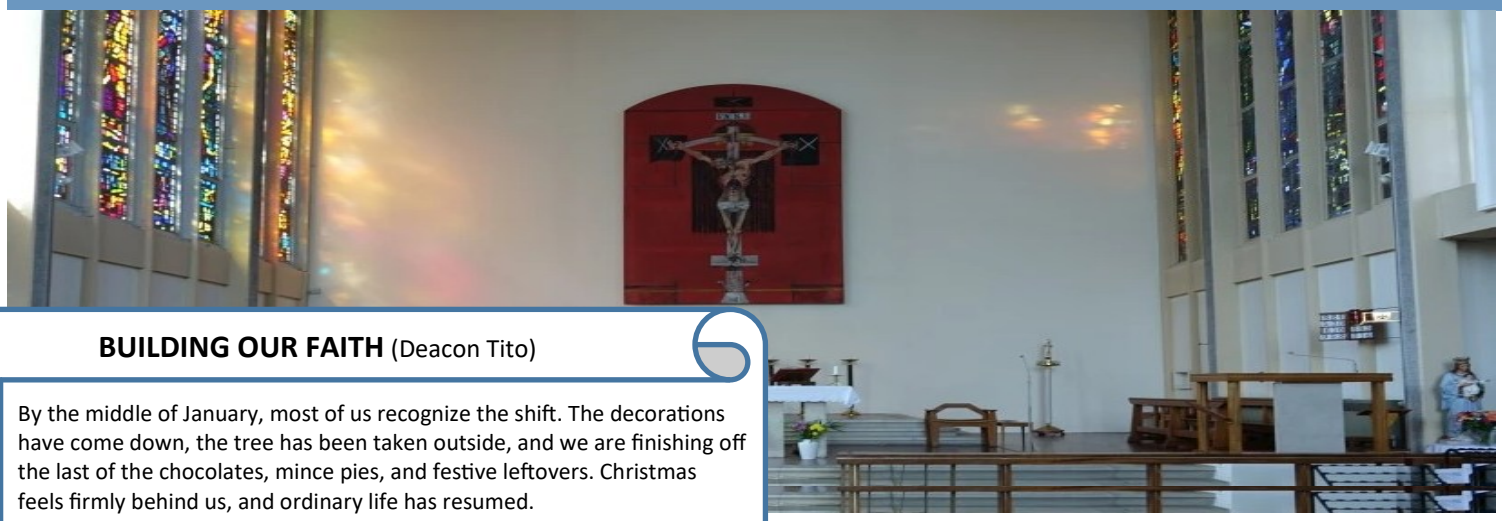
ST. AIDAN OF LINDISFARNE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTMINSTER

PARISH NEWSLETTER

18th January 2026



BUILDING OUR FAITH (Deacon Tito)

By the middle of January, most of us recognize the shift. The decorations have come down, the tree has been taken outside, and we are finishing off the last of the chocolates, mince pies, and festive leftovers. Christmas feels firmly behind us, and ordinary life has resumed.

On the island of my birth, Madeira, however, this moment is marked in a very particular way. On **15th January**, the feast of Santo Amaro is celebrated with the tradition of "sweeping out the cupboards". It is not about cleaning, but about bringing Christmas to a close by using up what remains. Decorations are taken down, celebrations end, and life returns to its normal rhythm.

As we begin Ordinary Time, the festive colors disappear, and green returns to the sanctuary. Yet the readings remind us of something important. Christmas may be over, but the light of Christ is not.

In the first reading, Isaiah speaks of one who is called to be "a light to the nations". This light is not seasonal. It does not belong only to feast days or special moments. It is meant to shine all the time. In the Gospel, John the Baptist points to Jesus and says, "There is the Lamb of God." He draws no attention to himself, but helps others recognize who Jesus truly is.

That is what Ordinary Time is about. It is not an empty stretch of the Church's year. It is the time when faith is lived out in everyday life, in work, in family responsibilities, in routine, and even in tiredness. God meets us there, not with spectacle, but with steady faithfulness.

