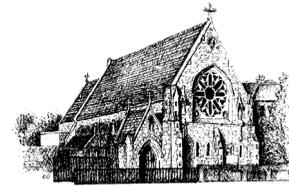




Christmas Offerings

Fr Javier's salary is £9,900 (plus free lodging at the Presbytery). The parish pays him only £8,250 (the Seminary pays the rest, £1,650). This money is paid from the donations for Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings and Masses alongside the collections on Christmas and Easter day. The Sunday collection pays for the running of the parish

You can contribute to the Christmas collection on the day, by using the envelope from the table or by donating online virginmoneygiving.com/fund/ChristmasOffering/BowParish.. You can also use the QR code. If you want to give a personal gift to Fr Javier, please put it in an envelope addressed to him.



OUR LADY & ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

Parish Priest: Fr F. Javier Ruiz-Ortiz

177 Bow Road, London E3 2SG

Tel: 020 8980 3961, Email: bow@rcdow.org.uk

Website: [https://](https://www.stcatherinebow.church)

www.stcatherinebow.church



20TH DECEMBER 2020— 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—B

Parish Masses for the coming week:

Date	Feast	Time	Mass Intention
Sat 2nd		6pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 3rd Jan	2nd Sunday of Christmas	9.30am	Betty LWANGA, Int
		11.30am	HILL family. Thanksgiving
		6pm	Veronica BRZEGOWY, INT
Mon 4th		9.15am	REEHALL AND WOODS family, int
Tues 5th		7am	Jane BULLAS, RIP
Wed 6th	EPIPHANY OF THE	9.15am	Holy Souls
Wed 6th	LORD	7pm	Personal intention
Fri 8th		9.15am	Nolan family Int

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Friday 11am—11.45am

Reconciliation 5.00pm - 5.45pm.

Parish Secretary: Angela Braniff - Mon, 9.30am - 2.30pm & Wed, 9.30am - 12.30 pm

Columban Sisters - Tel: 020 8980 3017

St Agnes School, Rainhill Way, E3 3ER Tel: 02089803076 -

Next Wednesday, 6th January, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The Epiphany commemorates the 12th day of Christmas (6th January) and the manifestation of the Lord to the pagan nations represented by the Wise men from the East.

According to an ancient tradition, the relics of the Three Magi are kept in the beautiful Cathedral of Cologne in Germany. The Shrine of the Magi is the largest, most artistically significant, and, in terms of its content, most ambitious reliquary of the Middle Ages. The relics were brought to Cologne from Milan in 1164. From about 1190 to 1220 a number of artisans worked on the shrine, making it beautiful with gold- and silver-embossed, fire-gilded figures, filigree panels set with precious and semi-precious stones, intaglios, and cameos, and columns, arches and profiles trimmed with enamels. The images depicted on the shrine include scenes from creation to the Last Judgment. Although the shrine was shortened after being hidden from French revolutionary troops in 1794, it was largely restored to its original shape in the 60's and 70's. The shrine rises above the medieval high altar at the back of the inner choir, making this area the main focus of the Gothic cathedral, which was built as a stone reliquary for this precious shrine.

In 2005, over a million young people went on pilgrimage to this ancient shrine for World Youth Day. I was there as a newly ordained priest. This was pope Benedict XVI's first apostolic journey outside of Italy and the first to his home country. He said that when the Magi found Jesus in the stable, their pilgrimage had finished... "But at this point a new journey began for them, an inner pilgrimage which changed their whole lives. Their mental picture of the infant King they were expecting to find must have been very different". Our God is therefore the God of the surprises. We are also invited to make our pilgrimage to him and once we have found him to adore him. As on those days in Cologne we are invited to adore him present in the Eucharist. Spend some time with him, allow him to change your heart.

The sanctuary lamp this week is burning in honour of **John NOLAN ,RIP**

Attending Mass in 2020

1. Please sanitise your hands when you arrive and wear a mask. Keep a safe distance at all times..
2. Please seat in any available space. It would be helpful if you do not seat by the central aisle. Once in your space do not move till directed by the stewards.
3. There will be no collection during mass. Please give your contribution as you leave the church or online (<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bow/donate/>).
4. For communion, wait till the steward asks you to move. If you cannot queue, Fr Javier will come to you. Communion will be distributed only under one kind and on the hand.
5. At the end, wait to be ushered by the steward. If you are on the pulpit side, leave through the main aisle and the main door; if you are on the font side, leave by the side aisle and the side door.
6. If you want to stay praying or light up a candle, wait in your place. Only light the candle when people have cleared the area.
7. The toilets are now in use. Please follow the guidance posted. Do not throw wipes to the toilets. If the toilets are blocked they will be closed.
8. **We need to record your presence. Please use the QR code or give your details when entering the church. This is to assist the Track and Trace**
9. Above all, be sensible, be aware of the people around you and respect them.

