

24 DECEMBER 2023

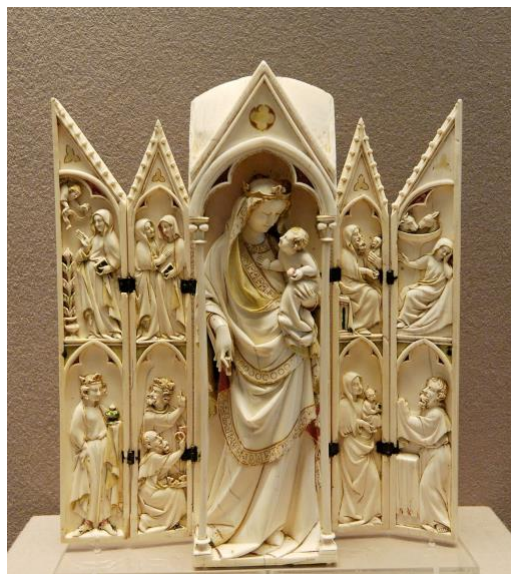
Dear Friends

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us". Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year!

Eucharist will be held on Christmas Eve at 10:30 and at 18:30, Christmas Day at 10:30 and on New Year's Eve at 10:30, all led by our locum, Fr. Michael.

On Christmas Day the Church, through Ester and her team, and in conjunction with La Comunità di Sant'Egidio, is hosting a Christmas lunch – our Pranzo di Natale - open to anyone who may be on their own that day, from midday.

And as we light the fourth candle, and move from Advent into the Christmas season, this is our final newsletter of 2023 – there will be no newsletter next week



14th century French ivory triptych with (on the right) Joseph holding the baby.

Rupert Dodds

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Compline

[Compline online](#) is being held via Zoom at 21:00 through to and including December 23. The prayer takes around 15 minutes – please join if you can and listen to the beautiful liturgy.

Feast days during the first week of Christmas

The Feast Day of Saint Stephen takes place on 26 December, when we commemorate the first Christian martyr, stoned to death in around 36 AD after his speech to the Sanhedrin, ending with "Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him."

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The feast day of St John the Apostle and Evangelist occurs the day after, on 27 December. The son of Zebedee and Salome, and brother of James the Apostle, St John is considered the youngest of the Apostles, and the only one to live a long life and die of natural causes. St John is credited with the authorship of the Gospel according to St John, three New Testament epistles and the Book of Revelation.

On 28 December, the Church commemorates the Feast of the Holy Innocents, when Herod the Great ordered the slaughter of all Bethlehem male first-born under two years old, after learning of the birth of our Lord from the Magi.



*The Virgin and Child surrounded by the Innocents -
Rubens*

Last week's events

Carols in the Courtyard was well attended by many who do not frequent our church – we hope to see some of them in 2024. €315 was raised for the disabled lavatory. The Children's Christmas Party was enjoyed by 16 children. The Nine lessons and carols service was very popular with over 80 attendees. The collection raised €274 for the Bishop's Appeal and the Raffle raised €2.444 net for the church. And Tuesday's carols from around the world by the Milan Singers raised €227 for the DLP. A big thanks to all organisers and helpers.

Pastoral care

For pastoral care, please telephone (0039) 345 5835978 (Church mobile), (0039) 026 552258 (Priest's apartment), or email allsaintsmilanpriest@gmail.com

Links to our regular activities

Sunday evening prayer on Zoom will restart on 7 January – this week we have the Christmas Eve Eucharist, and next week is Hogmanay. **Morning prayer** is at 9.00 Monday to Friday every day except Christmas Day, St Stephen's Day and New Year's Day - the link is [here](#).

Bible study in person and by Zoom, and the Jolly Club will not take place during Christmas. All will restart in the New Year – in person Bible Study restarts after Epiphany.

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of anyone within the All Saints' community, then please use our Safeguarding Policy found [here](#).