

St Monica's Catholic Church

19 Hoxton Square N1 6NT

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Under the care of the Augustinians (www.theaugustinians.org) in the Archdiocese of Westminster
Parish Priest: Fr Gabriel Hassan OSA; Prior: Fr Anthony Zabbey OSA; Bursar: Fr Jacob Choi OSA
Parish Safeguarding: Caroline Durack-Robinson; hoxtonsg2@rcdow.org.uk & Oluyemi Fadoju; hoxtonsg@rcdow.org.uk

Mass Times: Saturday 6.30pm (Vigil) Sunday 9.00am, 11.00am & 6.30pm

Morning prayer: Mon to Sat 9.10am followed by Mass: Mon to Sat 9.30am; Bank Holiday 11am

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays 5.00 – 6pm, and on request

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday to Thursday 10.00am to 3pm

If you are new to the parish, you may like to register by filling in a Parish Registration Form at the back of the church and return it to the Parish office.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Mass Intentions

w/c 31ST December 2022

	Date	Mass Time	Intentions
Saturday (Vigil) New Year's Eve	31 st	6.30pm 10.30pm	Nancy Dunne – Int People of the Parish
Sunday, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	1 st Jan	9.00am 11.00am	Gabriel Osagie – RIP Bill Miles - RIP People of the Parish
Monday	2 nd	11.00am	Rose K - RIP
Tuesday	3 rd	11.00am	Fr Paul Graham, OSA - RIP
Wednesday	4 th	11.00am	Bill Miles - RIP
Thursday	5 th	11.00am	Maggie O'Connor - Int
Friday	6 th	11.00am	Pat Clarke - Int
Saturday	7 th	11.00am	Ted Connolly - Anniv

PARISH NOTICES

Fr Paul Graham OSA – The month's mind Mass in remembrance of Fr Paul is on Wednesday, 11th January at 6.30pm. This is an opportunity to come together as a parish community to pray for the soul of Fr Paul. May his soul rest in peace with the Lord. Amen
First Holy Communion course 2023 begins on Saturday, 14th January at 10am in the church. Parents and their children are required to attend this session.

Confirmation course for teens begins on Tuesday, 24th January at 6.30pm in the church. Parents and candidates are required to attend this session.

RCIA Course – resumes on Thursday, 12th January at 7.30pm.

Legion of Mary – meets every Sunday after the 9am Mass in the back room of the church. New members are welcome. Next meeting, 8th January 2023.

Prayer Group for young adults+ - every Wednesday, 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the basement of the priory. The Shalom Catholic Community invites you to grow in the faith and meet new people as you build your spiritual life with Jesus. We meet weekly in the basement room of the priory. Next meeting, third week of January 2023. **Info:** 07432501250.

Sunday collection - The contactless machine (Digital collection plate) is available at the back of the church. You can also donate online through the Parish website – www.stmonicaschurchhoxton.org. Thank you for your kind donations to the parish.

St Monica's Food Shop – The parish is running a food shop every Sunday between 10am-2pm. Seniors and pensioners get priority. More information on the notice board. Please spread the word! The shop will reopen next Sunday, 8th January 2023.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI – died on Saturday 31st December 2022 in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican, Rome. The funeral will take place in the Vatican on Thursday, 5th January 2023. May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

Happy birthday to those celebrating in January. May God bless you with good health, peace and love. Amen

Volunteers needed – Are you interested in reading during Sunday Masses or joining our parish choir? Please speak to Fr Gabriel or email the parish office. We look forward to welcoming you!

Holy Communion to the sick, housebound and hospital – parishioners are encouraged to let Fr Gabriel know of family members or friends who need Holy Communion and prayer at home.

New Year Mass Times

Sunday, 1st January 2023 (Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God)

Masses: 9am & 11am (no evening Mass)

Morning Masses: 2nd -7th January - 11am

Saturday (Vigil) - 7th January: 6.30pm

Sunday Masses - 8th January: 9am, 11am & 6.30pm

Wishing you a Happy New Year 2023

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 56TH WORLD DAY
OF PEACE,
1ST JANUARY 2023**

“Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” (First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians, 5:1-2).

1. With these words, the Apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonian community to remain steadfast, their hearts and feet firmly planted and their gaze fixed on the world around them and the events of history, even as they awaited the Lord’s return. When tragic events seem to overwhelm our lives, and we feel plunged into a dark and difficult maelstrom of injustice and suffering, we are likewise called to keep our hearts open to hope and to trust in God, who makes himself present, accompanies us with tenderness, sustains us in our weariness and, above all, guides our path. For this reason, Saint Paul constantly exhorts the community to be vigilant, seeking goodness, justice and truth: “So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober” (5:6). His words are an invitation to remain alert and not to withdraw into fear, sorrow or resignation, or to yield to distraction or discouragement. Instead, we should be like sentinels keeping watch and ready to glimpse the first light of dawn, even at the darkest hour.

2. Covid-19 plunged us into a dark night. It destabilized our daily lives, upset our plans and routines, and disrupted the apparent tranquility of even the most affluent societies. It generated disorientation and suffering and caused the death of great numbers of our brothers and sisters. Amid a whirlwind of unexpected challenges and facing a situation confusing even from a scientific standpoint, the world’s healthcare workers mobilized to relieve immense suffering and to seek possible remedies. At the same time, political authorities had to take measures to organize and manage efforts to respond to the emergency.

In addition to its physical aspects, Covid-19 led to a general malaise in many individuals and families; the long periods of isolation and the various restrictions on freedom contributed to this malaise, with significant long-term effects. Nor can we overlook the fractures in our social and economic order that the pandemic exposed, and the contradictions and inequalities that it brought to the fore. It threatened the job security of many individuals and aggravated the ever-increasing problem of loneliness in our societies, particularly on the part of the poor and those in need. We need but think of the millions of informal workers in many parts of the world left without a job and without any support during the time of the lockdown.

Only rarely do individuals and societies achieve progress in conditions that generate such feelings of despondency and bitterness, which weaken efforts to ensure peace while provoking social conflict, frustration and various forms of violence. Indeed, the pandemic seems to have upset even the most peaceful parts of our world, and exposed any number of forms of fragility.

To be continued next weekend.