

6.

**THE ANGELUS:**

**V:** The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary;  
**R:** **AND SHE CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**V:** Hail MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, JESUS.  
**R:** **HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, PRAY FOR US SINNERS, NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH. AMEN.**

**V:** Behold the handmaid of the Lord;  
**R:** **BE IT DONE UNTO ME, ACCORDING TO THY WORD. HAIL MARY, ...**

*(Please, if you can, try and kneel, or bow deeply, for this next verse...)*

**V:** **AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH;**  
**R:** **AND DWELT AMONGST US. HAIL MARY, ...**

**V:** Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God;  
**R:** **THAT WE MAY BE MADE WORTHY OF THE PROMISES OF CHRIST.**

Let us pray:  
 Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. **R: AMEN.**

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST:**  
*(from the Roman Martyrology)*

**TODAY, THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF DECEMBER,** unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image. Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant. Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt. Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the

prophecy of Daniel. In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome. The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, **Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of THE ETERNAL FATHER,** desiring to sanctify the world by His most merciful coming, being conceived by **THE HOLY SPIRIT,** and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of **THE VIRGIN MARY.**

**Today is the nativity of our LORD JESUS CHRIST according to the flesh.**

3.

**+ J. M. J. + JESUS, + MARY, and + JOSEPH +**  
 Newsletter Supplement: 29th December A. D. 2024  
**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (C)**

**THE FIFTH JOYFUL MYSTERY OF THE HOLY ROSARY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: THE FINDING OF THE CHILD JESUS IN THE TEMPLE**



**SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE ROSARY PRAYER PROJECT**

*Everyone is warmly invited to join this Archdiocese-wide prayer initiative, PRAYING A DECADE OF THE ROSARY EACH DAY FOR PRIESTS AND PARISHES IN THEIR DEANERY.*

*For details see the poster on the noticeboard, pick up an invitation leaflet at the back of church or email:*

**[southwarkrenewal@gmail.com](mailto:southwarkrenewal@gmail.com)**

**PILGRIMS OF HOPE TOWARDS 7TH JUNE 2025**

**IN THE 2025 JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE**



**THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**  
 To all those who were able and took a full, active, conscious part and contributed to raising up

**THE CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE TREE, THE ADVENT WREATH, THE CHRISTMAS CRIB and decorated & 'deck'd the' Church 'with boughs of holly', greenery and ivy!**

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**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PEACE-FILLED NEW YEAR OF 2025 TO YOU ALL!**

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**JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH: I give you my heart and my soul. JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH: Assist me in my last agony. JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH: May I sleep and take my rest in peace with you. AMEN.**

3. Archdiocese of Southwark  
Pastoral Letter on the  
**Solemnity of the Holy Family 2024**  
for the **Opening of the Jubilee Year of Hope**

To be read at all Sunday Masses  
on Sat 28/Sun 29 December 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

Peace and joy to you, and to your families and loved ones, in this holy season of Christmas.

Today's Feast of the Holy Family marks the opening of the Jubilee Year in our Archdiocese and across the Catholic Church worldwide. Its theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope.' As we launch this Year of renewal in faith, we seek to learn from the blessed household in Nazareth where the Lord Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, lived in simplicity, in love, and in faithfulness to the Father's will.

Looking to the Holy Family, we too are called to be pilgrims of hope, just like Mary and Joseph. As they journeyed with faith and trust, so must we. So, how do you live hopefully in light of Christ? In a world yearning for the tender closeness of Christ, how are you his hopeful presence to others?

'See what kind of love the Father has given to us,' explains St John, 'that we should be called children of God.' (1 John 3:1) Our identity as beloved children of God is the foundation of our discipleship as the family of God. The Lord Jesus came into the world in the embrace of a family. Through him, we are drawn into the very life of God as brothers and sisters in Christ.

