ST. AIDAN OF LINDISFARNE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTMINSTER

PARISH NEWSLETTER

30th November 2025



BUILDING UP OUR FAITH

My grandmother used to tell me about a woman she knew whom everyone simply called *Hope*. Her real name was Maria, but the nickname stayed with her because of a small but thoughtful custom. Each Advent, she placed a lighted candle in her window. She had heard how Mary and Joseph found no room before Jesus was born, and she wanted to be sure that if the Lord passed by her home, he would see a welcome waiting for him. Her candle was a quiet sign of trust that Christ might come at any moment.

This simple gesture captures the heart of the First Sunday of Advent. We begin the new liturgical year not with frantic preparation but with hope, a deep confidence in God's promises. The people of the Old Testament longed for a world renewed by God, a world of peace where swords would be turned into ploughshares. Their longing was fulfilled in the first coming of Christ. Yet we still wait for his return, living in this strange in-between time where he has already come and is not yet fully revealed.

In today's Gospel, Jesus urges us to stay awake and to be ready. Advent readiness is not anxious watching but faithful living. It means noticing the quiet ways Christ is already near and making space for him in our homes, our relationships and our decisions.

Like Maria, we are invited to place a candle of hope in the window of our hearts. May our hope remain steady, our welcome sincere and our lives prepared for the Lord who comes to bring light and peace. Deacon Tito

First Sunday of Advent: Advent is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth at Christmas. The first purple candle, which we light today, symbolises hope. Known as the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents hope; the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Advent Reconciliation Service

Tuesday 9th December at 7pm

We will have visiting priests to help with the

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve—Wednesday 8pm (Christmas Carols from 7:30pm)

Christmas Day—Thursday 10am

The church is open Tues and Thu 9am-3pm
Sat 10:00am to 8:00pm, Sun for Masses.
Parish Priest: Fr. Patrick Adusei Poku CSSp. patrickadusei-poku@rcdow.org.uk
Fr. Patrick: 07766254987 Fr. Brendan: 07501345091
Assistant Priest: Fr. Brendan Aroh CSSp. brendanaroh@rcdow.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Fr. Christian Egemonye CSSp. christianegemo-nye@rcdow.org.uk
Deacon: Rev. Tito Pereira titopereira@rcdow.org.uk Tito: 07977599110
Parish Office: Opening times Tue and Thu 10am to 3pm
actoneast@rcdow.org.uk 020 8743 5732
Parish Administrator: Paola Turner

MASS TIMES

Monday: No Mass (Church Closed)
Fr. Patrick at Immigration Centre
Tuesday - Friday: 10am
Saturday: 6.30pm
Sunday: 10am, 1pm (Ge'ez Rite)
Holy Days of Obligation: 10am, 7pm

Welcome to everyone joining us for Mass today.

We would like every parishioner to register with us so please pick up a form from the back of the church. You can also pick up a standing order form, if you'd like to gift aid any donations you give. If you are new, please introduce yourself to one of the priests.

Thank you for coming!

FOR DONATIONS & PAYMENTS
WRCDT Acton East
Account No. 41095277
Sort Code: 40-05-20
Reference: Surname and First Initial

If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation. The government will top up your gift by 25 percent, meaning a £20 offering becomes £25, at no cost to you.

To Gift Aid your bank transfer donations, please send an email to giftaid@rcdow.org.uk with the following information: Your parish name, your title, first name and surname, your address and postcode, the date of your gift, or start date of Standing Order and the amount. Please add the line: 'Please Gift Aid my donations'. The Diocese Gift Aid office will add your declaration immediately, on behalf of your parish, and email you a confirmation.
Standing Order: If you would like to make a regular (monthly/quarterly/annual) donation to your

SPIRITAN NEWS

GAP YEAR VOLUNTEERING WITH 'JUST YOUTH' Are you 18 to 25 and wish to support young people in their holistic growth, discover and develop their talents through Chaplaincy and other outreach programs? Please contact Just Youth on www.justyouth.co.uk and apply.

Lay Spiritans: Any parishioner who is interested in becoming a lay Spiritan, please contact Fr Patrick or the Parish Office.

CURRENT NEWS & NOTICES

First Holy Communion 2026: The next class for children is on **Sunday 30th November** after mass in the hall. The class finishes at 12pm.

Confirmation 2026: The first date for Confirmation Classes is on the 6th January at 7pm in the Church Hall at our Lady of Lourdes (please be there by 6:55. If you would like to make your confirmation in 2026 and have not registered yet you can find application Forms and attendance forms at the back of the church.

Baptism Preparation Course 2026: The course will take place on Mondays 19th, 26th Jan and 2nd Feb 2026. If you would like your child baptised please come to the office to fill in an application form.

Be Part of Our New Parish Choir: Do you love to sing or play an instrument—or simply enjoy the joy of music? We're launching a brand-new parish. It is not too late to join — please pick up a form from the back of the church, fill it in and return to the parish office.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: a rota for Eucharistic Ministers has been pinned in the Porch. Please look up when you are on. If you wish a paper version please do let Paola know. We need more Eucharistic Ministers, if you are interested in becoming one please do fill in a form.

Kids' Corner

So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.
Matthew 24:44



CURRENT NEWS & NOTICES

Rota for Lectors / Readers: a rota for Readers has been pinned in the Porch. Please look up when you are on. If you wish a paper version please do let Paola know.

