



# Welcome to St Mary's Church

*Following Christ, serving you*

## SUNDAY SERVICES 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025

8.00am	<b>NO HOLY COMMUNION</b>
10:15am	<b>PARISH COMMUNION</b> Revd. William Allberry presiding <b>NO CHOIR</b> Hymns: 44, 73, 67, 68
6:00pm	<b>NO EVENING PRAYER</b>

## HOLY INNOCENTS

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of thy Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate, we beseech thee, all evil designs and establish thy reign of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## PRAYER FOR GROWTH AND RENEWAL

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions and power to our witness. Help our church, St. Mary's, to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community of Long Ditton, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## First Reading – I Corinthians 1:26-29

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

## **Gospel Reading – Matthew 2:13-18**

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, who in thy humility stooped to share our human life even with the most defenceless of thy children: grant that we who have received these gifts of thy passion may rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents to the purity of thy sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; for thou livest and reignest, now and for ever.

**Please pray for all preparing for baptism and marriage, those who are sick or in hospital, and those who have died, and all who mourn.**

## **Church Diary**

Monday 9:15 - Morning Prayer  
Wednesday 10:00am – Holy Communion

Sunday 4th January 2026 – Epiphany  
8:00am – Holy Communion  
10.15am – All Sorts Parish Communion  
6:00pm – Evening Prayer

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
Isaiah 60:1-6 | Matthew 2:1-12

## Parish news and notices

**CLEANERS NEEDED!** The cleaning team are looking for two more people to join the rota for church cleaning (for about an hour every five weeks). Full 'training' given in vacuuming/dusting/polishing the altar rail! For more details, please contact either Tessa Vallings (020 8398 4807) or Joanne Hall (020 8398 5637).

**BACON BUTTY BREAKFAST 4<sup>th</sup> January.** To celebrate Epiphany, there will be a Bacon Butty Breakfast in the Community Hall between the 8:00am and the 10:15am services. £5 per adult (no charge for children), which includes a bacon butty (or vegetarian option)/fruit juice/tea or coffee/tomato sauce! All are welcome!

**FILM FRIDAY – 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2:00pm in the Community Hall.** The film being shown is the 2024 comedy-drama A REAL PAIN (with Kieran Culkin and Jesse Eisenberg). All are welcome to attend and refreshments will be served afterwards. For more details contact Joanne Hall on 020 8398 5637.

**FRIENDSHIP LUNCH – Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> January at 1:00pm in the Community Hall.** Do join us for a delicious two-course lunch followed by tea or coffee, and why not bring a friend or two with you, as everyone is most welcome! If you would like to join us and/or have any dietary requirements, just let us know before Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January. Please either sign up on the list on the notice board at the back of the church or contact one of the following people by phone: Diana Jemmett (020 8398 1184) or Florence Caley (020 8398 3182). We look forward very much to welcoming you!

Our annual **Burns Night** celebration will take place on **Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. Enjoy a traditional meal with a performance by a bagpiper and the poetry of both Burns and others. Tickets are currently available but are going quickly! Please see Alison after Sunday service, or email her on: [alison.baverstock@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:alison.baverstock@kingston.ac.uk) to book. Tickets are £35 for individuals and £40 each for five people or more booking to sit together.

**USED POSTAGE STAMPS.** There is a collecting box for used stamps in the History Corner and Katharine Lankey has been taking these stamps to Princess Alice Hospice. Unfortunately, Princess Alice can no longer take our stamps, but Katharine has discovered that Oxfam will be happy to have them. Any stamps left in the collecting box will now go to Oxfam.