Christmas has been packed away, but Christ has not disappeared. He remains with us in the Eucharist, in the Word of God, and in one another. Through our baptism, we share in his mission to be light for others. This happens not through grand gestures, but through patience, kindness, forgiveness, and hope.

So as the last of the Christmas treats are eaten and the cupboards are cleared, we are reminded of what truly remains. Christ himself walks with us into the ordinary days ahead.

The festive lights may be switched off, but the light of Christ is never extinguished. It shines steadily, calling us to carry it into the world. ~

Anointing of the sick:

On Saturday 7th of February 2026 there will be a Mass for the Sick at the Cathedral at 2pm, celebrated by the H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered.

To attend you will need ticket. If you are interested, please contact the parish office and we will get a ticket for you.

Fr. Patrick Away: Fr Patrick is away on his annual leave for the month of January. He went home to Ghana. Let us keep him in our prayers.

The parish office will be close on Tuesday 20th January because Paola is on annual leave. It will be open again on Thursday 22nd 10 am-3pm.

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

Dear Friend in Christ,

Welcome to St. Aidan's Church! Whether you are visiting for the first time, returning after some time away, or simply seeking a quiet moment with God, we are truly blessed by your presence. This is a sacred space where hearts are lifted, prayers are heard, and lives are renewed by the grace and love of our Lord.

Here in this house of prayer, we invite you to take time to reflect, to find peace in silence, and to open your heart to God, who knows you, loves you, and walks with you always. Whatever burdens you carry or joys you celebrate, know that you are not alone—God is with you, and we are here to walk with you in faith and fellowship.

Our community gathers regularly to celebrate the Holy Mass. You are most welcome to join us at any of our services

Each Mass is a moment to encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament, and to be strengthened as members of His Body.

If you have any questions or would like to speak with a priest or member of our parish team, please do not hesitate to reach out. May you find here a home of prayer, comfort and belonging.

With every blessing, From **Parish Priest: Fr. Patrick Adusei Poku CSSp**

CURRENT NEWS & NOTICES

First Holy Communion 2026: The next classes for children are on **Sunday 18th January and Sunday 25th January** after mass in the hall. The class finishes at 12pm.

Confirmation 2026: The next date for Confirmation Classes is on the 20th January at 7pm in the Church Hall at our Lady of Lourdes (please be there by 6:55).

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.

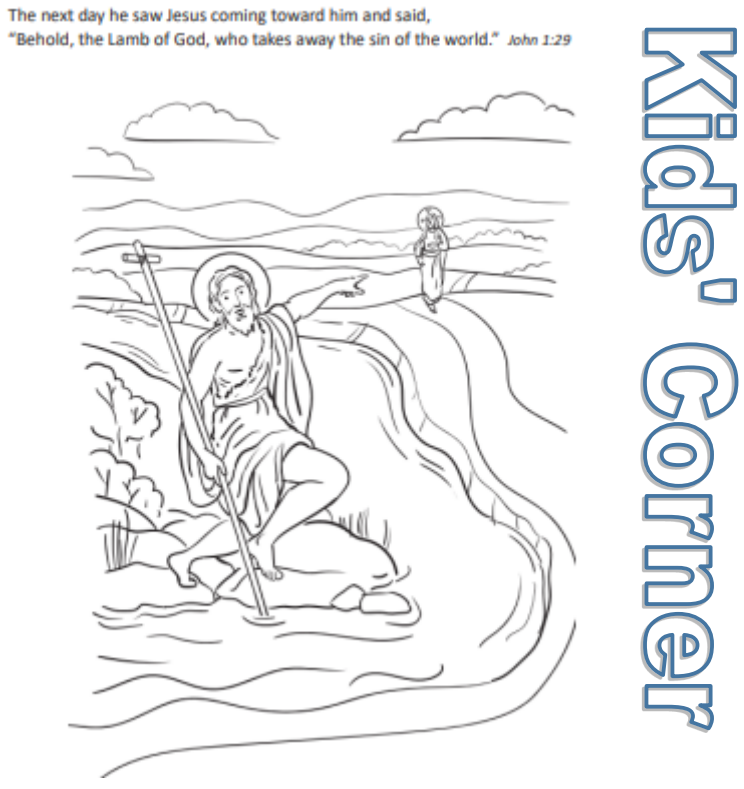
Parish Choir: We will soon start rehearsal. If you would like to be part of the choir and haven't filled in the form yet please do let the parish office know.