Reconciliation is celebrated Saturday 5pm and Sunday between morning masses and before evening mass. Otherwise please contact Fr Javier for an appointment,.

Broadcast of 11.30am Mass

We continue to broadcast the 11,30am Mass on YouTube. You can find us on www.youtube.com/user/sebastianbrzegowy/live.

Journeying with the Bible

Fr Javier together with Monica Cardona, FMVD, will continue delivering some talks on the Bible online. This year focusing on the New Testament. More info on <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/evangelisation/the-god-who-speaks/journeying-with-the-bible/>. If you want to register, please contact catadmin@rcdow.org.uk. Next talk will be on **12th January at 7pm**.

Registration Form

Available from the Back. You can fill in online by using www.bit.ly/ParishCensus2020 or scanning the QR Code from the poster at the back.

Bow Food Bank

The Bow Food Bank needs our support. From this month we will collecting an item through the month and delivering it on the last Sunday of the month. **The January item is pasta**, (please bring 1kg or 1/2 Kg bags). For more information or if you want to vlunteer, please check <http://www.bowfoodbank.org/wp/>

Christmas Crib Appeal

The crib offerings this year as ever will go to the Catholic Children's Society. Please bring your children to the crib to pray and help if you can.

Mass Offering—There are plenty of free slots for masses in January (and after)

Christmas 2020

Fr Javier thanks all those who made the Christmas celebrations possible. Graham, our organist and those who led the singing; Sebastian for broadcasting; all the stewards, cleaners, readers...

Fr Javier also thanks all for their generosity in their personal cards and gifts. He thinks he could survive another lockdown!!! But he promises that he will not drink all the alcohol at once.

Epiphany of the Lord

Next Wednesday the Church celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, a holiday of Obligation in which we are asked to go to Mass. Masses are at 9.15am and 7pm.

Christmas Trees

Thanks again to Bow Landscapes for providing us with a beautiful Christmas Tree.

Thanks to St Mary's, Bow Church for the Tree at the entrance of the Church

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp will be burning in memory of a faithful departed. If you would like to dedicate a candle for someone, please speak to Fr Javier (suggested donation £10)

Financial support

Thank you for your ongoing financial support. Thank you to those who are giving online (Account Name: WRCDT Bow; Sort Code: 40-05-20; Account Number: 01308157).

You can also use the QR Code at the front of the Newsletter or on the green posters in Church. Please add your Surname and First Name as a reference.

Stewards at Mass

Thanks to those who attended the meeting. Ushers are required to arrive at mass earlier; accommodate people once mass has started; ushering people to communion and out of mass at the end. They also spray clean the benches which have been used. If you want to help with the ushering of people during mass, speak to Fr. Javier.

RCIA

At this stage we are having some introductory meetings for those interested in the Catholic faith. If anyone is interested please speak to Fr Javier. Next meeting will be on **Tuesday 5th January at 6pm**

First Holy Communion 2021

Thank you to all who have applied. Fr Javier will contact you in the next week or so.

When does Christmas Finish?

For many people Christmas finished on 25/12 in the evening as they prepared for the sales. Decorations went down and trees were disposed of. For the Church, the liturgical season of Christmas finishes next Sunday, 10th January with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. However, in the older tradition, Christmas lasts until the Feast of Presentation of the Lord, 2nd February. This marked the end of a long 40-day "Christmastide" that corresponded to the 40 days of Lent. It is historically called "Candlemas" because of Simeon's prophecy of Jesus being a light for the Gentiles. Following this tradition we will keep our Crib till that date, just as the Holy Father is keeping his at St. Peter's! If you haven't put down your crib you could also keep it till the 40th day after Christmas.

We will take down the Christmas Tree after the 6pm Mass next week. A couple of volunteers would be welcome