



NEWSLETTER



Catholic Church of Mary Immaculate and St Gregory the Great

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A Week 2

THIS WEEK



15th January 2nd Sunday
6.00pm*: Suzanne Burke+
8.30am: Jacobus Van Dijk (ann+)
10.30am: Mary Harris+
6.00pm: Jan Agilada+

Mon 6th
6.00pm: Pat Bagge (ints)+

Tue 7th St Anthony
9.30am: Morning Prayer
10.00am: Tomas Budrevicius (ints)
10.30am: Life Ascending Group (JP II Room)

Wed 13th No Mass

Thurs 19th St Wulstan
9.30am: Morning Prayer
10.00am: Mary Murphy (ann+)
10.30am: Tea & Coffee Morning (JP II Room)

Friday 20th St Fabian/ St Sebastian
9.30am: Morning Prayer (Church)
10.00am: Peter Brady (ints)
12.00pm: QUEST (JP II Room)
2.00pm: Christian Meditation (Church)
6.00pm: Adoration (Church)

Sat 21st St Agnes
10.30am: Parish Day of Renewal
 William Loh+
6.00pm*: Sean Burke+

22nd 3rd Sunday
8.30am: Jacobus Van Dijk (ann+)
10.30am: Mary Harris+
6.00pm: Jan Agilada+

And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

As we begin a New Year, as a Parish, we are increasingly aware of being dependant upon the Spirit of God for strength and guidance. With the news of the death of Pope Benedict, I began to search on line some of the very rich teaching from him regarding the spiritual life. The following is excerpts of a teaching he gave in 2012 on the gift and mission of the Holy Spirit in our life of prayer.

"Prayer should not be seen simply as a good deed done by us to God, our own action. It is, above all, a gift, the fruit of the living presence, the life-giving presence of the Father and of Jesus Christ in us. In the Letter to the Romans, he writes: 'Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words' (8:26). And we know how true it is when the Apostle says: 'we do not know how to pray as we ought'. We want to pray, but God is far, we do not have the words, the language, to speak with God, not even the thought. We can only open ourselves, set our time at the disposal of God, waiting for him to help us enter into true dialogue. The Apostle says: this very lack of words, this absence of words, even the desire to enter into contact with God is a prayer that the Holy Spirit not only understands, but carries, interprets, to God. It is precisely our weakness which becomes, through the Holy Spirit, true prayer, true contact with God. The Holy Spirit is almost the interpreter who makes God and us ourselves understand what we want to say.

In prayer we experience, more so than in other dimensions of life, our weakness, our poverty, our being created, because we stand before the omnipotence and the transcendence of God. And the more we progress in listening to and dialoguing with God, for prayer becomes the daily breathe of our soul, the more we perceive the meaning of our limits, not just before the concrete situations of every day but in our relationship with the Lord too. Growing within us is the need to trust, to trust ever more in him; we understand that "we do not know how to pray as we ought" (**Rom 8:26**). And it is the Holy Spirit who helps us in our incapacity, who illuminates our minds and warms our hearts, guiding us to turn to God... With this presence of the Holy Spirit our union with Christ is realised, for it is the Spirit of the Son of God in whom we are made children. St Paul speaks of the Spirit of Christ (**cf. Rom 8:9**), and not only the Spirit of God. Clearly: if Christ is the Son of God, his Spirit is also the Spirit of God, and thus if the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, had already become very close to us in the Son of God and the Son of man, the Spirit of God too becomes human spirit and touches us; we can enter into the communion of the Spirit."

