ST. AIDAN OF LINDISFARNE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTMINSTER

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

**7th December 2025**




## BUILDING UP OUR FAITH

***The best way to destroy an enemy is to make them a friend.***
Advent opens with that unsettling thought. It sounds simple, yet it asks far more of us than we first realise. It echoes the heart of the Gospel, because Christ comes not to defeat His enemies in the usual sense but to change them, to heal what is wounded and restore what has been pushed apart.

Isaiah's vision paints this beautifully. A shoot grows from the stump of Jesse, a sign that God brings life where everything appears finished. The **peace** Isaiah describes is not a cosy picture. It is a radical reordering of relationships. The wolf and the lamb living together shows what God intends for humanity: **a peace that takes former opposites and makes them neighbours.**

Saint Paul, reminds the early Christians that this is not just something to admire. Christ has welcomed us with our shortcomings, our failings and our awkward edges. If He has done that for us, we are called to do the same for one another. Our unity becomes part of our witness.

John the baptist's call to repentance sounds sharp, yet his purpose is kind. He prepares space in us for the One who brings reconciliation. Repentance turns us away from old resentments and frees us to live differently.

The season of Advent challenges us to believe that making a friend where there was once an enemy is part of God's work in us. Christ shows us how. As we wait for His coming, we can let His grace soften hard memories, repair old breaks and open a way towards peace in the places we find most difficult. This is how His Kingdom draws near.

~ Deacon Tito

**Second Sunday of Advent:** The Advent season 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. Today we light the second purple candle, which represents Faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" and reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

**Advent Reconciliation Service**
Tuesday 9th December at 7pm
We will have visiting priests to help with the

**Second**

**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.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 7th December** 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:** Thank you to all who have volunteered to be part of the choir. We do need someone who can play the organ or another musical instrument to be able to lead the singing. If you are able to help please do contact the parish office

**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.

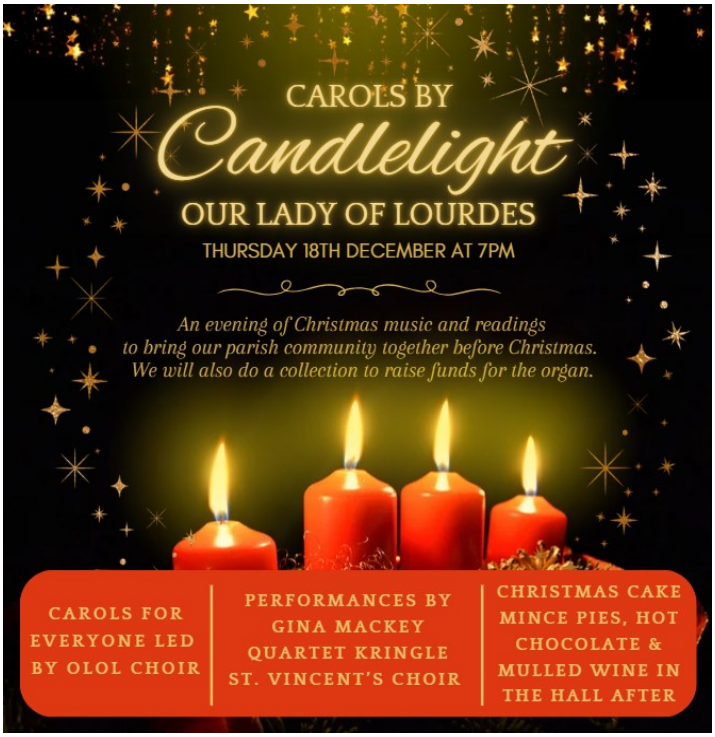
**Parish council:** We have started a consultation for a Parish council and we are hoping to finish it early next year.

**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

**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

## 7th December 2025 Second Sunday of Advent Year A

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 11:1-10 **2nd Reading:** Romans 15:4-9 **Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12

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| **Sat 6th December** | | |
| Mass of Sunday 6.30pm | For all those who volunteer in our parish | .Thanksgiving |
| **Sunday 7th December** | **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT** | |
| 10am | Sebamalai Joseph | R.I.P. Anniversary |
| 1pm | Ge'ez Rite | |
| **Mon 8th December** | NO MASS | |
| **Tues 9th December** | | |
| 10am | Agatha Prendergast | Special intentions |
| **Wed 10th December** | | |
| 10am | For the young people in our parish | Special intentions |
| **Thurs 11th December** | | |
| 10am | Victoria | Birthday and good health Intentions |
| **Friday 12th December** | | |
| 10am | Tom and Phoebe Prendergast | Special intentions |
| **Sat 13th Dcember** | | |
| 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 | |

**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.**