



Catholic Church of Mary Immaculate and St Gregory the Great



# Third Sunday of Advent

## Gaudete Sunday (Year C)

### **Sunday 12 December 2021:**

**\*6pm:** Kitty Barton +  
**8.30am:** Nina Marcangelo (int)  
**10.30am:** John James O'Connell ann +  
**6pm:** Jesudass Souza ann +  
**7.30pm:** *Advent Synodal Journey (see below)*

### **Mon 13 St Lucy**

*(Church open 10am-6pm)*  
**6.00pm:** Julie Loh +

### **Tues 14 St John of the Cross**

*(Church open 10am-6pm)*  
**9.30am** Morning prayer  
**10am Funeral:** Jan Agilada +

### **Wed 15**

*(parish office closed)*  
**10am:** no mass

### **Thurs 16**

**10am:** Johnny Learoyd

### **Fri 17**

*(Please note office is closed)*  
*(Church open 10am-7pm)*  
**9.30am** Morning prayer  
**10am:** Adam Panczak +  
*(1.30pm: Christian Meditation)*  
*(6pm: Adoration)*

### **Sat 18**

**\*6pm:** Dennis Hyland +

### **Sun 19: Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**8.30am:** Rosemary Dawson (int)  
**10.30am:** Maurice Hunt +  
**6pm:** Noel Donegal ann +

As the people were in expectation, and all men questioned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he were the Christ, John answered them all, "I baptise you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

We hear this Gaudete Sunday that large numbers of people came out to hear the "good news" proclaimed by John the Baptist. John's task was to wake up the people of his day from spiritual sleep and indifference, and to turn them back to hear God's voice and obey his commandments. John wanted the people to be in a good place to receive the Messiah and follow him.

Whenever the Gospel is proclaimed it has the power to awaken faith in us who will listen and turn to God. God, in turn, is always ready to open our eyes to the spiritual reality of his kingdom and to the power and action of the Holy Spirit who transforms us into the likeness of Christ. Do you believe that God's word is "good news" for you? And do. During this Third week of Advent let us allow his word to take root and grow in us, and to bring us the fruit of joy, freedom, and new life in the Holy Spirit.

John's baptism was for repentance - turning away from sin and taking on a new way of life. John said that the Messiah would "baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Fire in biblical times was associated with God and with his action in the world and in the lives of his people. God sometimes manifested his presence by use of fire, such as the burning bush which was not consumed when God spoke to Moses (Exodus 3:2). The image of fire was also used to symbolise God's glory (Ezekiel 1:4, 13), his protective presence (2 Kings 6:17), his holiness (Deuteronomy. 4:24), his righteous judgment (Zechariah 13:9), and his wrath against sin (Isaiah 66:15-16). In the New Testament, the image of fire is also used of the Holy Spirit who comes to cleanse us from sin and make us holy. God's fire both purifies us of sin and it inspires in us a reverent fear of God and of his word. And it increases our desire for holiness and for the joy of meeting the Lord when he comes again.

Fr John



### Share your thoughts

Pope Francis has invited the worldwide church to a time of listening - of listening deeply to each other as we walk side by side. Every voice matters on this journey, and the Church wants to hear from you.

These questions (attached) are designed to help you reflect a little on your own experience of faith, particularly during the pandemic, and to share your hopes and dreams for the future. You may want to 'pray' through the questions before you answer them. Once completed, please return this sheet to the parish office. What you write will contribute to your parish's feedback to the Diocesan Synodal Team.

Thank you for your generosity in responding in this way

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Website: [parish.rcdow.org.uk/barnet](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/barnet)

# NOTICES

- **Face coverings must be worn whilst in church (unless exempt).**
- Please ensure you wrap up well when attending Mass, as we are advised to have plenty of ventilation in church.
- **Please continue sanitising your hands as you enter and exit the church.**
- If you are showing any flu/cold symptoms, please remain at home and do a lateral flow test. If this is positive, obtain a PCR test and isolate under the government guidelines.
- **If you are isolating, living on your own and need assistance, please contact the presbytery.**

**FUNERAL MASS** for Jan Agilada is on Tuesday 14th December, 10am Mass. Please pray for Jan's parents, his brother and family and friends.