Fr John

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NOTICES

WELCOME

**ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT YOUR PARISH?**

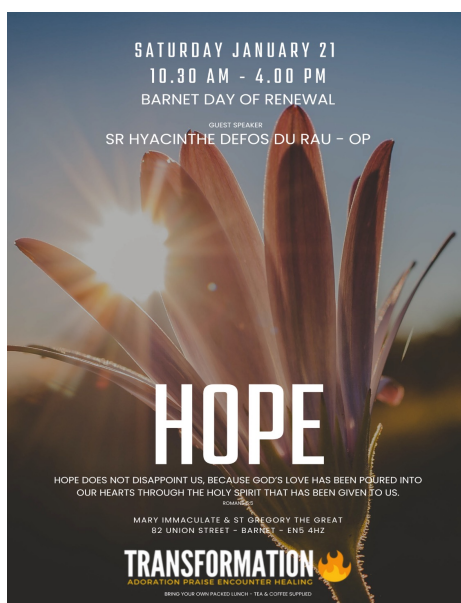
Please visit the parish website on barnetcatholic.org.uk where you will find information on the parish, parish groups and much more. Information is also available in the church porch.

NEED TO TALK? If you would like to speak to Anita pastorally and in confidence, Anita is available on Tuesdays after 10am mass. Please knock on the presbytery door or email anitahammond@rcdow.org.uk

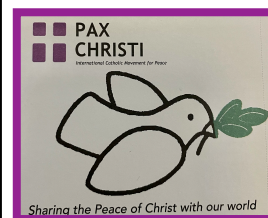
Stuart Atkinson RIP

Please pray for the reposed of Stuart Atkinson; he died on 29th November 2022, whose funeral was on 16th December 2022 at the North Hertfordshire Crematorium. Let us keep both Linda and Stuart in our prayers. Amen.

PARISH DAY OF RENEWAL



Peace Sunday



Pope Francis' message for this year's Peace Sunday is *"No one can be saved alone. What did we learn from the Pandemic?...."* For more information please visit <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023>. To support the work of Pax Christi, please contribute to the retiring collection.

Volunteering for CAFOD

CAFOD (the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development), are looking for people to join us in our mission here at the Westminster Diocese. Are you available to help raise awareness in either parishes or schools about our work across the developing world tackling poverty and injustice. Come along to one of our volunteer meetings in Lambeth London on Saturday 21st January or Oakwood, North London on Wednesday 1st February. Please contact Tony at CAFOD for further details. westminster@cafod.org.uk or 0208 449 6970

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers the **Sick and Homebound including:**

Steven Hunt, Janine Kelly, Gabriel Dempsey, Sinead Mayes, Monica Thompson, Rosemary Chester, Paul Reed, Marian Darby, Ken Quigley, Mary Geraghty, Edel O'Sullivan, Linda Quilter, Emanuele & Carlotta Brunelli, Pat Cosgrove, Bernadette Hunt, Roberto Lusignani, Elaine Brennan, Mark O'Brien, Rita Rawlings, Joe Connolly, Eric Power, Michael Keyes, Eileen Robbins, John Chuter, Margaret Greaney, Veronica Soosay, John Thompson, Lucretia Olivier-Hall, David John Hall, and Louie

Recently deceased: James Lynch and Suzanne Greig

Saturday RE Classes Spring Term 2023

Classes for children at non-Catholic primary schools are welcome to come and learn about their Catholic Faith.

During the sessions we pray together, we talk, sing songs and make new friends.

Venue: The JP II Room

Time: From 9.30am to 10.45am

Dates: Saturday 28th January

Saturday 11th & 25th February

Saturday 11th & 25th March

RCIA

Are you thinking about joining the Catholic Church? Would you like to share your faith with those who are considering becoming Catholics?.

Next meeting on 17th January 2023

Sessions: 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Where: JP II Room

For more information contact:

David Williams via email.

davidinbarnet@hotmail.com

Mission Evening

A new intercessory - worship group has recently begun, the next meeting will be Monday 23rd January, from 7.30pm to 9.00pm in the JP II Room.

All very welcome

Parish Staff Contact Information

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

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

Georgina Awan - Parish Administrator: **Parish Office** - barnet@rcdow.org.uk (office is closed every Wednesday)