



St Nicholas News

A communication channel to keep in touch with St Nicholas' Friends around the world

From Fr Gerardo Cioffari, o.p.,
director of the
St Nicholas Research Center in Bari

December 29th, 2011

AT CHRISTMAS ST NICHOLAS INVITES TO GENEROSITY

<http://www.4thought.tv/themes/what-does-christmas-mean-to-you/canon-jim-rosenthal>

29

**A homily given by the Revd Fr John Pritchard
Annunciation Church, London,
St Nicholas Society Mass - Saturday 10 December**

St Nicholas *in London*

10 December 2011 Saturday
12-3 p.m. Festival Mass and Walkabout
from Annunciation Church, Bryanston Street, to VIP
Day Oxford Street at Marble Arch

FESTIVAL MASS

THE SOLEMNITY
OF
SAINT NICHOLAS
OF MYRA
(Saint in Bari)

The St Nicholas Society



Revd Jim Rosenthal,
Parish Priest of St Nicholas at Wade
with St Mary the Virgin Chislet

The Rt Revd **Trevor Willmott**, Celebrant, Bishop in Canterbury
The Revd Fr. **John Pritchard**, Preacher, Assistant, All Saints Margaret Str ; the Revd Fr **Gerald Beauchamp**, Annunciation, Marble Arch; the Revd **Nadim Nassar**, Awareness Foundation; the Revd **Yazeed Said**, Tantur Ecumenical Institute, Bethlehem; Revd Canon **Jim Rosenthal**, President St Nicholas Society; **Christopher Saward** and the Annunciation Choir; **Cedric Stephens** Event Hon Chairman; **Terry Barber**, Servers: All Saints Margaret Street

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

There was a good bishop whose story is told
his memory is glorious, his legends are bold

*Rejoice, rejoice, all people today
Rejoice, rejoice, today and always*

We call him Saint Nic'las, a servant of Christ,
who loved little children and taught what was
right, *Refrain*

He is Father Christmas, and Santa Claus too
He helped many people, the stories are true.
Refrain

At Christmas he calls to us, both young and old
To see that the story of Jesus is told. *Refrain*

O blessed Saint Nic'las we hail you today
The Patron of many, to show us the way. *Refrain*

To be good and gen'rous to help those in need
To be kind to others in both word and deed.
Refrain

Text: J. M. Rosenthal, Robert Willis (2002)
Tune: Lourdes Hymn 11 11

Bishop: In the name of the Father... . Amen
Bishop: Peace be with you
And also with you

CONFESSION

Allmighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our
neighbour in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. *Amen*

The choir sings **Kyrie Eleison**, Plainsong
The Bishop then gives the **Absolution**
All sit: **Gloria in excelsis** (Haydn)
Stand for:

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF ST NICHOLAS

Eternal God, in your great love you gave
your servant Nicholas a perpetual name for
deeds of kindness on land and sea. Grant
that your Church may never cease to work
for the happiness of children, the safety of
sailors, the relief of the poor and the help of
those who are tossed by tempests of doubt
or grief, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. AMEN.

Lesson I: John 4, 7-14

Gradual Psalm 23 (seated) Plainsong

The holy Gospel: Mark 10, 13-16.

Homily: Father John Pritchard

THE LITANY OF ST NICHOLAS

O God, Creator of heaven and earth

Have mercy on us.

O God, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy on us.

O God, Sanctifier of the faithful,

Have mercy on us.

O Christ hear us. *O Christ hear us.*

Blessed Mary, full of grace,

Blessed Joseph,

Blessed St John Baptist,

Blessed Lucy,

All holy women and men of God,

Pray with us

Blessed Nicholas

Holy Bishop of Myra,

Holy Saint of Bari, *Pray with us.*

Nicholas: Patron of children and seafarers,

Gift-giver and Wonder-Worker,

Friend of the poor and needy,

Icon of gentleness and generosity,

Patron of Palestine's freedom,

Model of meekness and charity,

Defender of the Christian Faith,

Myrrh of the fragrance of Christ,

Help of those who suffer wrong,

Faithful steward of the mysteries of God,
Guide of the penitent sinner,
Source of joy and thanksgiving,
Saint who points us to the Manger.

Pray with us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, *Have mercy on us.*
Jesus, bearer of our sins, *Have mercy on us.*
Jesus Redeemer of the world. *Grant us your peace.*

Lord have mercy, *Christ have mercy.* Lord Have mercy.

