

St Paul's Knightsbridge  
The Parish Office  
32a Wilton Place  
London SW1X 8SH  
**Phone** 020 7201 9999  
**E-mail** info@spkb.org

**The Vicar**  
Fr Alan Gyle  
020 7201 9999  
07939 805970

**The Associate Vicar**  
Fr Louis Darrant  
020 7201 9992  
07779 103826

## SERVICES THIS WEEK:

### EPIPHANY SUNDAY

7 January 2018

Family Mass at 09:00

Solemn Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

**Mon 8 January: Baptism of Christ**

Mass at 18:00

**Tues 9 January: Feria of Epiphany**

Mass at 8:00

**Wed 10 January: Feria of  
Epiphany**

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 19:00

**Thu 11 January: Feria of Epiphany**

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 18:00

**Fri 12 January: Aelred**

Morning Prayer said privately

Mass at 18:00

**Sat 13 January: Hilary**

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 12:00

### SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

14 January 2017

Family Mass at 09:00

Sung Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Nick Mercer

## Oh, Christmas tree, Oh, Christmas tree!

Twelfth night and the taking down of all cards, decorations and Christmas trees! Though not in Rome where a stay of execution has been granted to a tree that has caught the public's imagination and has even been given a name, 'Spelacchio'.



Spelacchio (which translates as "Mangy" or "Baldy") is a Norway Spruce tree, brought at considerable expense from the borders of Austria to stand proudly in front of Sacconi's Altare della Patria in the city's Piazza Venezia – the central hub of the city. But to everyone's initial disappointment the tree appeared to thin and droop at a great rate so that by mid-Advent its foliage was looking distinctly sparse! "It hurts even to look at the tree," said one woman, though others thought it fitting in a city that has not itself been without a degree of degradation and disrepair in recent years.

Then an astonishing thing happened: the name – Spelacchio – was given and the tree began to find a place in the hearts of Roman citizens. It was given its own twitter name @Spelacchio, and its online account positively bristled (unlike the tree itself) with expressions of love and admiration. Now the city fathers are debating what to do with it. Some favour giving it a place in the MAXXI museum of modern art while others think it should be cut up and commemorated as part of a wooden building, or even as thousands of pencils for Rome's school children. Spelacchio's fate will be announced tomorrow morning, the 8<sup>th</sup> of January.

Epiphany – which occurs after 12<sup>th</sup> night and which we celebrate today – marks a change of gear in the story of the Incarnation as wise men or magi arrive from the East following a heavenly star. It is St Matthew's turn to have his say about the nature of the coming of the Christ child after an initial few weeks dominated by St Luke's more bucolic account, replete with shepherds and angels.

The decorations may now be down and our Christmas trees banished, but our musing on the mystery of Christ's birth continues throughout this coming month, ending formally only at Candlemas on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. By then, 'out there' the shops will be beginning to sell Easter eggs of course – but we will doggedly keep praying about the Incarnation for weeks yet, allowing this greatest of mysteries to take root in our hearts.

Fr Alan Gyle

## THIS WEEK: Wednesday Evening Service on 10<sup>th</sup> January

Please join us at the beginning of a new year for a reflective Mass accompanied by beautiful music with thoughtful and challenging preaching. The pattern of monthly Wednesday Evening Services is proving to be very popular and is growing. One of the clergy celebrates the Mass whilst another offers three short reflections on a topical theme. Following mass we gather for a convivial home-cooked supper in the nave as the wine and conversation flows. Please put this date in your diaries!

## Who's who this Sunday

At 09:00

Celebrant: Fr Nick Mercer

At 11:00

Celebrant: Fr Alan Gyle  
Deacon: Fr Nick Mercer  
Subdeacon: Phil Davies  
Reader: Kimball Bailey  
Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle  
Intercessor: Jeremy Orlebar



## Explorations visit to the Tower of London

The date of the next Explorations visit is **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January**. Canon Roger Hall, Chaplain of St Peter Ad Vincula, will introduce us to the life and history of the chapel and lead prayers at the Shrine of St Thomas More. Places are limited to 15, so please speak to Fr Louis if you would like to join us.

