



Catholic Church of Mary Immaculate and St Gregory the Great

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Week 4

Year C

Sun 19: Fourth Sunday in Advent

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

Mon 20

(Church open 10am-6pm)
6.00pm: Martha McGowan +

Tues 21

(Church open 10am-6pm)
 9.30am Morning prayer
10am: Funeral: Joseph Medayil +

Wed 22

10am: no mass

Thurs 23

10am: Margaret Simons +

Fri 24 Christmas Eve

(no adoration today)
 (no Christian mediation today)

***4.30pm (vigil I)**
 Bill & Rosemarie Tinsley +
***6.30pm (vigil II)**
 Maura & Alan Howells +
10pm: (Night) Maurice Hunt +

Sat 25 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

8.30am: Nellie Haughey ann +
10.30am: Jan Agilada +

Sun 26 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8.30am: Rita McKenna (int)
10.30am: Patrick Parsons +
6pm: Peter Delyfer (int)

Mon 27 St John, Apostle & Evangelist

10am: Sister Mary +
 (please note no 6pm mass)

And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?...And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

The word "blessed" [makarios in Greek] literally means "happiness" or "beatitude". It describes a kind of joy which is serene and untouchable, self-contained, and independent from chance and changing circumstances of life. There is a certain paradox for those "blessed" by the Lord. Mary was given the "blessedness" of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. Anselm, a great teacher and Archbishop of Canterbury (1033-1109), spoke these words in a homily: "Without God's Son nothing could exist; without Mary's son, nothing could be redeemed." To be chosen by God is an awesome privilege and responsibility. The blessed Mother Mary received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. Her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fuelled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises.

Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us to enable us to know and experience the indwelling presence of God and the power of his kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the way in which God reigns within each of us. This coming Advent week may we all live in the joy and knowledge of God's indwelling presence through his Holy Spirit.

Advent Quote from the Early Church Fathers: John prophecies from the womb, by Maximus of Turin (died between 408-423 AD) 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you came forth from the womb I sanctified you' (Jeremiah 1:5). Thus we ought not to marvel that after Herod put him in prison, John the Baptist continued to announce Christ to his disciples from his confinement, when even confined in the womb he preached the same Lord by his movements.'

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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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 Joseph Medayil is on Tuesday 21st December, 10am Mass. Please pray for Joseph's wife Anne, their children and family and friends. May he rest in peace.

POOR CLARES COLLECTION: will take place this 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 THE ROTA is currently on the porch noticeboard - please place your name in any of the blanks if you are available to minister. Thank you.

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

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 this weekend.

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.

+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

St John, Apostle & Evangelist

- 10.00am Mass *(not 6pm)*

SEATING FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES: will be on a 'first come, first serve' basis. To keep everyone safe, stewards are instructed, on my behalf, to steward these Masses. When we have reached full capacity, regrettably, the doors will be closed.

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.



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

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION: will resume on Friday 7th January, 1.30pm in church.

ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament: will resume on Friday 14th January, 6pm in church.

MUSIC: 10.30AM MASS

Communion

1. No wind at the window, No knock on the door;
No light from the lampstand; no foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear:
just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.

2. 'O Mary, O Mary, don't hide from my face.

Be glad that you're favoured and filled with God's grace.

The time for redeeming the world has begun;
and you are requested to mother God's Son.'

3.'This child must be born that the kingdom might come
Salvation for many, destruction for some;
both end and beginning, both message and sign;
both victor and victim, both yours and divine.'

4. No payment was promised, no promises made;
no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.

Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess,
replied with conviction, 'Tell God, I say,
'Yes'.'

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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.

Parish Staff Contact Information

Anita Hammond - Pastoral Assistant/Catechetical Co-ordinator: anitahammond@rcdow.org.uk

Jonathan Stephens - Evangelisation Co-ordinator: jonathanstephens@rcdow.org.uk

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