GRANT that we, aided by the prayers of St Nicholas and all the Saints, may be strengthened on our earthly pilgrimage to live and work for the praise and glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and in our service to God's people and God's whole creation. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

THE PEACE IS EXCHANGED

OFFERTORY HYMN

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in Thee,
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord, accept the offerings of your Church as we call upon Your mercy. Through the intercession of your bishop St Nicholas, keep us safe amid all dangers so that we may go

forward without hindrance on the road of salvation. *Amen*

Preface
Sanctus
Benedictus

Missa Sancti Nicolai. Haydn

The Lord be with you
All: *and also with you*

Lift up your hearts.
All: *We lift them to the Lord*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: *It is right to give thanks and praise*

In the Eucharistic prayer, the Deacon says:

Great is the mystery of faith.
All: *Christ has died.*
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the Kingdom, the power and
the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The President breaks the consecrated Bread

We break this Bread ... though we are many we are one body because we all share in one bread.

All baptized persons are invited to receive Holy Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

AGNUS DEI

St Nicholas Mass (Haydn)

Anthem: Sir Christémas (William Mathias)

HYMN: *Let all mortal flesh* Picardy

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood;
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

God, shepherd of your people, whose servant Nicholas revealed the loving service of Christ in his ministry as a pastor of your people: by this Eucharist in which we share,

awaken within us the love of Christ and keep us faithful to our Christian calling: through him who laid down his life for us, but is alive and reigns with you, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

THE PONTIFICAL BLESSING

DISMISSAL. *All:* Thanks be to God.

FINAL HYMN

(Anointing at the Chapel altar with Manna from Bari Shrine for those desiring prayer and a blessing)

Saint Nicholas the children's friend
Joyful sing we. His miracles a blessing send
Joyful sing we, All the people shout with glee
Now the blessed Saint to see.
May we all right merry be
Happy Day, Holy Day, Celebrate with gladness.

The sailors, captives, all are free. Joyful sing we.
The daughters three new life now see
Joyful sing we. All the people shout with glee
Now the blessed Saint to see
May we all right merry be,
Happy Day, Holy Day, Celebrate with gladness.

He comes with gifts beyond compare
Joyful sing we. He tells us of God's love and care
Joyful sing we. All the people shout with glee
Now the blessed Saint to see,
May we all right merry be
Happy Day, Holy Day, Celebrate with gladness.

[Tune: Hail Holy Queen. Text: copyright: J. M. Rosenthal]

ORGAN: *Fugue in D (S. 532) by J. S. Bach*

ANOINTING: *The Manna is given or sprinkled on the person who is ill.*

St Nicholas will appear and lead us with the cross, to Old Quebec street and then to a place near Oxford Street. Please come with us as a act of witness and join in singing some familiar carols. . See also:

<http://www.nicholasoneill.com/MissaSanctiNicola.pdf>

The homily given by the Revd Fr John Pritchard
Annunciation Church, London,
St Nicholas Society Mass - Saturday 10 December

It is because of our Lord Jesus, because of what he inspired in an individual that we celebrate Nicholas, the fourth Century Bishop of Myra with a reputation for love and care especially towards the young and vulnerable. So great was Nicholas' devotion to God through prayer and to God's people through secret good works, that more than 1700 years later, the cult of Nicholas has a life of its own. Yet today we gather, reminded that the cult of Nicholas has its foundation and finds its life in the revelation of the Love of God, revealed most specially and most uniquely in the Child Jesus.

History hasn't been so kind to St Nicholas, because he has become more an excuse for consumerism over compassion: greed over generosity, less holy and more holly; less prayerfully revealing the influence of the love of God, more painfully revealing the selfishness of humankind.

But there is hope, which as is the way, comes from a most unexpected place. I hope you have all seen the Christmas advert for John Lewis. It's called "The Long Wait". If you haven't, you need to go on youtube soon, it has been an instant sensation. It is brilliantly made.

It is the story of a young child who just can't wait for Christmas morning. We see him doing all the Advent stuff, making decorations, dressing up for a nativity play, and baking - but with much wistful staring out of the window, slow playing on his swing and a great deal of clock watching. In one scene he is dressed as wizard trying to magic the hands of the clock to just go round faster. In the end it is finally Christmas Eve. He bolts his tea - including all the vegetables - and rushes to bed to sleep. Christmas morning comes.

He jumps out of bed and runs past the huge pile of presents at the bottom of his bed to give a big, badly wrapped present to his sleeping parents. The caption comes up - For Gifts You Can't Wait to Give.

