ST. AIDAN OF LINDISFARNE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTMINSTER

PARISH NEWSLETTER

14th December 2025



BUILDING UP OUR FAITH

I once stood at a crowded bus stop in Funchal, Madeira. A ship had come in that morning and the place was overflowing with visitors waiting for the bus to one of the island's popular sights. Among them was a local woman who immediately stood out. She wasn't flustered or bothered by the heat or the crush of people. She simply radiated a quiet, steady joy. She chatted with anyone nearby, and her presence changed the whole atmosphere. Faces that had looked tired began to soften. People started smiling, and before long strangers were talking to each other as if they were old friends.

When her bus arrived, I noticed its destination: **Algeria**, which means ***joy***. It felt completely right. Her warmth had lifted the whole group out of irritation and impatience. What she carried within her is meant to be part of every Christian's life. It is a joy that runs deeper than circumstances and one that steadies us even when things are difficult.

The Scriptures for this Sunday remind us where that joy comes from. We are not just promised a saviour. We are told that God Himself is our Saviour. Isaiah speaks of a God who comes with strength and tenderness, who opens the eyes of the blind and unstops the ears of the deaf. The Gospel shows Jesus bringing these promises to life, and John the Baptist is reassured that the Messiah truly is at work. St Paul urges the Church to rejoice, and he says it again so we do not miss the point: rejoice.

Why such insistence? Because the nearness of God changes everything. Advent tells us that God is not distant or unreachable. He draws near in the flesh, fully present with us. As we pass the halfway point of Advent, the Church invites us to pause and reflect on this closeness. The Lord we await is not far off. He shares our humanity and steps into our world with all its struggles and all its hopes.

This is the heart of Christian joy. It is not wishful thinking or forced cheerfulness. It is the steady assurance that God is with us and that in Christ He has taken our wounds, our worries and even our death upon Himself. This joy can carry us through darkness and confusion, and through those moments when we feel tired or worn out. It can open what has been closed, soften what has hardened and bring hope where we thought there was none.

Today the Church wears rose as a sign of joy breaking through and she repeats Paul's words: rejoice. Not because life is always easy, but because the Lord is near.

May His nearness lighten our hearts, lift our spirits and help us share His joy with those around us, even at a crowded bus stop on a hot day. ~ Deacon Tito

Third Sunday of Advent: Advent is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth at Christmas. Today is Gaudete Sunday and we light the Pink candle which represents Joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle" and it reminds us of 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. christianegemonye@rcdow.org.ukw
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.

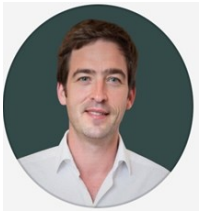
CURRENT NEWS & NOTICES

First Holy Communion 2026: The next class for children is on **Sunday 18th January** 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.

Organist for the Parish Choir: Wonderful news, we now have an organist. John McCarthy has offered to play the organ for us. We will soon start rehearsal. If you would like to be part of the choir and haven't filled in the form yet please do let the parish office know.



Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: We need more Eucharistic Ministers, if you are interested in becoming one please do fill in a form. We are hoping to run a course for new Eucharistic Ministers in the New Year.



Kids' Corner

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.

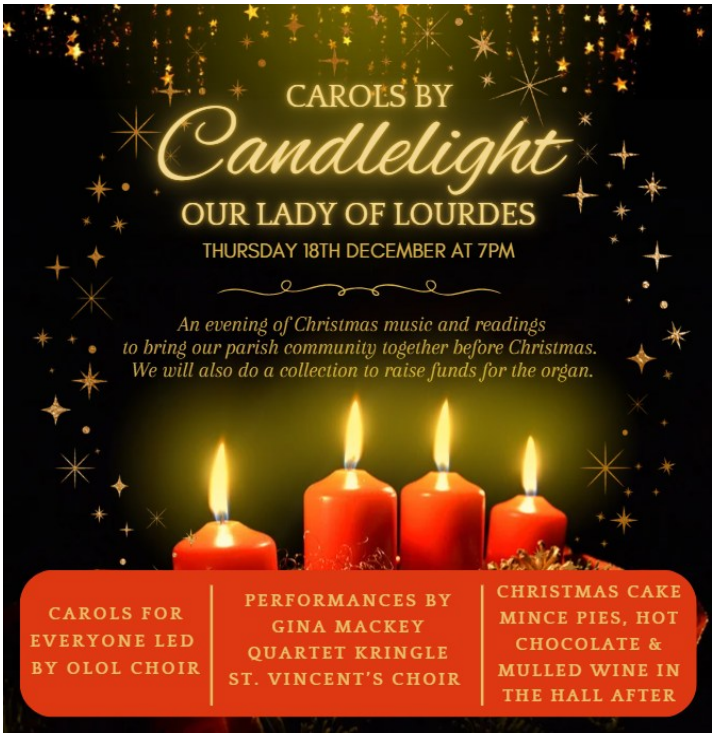
Parish council: We have started a consultation for a Parish council and we are hoping to finish it early next year.

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 .

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

The Giving Box

We are collecting non perishable food and toiletries to help support Acton Homeless Concern Charity. Please bring a little extra warmth and support to our local community. The collection box on the sanctuary.



MASS & LITURGICAL ACTIVITIES

14th December 2025 Third Sunday of Advent Year A

1st Reading: Isaiah 13:1-6a, 10 **2nd Reading:** James 5:7-10 **Gospel:** Matthew 11:2-11

Sat 13th December		
Mass of Sunday 6.30pm	Patrick Hart	.R.I.P. Anniversary
Sunday 14th December	**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	
10am	For the people of the parish	Special Inentions
1pm	Ge'ez Rite	
Mon 15th December	NO MASS	
Tues 16th December		
10am	Mary Mascarenhas	Good Health Intentions
Wed 17th December		
10am	For the young people in our parish	Special intentions
Thurs 18th December		
10am	For our sick parishioners	Good health Intentions
Friday 19th December		
10am	For all those who volunteer in our parish	Thanksgiving
Sat 20th December		
Mass of Sunday 6.30pm	Nancy Hubbs June Massiah	R.I.P. Anniversary R.I.P.
Sunday 21st December	**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	
10am	For the people of the parish	Special Intentions
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 contact the parish office.

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