

THE HOLY FAMILY PARISH OF MAIDENHEAD AND TWYFORD



20 DECEMBER 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As we approach Christmas, Father Kevin and I want to introduce you all to our two new priests, joining us in our Parish. As you know, Father Ephraim left the parish recently, in anticipation of his new posting. We wish him well!

Father Vuni and Father Elvis joined us at the beginning of Advent and are both in the process of getting to know our wonderful community and getting all their documents in order to fully minister and engage in the parish. Later in this newsletter, you'll hear from Elvis and Vuni too, so that you can get to know them as well a little better.

As we begin this new liturgical year, we reflect on why we meet as a community. In our parish community of Holy Family, Jesus Christ meets our five deepest needs:

- Purpose to **live for** – Weekly worship helps us focus on God.
- People to **live with** - Community helps us face life's problems and joys.
- Principles to **live by** - Discipleship and conviction helps fortify our Faith.
- Profession to **live out** - Ministry helps exercise our talents.
- Power to **live on** - Witness and proclamation helps fulfil our mission.

That is why our churches in Maidenhead and Twyford exist.



I want to mark **the close of the Jubilee of Hope year**, which ends on Sunday, 28th December. Masses are being held in all of the Shrine churches, the nearest to us being St James', Reading on 27th December at 6.00pm.

The Jubilee of Hope has been a special year declared by the late Pope Francis, with a focus on fostering hope within the Catholic community. It emphasises the importance of looking to the future with optimism. The Jubilee symbolises a time of grace and renewal, inviting individuals to enter a new life in Christ through acts of compassion and community.

As this special year coincided with the launch of our new parish and the hope that we have manifest in a loving, vibrant catholic community in Maidenhead and Twyford, I believe that we are all embodying the hope for the future that was core to the late Pope Francis' dearest wish and the Jubilee Year of Hope.

And finally, as we complete our Advent preparations and anticipate the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day, I wish you and your families a very and blessed happy Christmas.

Liam,
Parish Priest, Holy Family Parish of Maidenhead and Twyford.

HELLO FROM FATHER ELVIS

Find out more on
Page 2 about
Father Elvis
Berka, as he
joins us!

HELLO FROM FATHER VUNI

On Page 3, say
"hello" to Father
Tiberius Vuni,
who prefers to
be called Father
Vuni

NEWS FROM AROUND OUR PARISH

On Page 4, read
news from
around our
Parish

Introducing Father Elvis Berka MHM



Hello to everyone, I am Shudzeka Elvis Berka, the sixth in a family of eight boys of Mr. Fidelis Shudzeka Yimbu and Mrs. Prudentia Wirmum all of blessed memory. (I do indeed have “seven brides for seven brothers”!)

Favourites....

Favourite Bible Verse?
John 21:15-19 (*"Peter do you love me....."*)

Favourite Psalm?
23:1- 6 (*My shepherd is the Lord...*)

Football Team?
Manchester United

I was born in 1973 in Cameroon, just as a priest was visiting the hospital. Fr. Micheal De Roy MHM, a fan of Elvis Presley, named me Elvis and eventually baptized me too!

I was educated in the English part of Cameroon, my favourite subjects being Maths and Economics. I loved football, playing at No.1 - goalkeeper. Football at secondary and high school level was not just fun, it supported my education financially.

My initial desire to be a priest surfaced when I was eleven and came from a young Capuchin priest and I became an Altar server. At 18 I was moved by the dedication of Angebert Sora a Dutch Mill Hill brother. His simple compassion, his care for the poor, his relentless efforts to better lives and his deep love for all. Through him I applied and joined Mill Hill formation programme to become a priest.

I spent my priestly formation in Cameroon and Uganda, I first met Fr. Liam when he was working in Cameroon in 1996. Then later in 2001 he was my Formator in theology in Mill Hill, London and finally my Formator and Rector in Mill Hill formation centre Nairobi.

I was ordained a Priest in 2006 in Kumbo, Cameroon

After Ordination I have had the opportunity to serve in Sudan as a Parish Priest, Kenya and Uganda, Cameroon – as Vocations Director, and for the last 10 years as Formator and Rector of the Mill Hill Formation Centre (Seminary) Cameroon.

What is the most rewarding part of being a Priest for me? The joy of seeing others grow, flourish, mature and blossom in different aspects of their lives. Hopefully towards being the person that God wants them to be.

God's love for me has done everything for me and so I am called to share that love with others. “Elvis do you love me? Feed, care for and shepherd my flock”. Drawn into God's loving embrace I am propelled to share my experience with others while being enriched by their experience.

I have a Brother who understands you more than you understand yourself, an encourager who desires the best for you and a friend who wants to hold your hand at every step of your life and that friend indeed who loves you unconditionally is Jesus - (that is how I have experienced Him)

Coming to the Holy Family Parish...

This is my fourth time in England. It's a wonderful country with a beautiful rainbow of people all contributing in good and difficult times in different ways to create a just, caring and loving environment for all.

I have already experienced God more deeply in this inclusive and wonderful Holy Family Parish, with its unique diversity and I hope that my presence will add more "smiles" in our lovely Parish.

