



THE TRANSFIGURATION, KENSAL RISE

NEWSLETTER 27th December 2020

THE HOLY FAMILY

My dear friends,

What a year! I for one will be glad to see the back of it. Like every other Parish in the world, our community here in Kensal Rise has been affected by the covid virus. For months I celebrated Mass alone in the church and this included the Holy weekend of Easter. For those of us living alone in the parish it has been a very isolating experience. To stand day by day at the altar and to face an empty church took its toll on me. I did my fair share of funerals, including those of parishioners who sadly succumbed to the virus and experienced the pain and hurt of their families. Let us hope and pray that now a vaccine has been created, that all this can be put in the past, although we cannot take away the pain of those who lost loved ones. This Christmas is one that none of us will forget, with limited seats available for people who wish to attend Mass. I apologise to anyone who has been turned away from the door of the church but sadly and rightly, I must follow the law and the guidance from the Diocese. But amidst all of this, we do not lose hope! When Our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ was born on that first Christmas morning, hope came into the world. As the scriptures tell us, He came to bring good news to us all. That infant child gave us all hope, He destroyed death forever and offers us salvation.

Our Lady and St Joseph saw through their sorry situation and the squalled conditions of the stable because of their faith and their trust in the Lord. We too must pray to have that same strength of faith and hope that they did because no matter what may happen to us here, the joy of our faith cannot be taken from us.

The infant Jesus gives us that joy and hope as we celebrate His birthday.

So no matter what your situation is at the moment, whether you are feeling the pain of losing someone you love, suffering from an illness which may be terminal, Jesus the infant king will fill your heart with the joy of faith and hope for the future. It has been a great privilege and honour to have shared with you during this last year both your deepest sorrows and your greatest joys. That is one of the unique experiences of being a priest. Therefore let us all look forward on this Christmas day to a new beginning and a new start, and I pray that Our Infant Saviour will bless you, your loved ones and friends, give you health in mind and body, strengthening of faith and the gifts of hope and joy.

With my deepest affection and the guarantee of my prayers. And wishing you all a very happy Christmas.

God bless, Fr Sean Thornton.



Sunday Masses: (Sat 6pm) Sun 9am & 11am, **Italian:** 12.30pm
Holydays: 10am & 7pm **Holy Hour:** Fri 6pm (not in Lent)
Weekday Masses: Mon & Fri 7pm Tues, Wed, Thu & Sat 10am
Confession: Sat 10.30-11.15am & 5-5.45pm and on request

MASS INTENTIONS 26th December – 3rd January

Date	Time	Intention
Sat 26th	12noon	Elisa Oliveira
Sun 27th	9am	John Freeman (A)
	11am	Lydia's family intentions
Mon 28th	7pm	For the rekindling of love between an estranged couple
Tues 29th	10am	Paulo Poco
Wed 30th	10am	The Sheehan Family RIP
Thurs 31st	10am	Gordon Kingsbury
Fri 1st	12noon	Our Parish Priests, past and present
Sat 2nd	10am	John O'Malony
Sun 3rd	9am	Manucla Landeza (90th Birthday Ints)
	11am	Mary Serhal (Intentions)

SANCTUARY LAMP AND SIDE ALTAR LAMPS

Main Altar: Sheehan Family RIP
Sacred Heart: Tom Streithorst RIP
Our Lady: Verina Nicholas (Birthday Anniversary)

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish office is now closed from Monday 21st December 2020 until Friday 29th December.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

You will find Christmas envelopes in the porch of the Church. This offering is your Christmas offering to your Parish Priest. Thank you.

Parish Priest: Fr Sean Thornton **Presbytery:** 1 Wrentham Avenue, London, NW10 3HT
Parish Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays between 9:30am and 2:30pm
PLEASE CALL 07378 654 381 DURING OFFICE HOURS TO SPEAK TO THE ADMINISTRATOR,
Tel: 020 8964 4040 (out of hours) **E-mail:** churchofthetransfiguration@hotmail.com **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/CotTKR
Website: www.transfigparishkensalrise.org.uk **Westminster Charity No:** 233699