**POOR CLARES COLLECTION:** will take place the weekend 18 & 19 December. Christmas goodies can be placed in the boxes provided. *(NB: please note the sisters do not eat meat)*

**EUCARIST MINISTERS & READERS** please email the parish office if you are available over the Christmas 24-26 December to minister.

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Due to covid restrictions, we can only have one or two experienced altar servers at each of the Christmas services on 24/25 December. If you would like to serve, please contact Martin Dias [nitramsaid@gmail.com](mailto:nitramsaid@gmail.com)

**FLOWERS:** if you would like to make a donation towards the flowers for Christmas, please place your contribution in an envelope marked 'flowers' and post it through the presbytery door. Thank you.

**SATURDAY RE CLASS:** will start again on 15th January, 9.30am in the JP Room. Dates for the remainder of this term will be handed out at this meeting.

**PARISH OFFICE** is closed this Friday *(in addition to Wednesday)*.

**LIFE ASCENDING MOVEMENT:** meet in the JP Room this Tuesday 14th after the 10am Mass for Christmas celebrations. This is our last meeting before the Christmas break. All are welcome!

**WANTED!** A pianist and singers to play and sing at Christmas time. Please contact Teresa O'Sullivan: [howelsy@btinternet.com](mailto:howelsy@btinternet.com) or via the presbytery 020 8449 3338.

## +CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### FRIDAY 24 DECEMBER

#### Christmas Eve

\*4.30pm Vigil Mass (1)

\*6.30pm Vigil Mass (2)

10pm Night Mass

### SATURDAY 25 DECEMBER

#### Christmas Day

8.30am Mass

10.30am Mass

*(No 6pm Mass)*

### SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER

#### The Holy Family

8.30am / 10.30am / 6pm

### MONDAY 27 DECEMBER

#### Feast of St Stephen

10.00am Mass *(not 6pm)*

***(Altar Servers are invited to attend)***

### CALLING ALL ANGELS, SHEPHERDS & KINGS:

Due to the present circumstances, there will not be a Nativity performance at the vigil masses on Christmas Eve. **Children are welcome to attend Mass in their nativity costumes.** We look forward to seeing you.



+ **PLEASE** regularly check the newsletter and website regarding the seating arrangements for these Masses. We will notify you as and when announcements are made by the government/diocese.

## MUSIC: 10.30AM MASS

### Communion

Keep on looking, go on seeking, don't stop hoping, He will come.  
Keep awake now, watch and pray now, trust and see that He will come.  
Shake off slumber, dawn is breaking, come with full expectancy!  
Years of longing, years of hoping, all fulfilled when He will come.  
Blessed angels, saints and sinners, all rejoice to see this day;  
Poor or wealthy, high or lowly, all must help to clear His way.  
Down among us, He has chosen here to taste our cup of life;  
Who would guess that He'd be coming here to share both joy and strife?  
Hearts will wonder, eyes most open, ears shall catch his ev'ry word;  
Words of thunder, words of wisdom, words like these were never heard.  
Through the ages, we've been waiting, countless prayers above did fly;  
Now he's coming down among us, here to live and here to die.

Text © Willard F. Jabusch, published by OCP Publications

### Going Forth

Awake, awake, for the Lord is coming.  
Awake, awake, there's no time to sleep.  
Awake, awake, for the Lord is coming, the King is coming in glory.  
All over the world, people are waiting, Waiting for peace, and the promise of new life.

© Mike Stanley CJM Music 1999

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**\*\*Please remember in your prayers the sick, their families and all who care for them, including:**

Emanuele & Carlotta Brunelli, Linda & Stuart Atkinson, Pat Cosgrove, Bernadette Hunt, Roberto Lusignani, Elaine Brennan, Mark O'Brien, Rita Rawlings, Margaret Trehy, Joe Connolly, Mary Harris, Eric Power, Michael Keyes, Julie Lown, Eileen Robbins, John Chuter, Marlene Hollocks, Margaret Greaney, Veronica Soosay, Leonor Driscoll, John Thompson, Lucretia Olivier-Hall, David John Hall, Suzanne Greig, Paul Stephens, George Buhagiar.