Please come and say “Hello” when you see me!

Introducing Father Tiberius Vuni MHM – AKA Father Vuni



My name is Tiberius Vuni, and I was born in Uganda, the second child in a family of five. I am grateful that both my parents are still alive, and this month, my father celebrates his 91st birthday.

My early childhood was shaped by both excitement and uncertainty. The aftermath of the post-Amin war led me to Zaire. After the war, I returned to Uganda to begin my education. These pivotal moments have remained with me,

laying the foundation for my journey to priesthood. From a young age, I felt called to serve others and to be useful wherever I could.

During my childhood, I enjoyed swimming, cycling and playing football. I was also an active member of the church choir, although I eventually realised that singing was not my strongest talent!

After completing my A levels, my path towards priesthood brought me into contact with Fr. Michael Corcocran, now our Superior General who recruited me to Mill Hill Missionaries.

My seminary formation consisted of three years studying philosophy, followed by four years studying theology. It was during this period that I met Fr. Liam, who guided my journey. Later, he served as my Rector and mentored me throughout my formation until my ordination in 2011.

Following my ordination, I spent thirteen years serving in Cameroon. I began as an assistant priest before becoming parish priest in two different parishes for eleven years. Throughout my time in Cameroon, I also held several positions within the Diocese of Mamfe. I served as Director of Caritas, Diocesan Director of Pontifical Missionary Societies, and Dean of the Eyumojock Deanery.

While serving as Parish Priest at St. Martin of Tours in Kembong Parish, Mamfe Diocese, I sadly witnessed and responded to violent attacks by armed groups. In 2023, I provided pastoral support after colleagues were injured in a militant attack.

What is the most rewarding part of being a Priest for me? My mission in Cameroon strengthened my commitment to accompany the poor and marginalised, helping communities face poverty and uncertainty, and providing humanitarian outreach. This work was deeply important to me, as it embodied our charism of service and solidarity. I hold a deep love for Cameroon.

I moved to the UK in 2024 and for the past year and a half, I have served as Assistant Priest at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Sunderland. Though it was for a short period, Sunderland became a home which lured me to support the local football team, “The Black Cats”. I now have lovely family in Sunderland.

Rooted in Uganda, flourishing in Cameroon, and now bearing fruit in the UK, my ministry has become a living bridge between cultures. I carry the wisdom of African faith traditions into the diverse communities of the UK.

My calling is to love in action—to turn vulnerability into dignity, despair into hope, empower young people, uplift the marginalised, and weave faith into the fabric of daily life.

When you need me, find me because as they say in Sunderland “Shy bairns get nowt!”

Favourites....

Favourite Bible Verse?

Letter to the Hebrews 5:4 (*“And no one takes this honour upon himself, but he receives it when he is called by God, just as Aaron was.”*)

Football Team?

Manchester United, but now Sunderland too!

A special Invitation to the Princess of Wales' Carol Service...

It's not every day that an envelope embossed with "Buckingham Palace" lands on the mat, but for Joseph Kenneh, that's exactly what happened a few weeks ago.

It all started 2 years ago, when Joe journeyed to Lourdes with his good friend Peter and HCPT. He thoroughly enjoyed it, and as his grandad Mike observed, Joe came back different and determined to be an advocate for HCPT and help where he can.

This year, he recorded a promotional video "Joe's Story" and is featured on the HCPT home page (<https://makeeverydaymiracles.org.uk/>)

So with all this good work, HCPT recognised Joe by proposing that he should attend the Royal Carol Service. Joe took his grandad and when he came back he said "It was fantastic, I saw the Prince and Princess of Wales up close. It was a privilege to be there".



A new member of the Swiss Guard...



Christiane Tyler, the Missio Red box collector from St. Thomas More, has a reason to be proud. Her cousin's grandson has just been appointed to the Swiss Guard at the Vatican.

A Swiss citizen, he was in the Swiss armed forces for over 2 years, having completed his further education. He also fit all the other criteria too, aged between 19-30, over 5'8", a practising Catholic, with an impeccable character and an irreproachable reputation.

The Swiss Guards is a very old tradition that dates back to the 16th century, when the Swiss army had a reputation for bravery and loyalty. His role is to protect the Pope and the Apostolic Palace. The swearing in ceremony was originally booked for May, and is an annual event, but then Pope Francis died, so the ceremony was put back to 6th October. The 27 new recruits this year, individually pledged their loyalty to the Pope, vowing to protect him, even if it costs them their life.

Our Advent Calendar Appeal for Alexander Devine Hospice... Thank you!

A BIG thank you to everyone who donated an Advent Calendar this November for our annual Appeal for Alexander Devine Hospice in Maidenhead. Maria Beasley, our Parish Youth Co-ordinator presented the calendars to a very grateful Hospice Team.

She said, "It's a privilege to represent the Parish. Everyone was very generous again this year with 386 calendars delivered (compared to 222 donated last year). The staff said that the calendars and the prayers from our parish make such a difference to both the children and their parents, who are trying so hard to remain positive in the face of overwhelming adversity"

