names please hand in asap.

Full details of Christmastide services and confession times are in the special leaflet available in church.

Our Christmas Carol Service takes place on Monday 19th December at 7.30 pm, with participation by our parish readers and servers, parish organist, 10.00 am music group but we need all of you to be there to help us sing the carols! The theme is 'Emmanuel – God with Us'. The service will help to lead us through Advent up to the celebration of Christmas. All the traditional carols and readings will be featured. Afterwards, the Union of Catholic Mothers is kindly providing mulled wine and mince pies for us in the parish centre. All are welcome.

Don't forget to make time for your Christmas confession. There are times every day from now until Christmas – see the list in the Christmas services leaflet. Leaflets to help you examine your conscience and prepare for confession are on sale at the back of church at only 25p each.

Calling all shepherds and angels to come in costume to the 6pm Christmas Eve Family Mass.

Donations for Christmas flowers would be very much appreciated. Envelopes can be placed in the letterbox.

Ministers of Holy Communion The current rota ends this weekend. If you are available to assist over Christmas and New Year please sign the sheet at the back of church. It would be helpful if you could indicate in advance.

There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

Please note that daily Mass from Monday 26th December – Friday 30th December is at 12 noon only.

Church will close in the early afternoon,

Sunday 25th December – Friday 30th December.

Feast of the Holy Family is this year celebrated on Friday 30th December.

Masses on Saturday 31st December, and Sunday 1st January, which is New Year's Day and Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God, are all at the usual times.

Mass on Bank Holiday Monday, 2nd January is at 12 noon only. Church will close in the early afternoon.

Normal Mass times resume on Tuesday 3rd January.

First Friday Adoration will take place on Friday 6th January from 4pm until 6pm Mass. If you can watch for half an hour or more please sign on the list.

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on Sunday 8th January in England and Wales.

'On Christmas and Creating Silence': The Bishop of Aberdeen, Rt Revd Hugh Gilbert, OSB, has written a thought-provoking pastoral letter to his diocese on this theme of the important place of silence in our lives and in our worship, and linked it with the silent entry of the Word made flesh into our world. Copies available at the back of church for those interested.

Westminster Diocesan Year Book for 2012 (60th anniversary edition!) is now published, containing full listings of Catholic parishes, priests, schools and societies, and the detailed 2012 liturgical calendar. Copies, at £4.50, may be bought from the Parish Office during office hours.

Parish Office is closed for Christmas holidays after Friday 23rd January at 4.00 pm and reopens on **Tuesday 3rd January 2012.**

The next newsletter is not published until Sunday 8th January.

Please pray for the sick especially Christine Gastrein, Stephanie Henao Ramirez, Annie O'Connell, Nathalie O'Byrne, Michelle McGregor, Rachel Field, John Sheppard, Annette Cooney, Vincent Chute, Stephen La Bastide, Sarah Hoyman, Anastasia Timothy and Rafael Myriantheus.

We commend to God those who died recently: Rose Fletcher, Yvonne Tully and those with anniversaries: Captain Jack Fownes, John Rogers and Helen Coffey.

Offertory collection 11th December: Envelopes £899.62 Loose: £1023.21 Total: £1922.83.