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

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 em ail 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 parish, you can download a Standing Order form from parish.rcdow.org.uk/actoneast/wp-content/uploads/sites/168/2022/07/ACTNE20.pdf



CURRENT NEWS & NOTICES

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.



Parish Finances December 25:	Thank you
Offertory Income	**£3360.42**
Christmas Collection	**£1394.52**
Mass Stipends	**£250.00**
Candles	**£439.20**
Poor Box	**£134.18**



New Archbishop of Westminster: Richard Moth has been appointed, by Pope Leo XIV, as our new Archbishop and will be officially installed at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 14th February 2026.

Lent Retreat

There will be an opportunity for parishioners to attend a retreat led by Sr. Mary-Joy, meeting on Fridays during Lent, commencing 20th Feb 6pm-7pm

This is a mini retreat in daily life. It is an invitation to notice God's presence in the midst of ordinary days, in work, family life and everything else. There is no expectation to pray perfectly or to keep to a timetable. Each person on the retreat will travel on their own personal journey towards Easter.

Attending the retreat can be in person or via Zoom link

If you would like to attend or need further information please speak to Sr. Mary-Joy in person or send an email to mlangdon30@me.com

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th - 25th January 2026: Tuesday 20th January at 5pm – Westminster Cathedral are hosting the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral, to sing Vespers together, in thanksgiving for the recent proclamation of St John Henry Newman as a Doctor of the Church. The preacher will be Archbishop Rowan Williams. Friday 23rd January at 5pm – St Paul's Cathedral are hosting the Choir of Westminster Cathedral, to sing Evensong together. Finally, James Holland (Diocesan Ecumenical Co-ordinator), is running an Ecumenical Pilgrimage on Friday 23rd January The pilgrimage will leave from Westminster Cathedral at 1pm and visit a Catholic Church in Central London and Temple Church, before finishing at St Paul's in time for Vespers.

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: School cleaner. Salary: £16,287 - £16,513 20 hours per week / All Year round The closing date for applications is **20th January** at **9am.** Application form can be downloaded from the school website. Completed application should be sent to recruitment@wiseman.ealing.sch.uk

JOB OPPORTUNITY:

Allen Hall Seminary, part of the Diocese of Westminster, offers various support roles, with current vacancies in early 2026 including **Domestic Assistants**, a **Maintenance Supervisor**, and potentially a **Library Assistant/Academic Secretary**, focusing on maintaining the facility and supporting the academic/residential life of seminarians for the Catholic priesthood. Job details, including hours, pay, and application deadlines (e.g., Jan 23, 2026), are found on the Diocese of Westminster Careers page

MASS & LITURGICAL ACTIVITIES

18th January 2026 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

1st Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 **2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 **Gospel:** John 1:29-34

Sat 17th January		
Mass of Sunday 6.30pm	Dorothy Zerafa For the young people in our parish	R.I.P. Special Intentions
Sunday 18th January	**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	
10am	For the people of the parish	Special Intentions
1pm	Ge'ez Rite	
Mon 19th January	**NO MASS**	
Tues 20th January		
10:00 am	All those who volunteer in our parish	Thanksgiving
Wed 21st January	**SAINT AGNES, VIRGIN AND MARTYR**	
10:00 am	For the young people of the parish	Special Intentions
Thurs 22nd January		
10:00 am	For the people of the parish	Special Intentions
Friday 23rd January		
10am	For all our sick Parishioners	Good Health Intentions
Sat 24th January		
Mass of Sunday 6.30pm	For the young people in our parish	Special Intentions
Sunday 25th January	**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	
10am	Joseph Thompson Nita Vinciguerra For the people of the parish	R.I.P. Anniversary R.I.P. 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: Mass Intention envelopes are at the back of the church. You can use them 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.