## Prayer Branch

If you would value meeting informally with other members of St Paul's to pray and reflect on Scripture then the Prayer Branch would welcome you. It's a small, lay-led group meeting once a month in a home of one its members. The next Prayer Branch takes place in the evening of Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January. For further details please speak to a member of the clergy team.

## Claire Pilton

Thanks to Claire Pilton who has joined us in the Parish Office to cover Felicity Cranfield's maternity leave.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.spkb.org](http://www.spkb.org)

AND REGISTER FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

## Patronal Festival 2018

A feast of worship, music and fellowship lies in store in celebration of our Patronal Festival.

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm CHORAL EVENSONG

Festal Choral Evensong for the Conversion of St Paul with the choir and musicians of St Paul's Knightsbridge. Followed by a reception.

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1pm LUNCHTIME RECITAL

A 'drop-in' lunchtime recital with the Royal College of Music's Mayler Quartet. A free event with soup lunch.

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2pm "COME AND SING!"

Ever wondered what it would be like to sing with the church choir? This is your chance. Michael Papadopoulos, Michael Solomon Williams and Adam Mathias will lead an afternoon of working on favourite choral classics by Parry, Rutter and Vivaldi before putting on a short, informal concert at 4.15pm at which family and friends are most warmly welcome! Tickets- £10 for participants at [www.spkb.org](http://www.spkb.org). No charge for audience members. Followed by drinks.

## Church cleaning day

Volunteers, please join us for a fast and frantic post-Christmas clean up of the church in readiness for our Patronal Festival. Roland Brunner invites your attendance from 10am on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January – wearing old clothes and bringing dusters!

## Phil Davies

We are pleased to announce that Phil Davies, currently one of our two churchwardens, will join the staff team on 1<sup>st</sup> February in a new fulltime role shaping future programme at St Paul's and guiding us through our Fundraising and Capital Project. He joins Anne Hayward who is our new consultant Head of Fundraising. Phil will step down as Churchwarden on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January – and on that day, at 12:20pm after the main mass, we will hold a Extraordinary vestry Meeting to elect a successor.

## Please pray for...

### We pray this week for:

Sarah, Bishop-Designate, and for +Pete Broadbent our acting Bishop;  
for church musicians; for all who travel and who are returning to London and to work;  
for the homeless and for all refugees and migrants;  
for peace in the Middle East and for the holy city of Jerusalem,

### Among the sick and those in need:

John King; Ingrid Gray; Val Hiscock; Gregoriy Galitzine; Maya Habboush; Nora Shishkovskaya, David and Ruth.

**And we pray for the recently departed:** Walter Timmis; Jeremy Stampa Orwin; Natalie Lewis-Hoyle; Barbara Lockhart-Smith; Mark Whittow.

### And we pray for those whose year's mind falls at this time:

Valerie Maurice – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Irene Dawson – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Isabel Llewellyn – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Julia Candlish – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Kurt Hoxter – 11<sup>th</sup>  
Dick Bilborough – 11<sup>th</sup>  
Christopher Courtauld, priest – 11<sup>th</sup>  
James Longcroft – 13<sup>th</sup>  
Marjorie Garrett – 13<sup>th</sup>

## Daily Reflections from Fr Richard Rohr



Fr Richard is the Director of the Centre for Action and Contemplation. You can sign up for a free Daily Meditation exploring the contemplative dimension of Christian living by going to [www.cac.org/category/daily-meditations/](http://www.cac.org/category/daily-meditations/) These daily bite-sized reflections are an excellent aid to deepening your practice of faith in everyday life and are highly recommended.

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 11am FESTAL ORCHESTRAL MASS

The Choir of St Paul's Knightsbridge with the Royal College of Music ensemble.  
*Spatzenmesse – Mozart*  
*How lovely are the messengers – Felix Mendelssohn*  
*O salutaris hostia - Rossini*