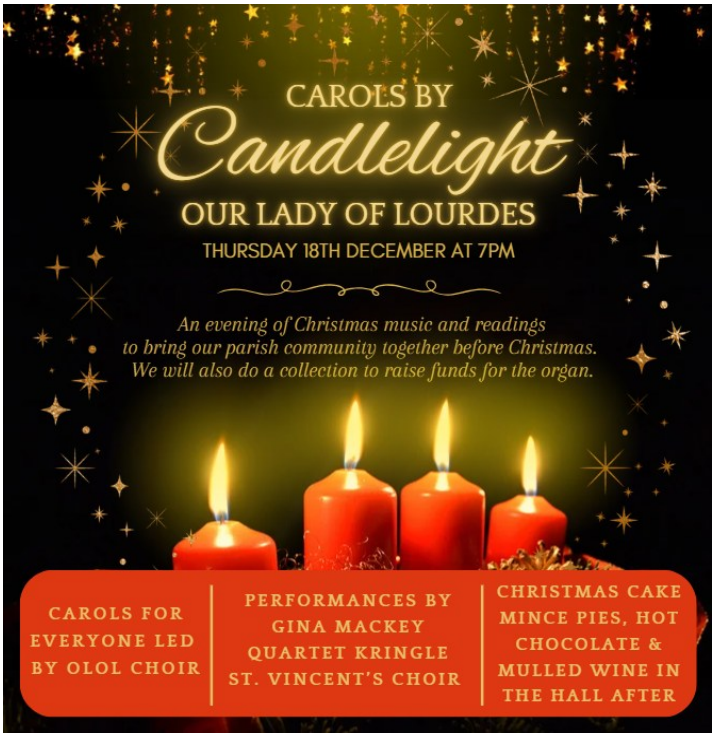
Parish council: We have started a consultation for a Parish council and we are hoping to finish it early next year.

Tea and Coffee after Mass: There is going to be tea and coffee at the back of the church after all weekend masses. Do come along as this is a lovely way to meet other parishioners.



Helping the homeless: The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237** . Thank you so much for your support.

First Reconciliation: The children will celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) for the first time on **Saturday 13th December at 11 am.** Then on **Sunday 14th December** there will be a celebration Mass for reconciliation at the 10am Mass.



The Christmas Carol Service for both Churches is on the 18th December at Our Lady of Lourdes at 7pm. There will be Christmas cake, mince pies, wine, and hot chocolate in the parish hall after the carol service.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is the responsibility of every member of the parish. If you are concerned that a child or vulnerable adult has been harmed or is at risk of harm, please dial 999. Otherwise, contact our Parish Safeguarding Liaison Claire Sheedy: actoneastsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

SACRAMENTS AT OUR PARISH

Baptism: Please go to the parish office to fill in the paperwork. You will need to attend the Baptism Preparation Course.

Marriage: Couples are required to give 6 months notice of marriage before the wedding and to fill out the necessary paperwork and attend a marriage course. Please call the office to set up a meeting with the priest to start the paperwork.

RCIA: (Rite of Christian Initiations of Adults) Would you like to become a Catholic? You can pick up a registration form from the back of the church.

Nursery & Reception Application Forms for admission in **September 2026** are currently available from the School website at www.st-vincents.ealing.sch.uk/admissions . The online applications may be submitted until the deadline of **15th January 2026**. For more information, please contact admissions@stvps.co.uk .

Open Days – due to popular demand, St Vincent's Primary School will be hosting another Open Morning for prospective parents on **Wednesday 26th November at 9.30am.** For registration forms, please visit www.st-vincents.ealing.sch.uk/school-visits.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Sacred Heart has a vacancy in their admin department. If you are interested please look at the following link:

https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/assistant-administrator-england-2261051

Tales For Christmas

Saturday 13th December 4.30-6pm

Sister Mary Joy will be sharing some fun, exciting & true animal tales.

Tickets cost £5.00 Anyone unable to pay can come in for free.

Funds raised will go towards the 'Changing Lives Through Horses' this is an alternative education programme for SEN & disengaged children and the Fire Cadets..

Refreshments will be available during the interval. There will also be a raffle. Please bring some cash for the raffle.

Tickets will be on sale for the event after Mass on 6th/7th Dec..

MASS & LITURGICAL ACTIVITIES

30th November 2025 First Sunday of Advent Year A

1st Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 **2nd Reading:** Romans 13:11-14a **Gospel:** Matthew 24:37-44

Sat 29th November		
Mass of Sunday 6.30pm	Michael Emsley All those on our ALL SOULS November list	R.I.P. First Anniversary R.I.P.
Sunday 30th November	**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	
10am	Pino Veneziani All those on our ALL SOULS November list	R.I.P. R.I.P.
1pm	Ge'ez Rite	
Mon 1st Decmber	NO MASS	
Tues 2nd December		
10am	Cornelius Dennehy	R.I.P.
Wed 3rd December	**Saint Francis Xavier, Priest**	
10am	For the young people in our parish	Special intentions
Thurs 4th December		
10am	For all our sick parishioners	Good health Intentions
Friday 5th December		
10am	Tom and Phoebe Prendergast	Special intentions
Sat 6th Dcember		
Mass of Sunday 6.30pm	For all those who volunteer in our parish	.Thanksgiving
Sunday 7th December	**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	
10am	For the people of the parish	Special Inentions
1pm	Ge'ez Rite	

The Angelus: This will be lead by a reader before the start of every Mass.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 30 minutes before every Mass.

Confessions: Weekdays 9.15am-9.45am Saturdays 5.30pm-6.15pm

Legion of Mary: Every Friday after 10am Mass in the Sacristy.

Mass Intentions: We will soon have new Mass Intention envelopes at the back of the church that you can use for all your Mass intention requests. (£10 per intention). All intentions are published in the newsletter. **Please book early in advance and provide an alternative date to secure your intention.**

Celebrations: Please let us know if you are celebrating a special anniversary or birthday so we can pray for you as a community and you can receive a blessing.

Home Visits: If you know someone in the parish, who would like a visit from a priest, please

Any items for the newsletter need to be received by the office by Thursday 12pm of that week.