I think Nicholas would approve. For that young child, Christmas is not about getting more stuff, but about the joy of showing love. That is the same love that was inspiringly revealed and reflected in Nicholas towards the poor and hungry. It is the same love we hear every day in the Good [News](#): the Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

When we fall in love, with each other or with God, I think we are given a moment to make a choice. Will this love make us more selfish or more generous? We can always revisit that question, perhaps at no better time than now. Because the love that Nicholas had for God made him a remarkably generous person in prayer and in the "stuff" of life. When it was important he was generous, and I suspect that generous trait spilled over towards everyone he came across.

We are waiting eagerly for the greatest gift from God - the Christ child - but even today we are not ignorant of God's love towards us, so we can choose, to become selfish with the riches of love and stuff which we have in abundance, or to be generous, even until it hurts. Because that is in part what is revealed in God, and what we want to imitate, not just in season, but in all times and in all places, giving thanks to God.

While we are out and about enjoying the 14 shopping days - keep an eye out for the John Lewis Christmas carrier bags. When you see the slogan "For Gifts You Can't Wait to Give" - remember it is not just about piles of presents - great though they are for showing love - but also that God just can't wait to send his Son, because of whom and through whom we give thanks for Nicholas. Amen

MY CHRISTMAS WITH ST NICHOLAS

A charitable initiative called “My Christmas with St Nicholas” was introduced December 5th 2011 in a hall of the Chamber of Commerce. To it adhered many dealers and shopkeepers of the city. Actions started December 6th at the John XXIII Pediatric Hospital and went on till Christmas Day. While children leaning to the skirts of their mothers look at hundreds of presents and colored images, St Nicholas statue in papier mâché is smiling near the entrance of the Hospital.

Here now everything is joyful, clean walls, butterflies on the glasses, doctors with colored pegs on the collars of the white coats. The little beds are full of little guests, but nobody is crying and nobody is sad, and the mothers (putting aside their problems) show themselves smiling and help to open the presents.

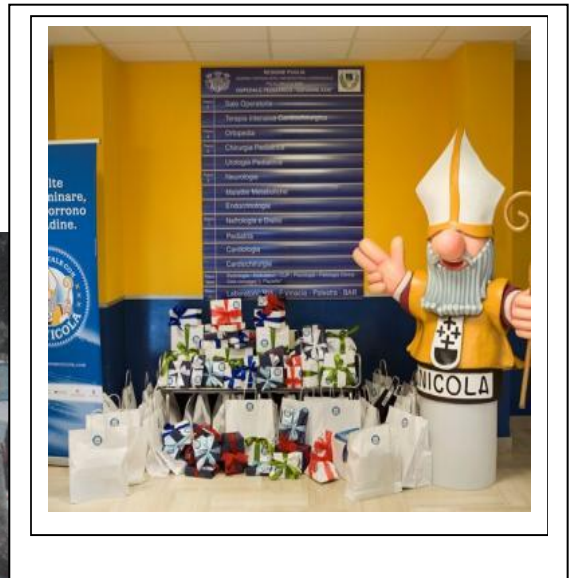


In these moments of great emotion the Rector of the Basilica of St Nicholas, Lorenzo Lorusso, goes around warmly smiling to the children. A child is caressed, to another is asked the name, another is blessed.

After him, is the local Authority Paparesta, speaking in the name of the mayor, to express his joy for living such a different and moving event. In the meantime the doctors go back and forth with nurses, with children and parents. A young woman blows up and distribute colored balloons. The president of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Confcommerce, Alexander Ambrosi, is touched seeing all this, and thinking that the event brings the shopkeepers close to the social problems, giving presents to children of poor and suffering families.

At the sight of these very little children victims of sorrow and sickness is difficult to avoid being upset. The presidents of different Provincial Categories of shopkeepers, like Benny Campobasso and Giuseppe Margiotta, are equally moved, but they try to communicate joy. The presents are chosen and given to the children, and everybody waits that they finish opening them. All the operations end with little joyful cries. The statue of St Nicholas with his smile seems to say that even in difficult

economical times generosity is possible. Rediscovering generosity when everybody feels the squeeze is of great importance and, by this common effort, it makes stronger the hopes to go out together of the shortages.



The gift-project at the Chamber of Commerce

← Our Father Christmas (Francesco Innamurato) in the streets of Bari.

The gifts in our Dominican Monastery under the large painting of St Albert the Great OP.



**FROM BARI ,
WHILE ST ALBERT THE GREAT IS BLESSING THE PRESENTS,
TO ALL ST NICHOLAS FRIENDS
THE BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012**