**This Jubilee Year is a summons to live together as pilgrims of hope. This is not just about being optimistic, or trying to keep cheerful. Christian hope means living with the desire for the kingdom of heaven and eternal life. It means relying on Christ's promises and the help of the Holy Spirit.** (cf. CCC 1817)

Our world needs witnesses to this hope. It needs disciples whose lives shine with the certainty that the Lord is near, even in times of darkness and suffering. Our hope grows stronger, not by avoiding difficulties, but by facing them with faith. God in Christ is Emmanuel - God with us always, no matter what. **The famous words of Padre Pio, St Pio, encourage us all – 'Pray, hope and don't worry.' Or, at least, pray, hope and try not to worry.** The Lord is with us, the Lord is with you. **Trust him and draw closer to him, especially through prayer and the Scriptures, through confession in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, through the Holy Eucharist, and through adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.** As pilgrims of hope, in this Jubilee year of grace, I invite you, dear brothers and sisters, to renew your spiritual life and your service to others.

**The Holy Family reminds us that evangelisation and mission begin in the heart and in the home.** To parents I say 'thank you' for teaching your children to love the Lord Jesus, to pray, and to understand their faith; and, not least, to know the friendship of the saints. To our young people, I say 'do not be afraid to embrace your faith with courage.' The Lord Jesus is calling you to great things. Know, love and serve him, and he will guide your steps.

So many people today carry heavy burdens — whether of sickness, grief, or loneliness, or in others ways, sometimes hidden. Know that you are especially close to the heart of the Lord Jesus and his Church. You can be powerful missionaries of hope, showing the world that God in Christ is near to the broken-hearted and raises up those who are crushed in spirit. (Cf. Ps. 34:18) The Church is a family of families. There are no orphans in Christ. We all have a home in the Church. In Christ, we are united as brothers and sisters, called to bear one another's burdens and rejoice in one another's happiness.

4. In this Jubilee year, I ask everyone in our Archdiocese to renew our commitment to building a culture of welcome and belonging within our parishes and schools. Let us seek out those on the margins — people who experience isolation, poverty, and despair. Let us be a Church where all feel at home, where the wounded find mercy, where the weary encounter rest, and where we all journey together in faith, hope and love.

As we begin our Jubilee pilgrimage, may our lives shine with the light of Christ, and, through him, may we bring his hope-filled joy to everyone we meet along the way.

With every blessing for this Christmas Season for the Jubilee Year, and with the assurance of my prayers and gratitude

Yours devotedly in Christ

+ John Wilson

Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark  
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You can watch the Archbishop's Christmas message in full here

<https://tinyurl.com/Christmasmassage2024>  
**JUBILEE 2025**

Every 25 years there is a  
**YEAR OF JUBILEE IN ROME.**

The Holy Father,  
Pope Francis, invites us all  
to become & Be Pilgrims.

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**SOUTHWARK DIOCESE**  
we are invited to gather in  
**AYLESFORD** on

**SATURDAY 7TH JUNE 2025.**

**Pentecost weekend,**  
and to England's Nazareth  
**IN WALSINGHAM, Norfolk,**  
**SATURDAY 28TH JUNE 2025.**

the day of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the weekend of Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

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In **THIS DEANERY OF BEXLEY,**  
we can be Pilgrims too and travel,  
on foot, or by car, or bus, or cycle,  
to **ST JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH,**  
Heathfield Road, **BEXLEYHEATH, on**  
**SATURDAY 5TH OF JULY 2025**

Please, enter this date  
in your diaries.

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**BE PILGRIMS OF HOPE**  
in 2025!

*More about*  
**THE JUBILEE YEAR OF 2025.**

**Pope Francis opened**  
**the Jubilee in Rome on**  
**Christmas Eve,**  
**24th December 2024.**

**It is a special Jubilee Year of FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION in which people are invited to a moment of GENUINE, PERSONAL, ENCOUNTER WITH THE LORD JESUS. Pope Francis has given this Jubilee the theme of PILGRIMS OF HOPE. 'a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God' (Spes non confundit, 25).**

**Archbishop John Wilson**  
**celebrates Holy Mass for**  
**the Jubilee at 12 noon in**  
**St George's Cathedral on**  
**Sunday 29th December 2024.**