**Recently Died:** Jack Simon

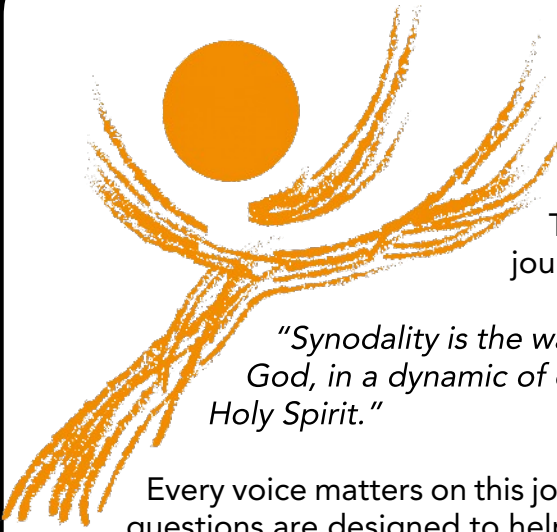
## Parish Staff Contact Information

**Anita Hammond** - Pastoral Assistant/Catechetical Co-ordinator: [anitahammond@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:anitahammond@rcdow.org.uk)

**Jonathan Stephens** - Evangelisation Co-ordinator: [jonathanstephens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jonathanstephens@rcdow.org.uk)

**Janet Nestor** - Secretary: **Parish Office** - [barnet@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:barnet@rcdow.org.uk) (office is closed every Wednesday)

# Share your thoughts



Pope Francis has invited the worldwide Church to a time of listening – of listening deeply to each other as we walk side by side, telling our stories of faith. This is what our 'Synodal Journey' means, simply journeying together. He describes it in this way:

*"Synodality is the way of being the Church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit."*

Every voice matters on this journey, and the Church wants to hear from you. These questions are designed to help you reflect a little on your own experience of faith, particularly during the pandemic, and to share individually your hopes and dreams for the future. They are designed to complement the Parish Synodal Conversations and the Listening Events around the Diocese. You may want to "pray" through the questions before you answer them. Once completed, please return this sheet to your Parish Office, and what you write will contribute to your Parish's feedback to the Diocesan Synodal Team. Thank you for your generosity in responding in this way.

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1. During the pandemic what strengths did you find in your faith and faith community? In what ways did the grace of God most clearly touch and uplift you? How might you have been disappointed or sorrowful?

2. What gives you joy in belonging to your Parish or community?

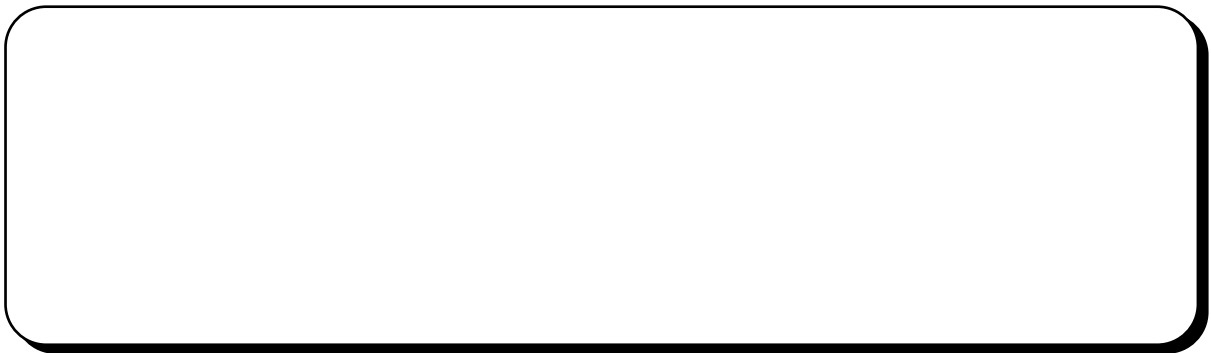
3. When we say "our Church", who is part of it – and who is missing? What areas of mission might we need to develop?



4. To what extent do you feel welcomed, loved and valued for who you are in your Parish or community?



5. What steps might the Holy Spirit be inviting the Church to take in order to make our Parishes and communities more welcoming, inclusive and missionary?



6. What dreams for the Church do you have?

