



# St Joseph's News

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School  
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Newsletter 12

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For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life **John 3:16**

## Message From The Headmistress

This year, I am going to share with you the message that Fr Stephen delivered at our school Mass on Wednesday.

Fr Stephen spoke to us about the traditions of giving presents at this time of year and how this came to include Santa Claus. We learned that St Nicholas ('Santa Claus') lived in the 4th Century and he loved the Christian community he belonged to. He knew about a family who were experiencing very difficult circumstances and helped them by placing a gold coin in 3 of their stockings! This gift helped the family to pay off their debts so they could look forward to a brighter future.

At a very important meeting which is now referred to as the Council of Nicaea, St Nicholas became well known for declaring his absolute belief that Jesus Christ is 'God from God'. So not only was St Nicholas a defender of poor and vulnerable people but he was also a defender of his faith.

When I look at the donations St Joseph's has made this Christmas, your generosity reminds me of St Nicholas giving the gold coins to a family in need. The CAFOD appeal raised over £1,700, Acton Homeless Concern have received trolleys full of food and the Salvation Army will now be able to give presents to 138 children who would have had very little otherwise.

Funds raised from the Nativity Performance ticket sales has been used to purchase additional gifts for children which will be distributed to local vulnerable families. The 'Christmas Jumper' receipts will be donated to the 'Friends Of St Joseph's' which will benefit our children through the purchasing of additional learning resources.

My prayer for you this Christmas is that you will also consider your relationship with Jesus and strengthen your faith through regular attendance at Mass throughout the year. The main Christmas services at The Shrine Of Our Lady Of Willesden are:

### Christmas Eve

Family Vigil Mass at 6.00pm  
Missa Brasileiro at 9.00pm  
Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day

Solemn Mass at 11.15am  
Missa Brasileiro at 4.00pm

### Holy Family (28 December)

Solemn Mass at 11.00am  
Missa Brasileiro at 2.00pm

### Epiphany Of The Lord (04 January)

Solemn Mass at 11.00am  
Missa Brasileiro at 2.00pm  
Vespers with Carols at 4.30pm

I wish all of our families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year. I look forward to all the children returning to school Tuesday 6 January.

God Bless,  
Mrs Titus

## Attendance

Classes 4D, 4O and 5M achieved 100% attendance during week beginning 8 December. This week, Classes 3C, 4D and 5M achieved 100% attendance.

While we enjoy celebrating excellent attendance, we must remember the long term benefits of your child being in school every day - they will access all aspects of the curriculum and reach their full potential.

Please arrange routine appointments out of school hours and remember that holidays are banned.

**Parents who choose to take their child out of school during term time will each be issued with a £120 Education Penalty Notice Fine per child (reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days of issue date)**



