

The Catholic Parish of Carpenters Park & South Oxhey  
St Joseph's Church, Oxhey Drive, Watford WD19 7SW  
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**1st Sunday of Advent (Year A) 27th November 2022**

Fr John Warnaby	Parish Priest	Tel: 020 8428 0088
Linda Grimes	Parish Administrator	Tel: 020 8428 0088
Office hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am –3pm		

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday 26th November	Vigil: 1st Sunday	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 27th November	1st Sunday of Advent	8.30am	Maurice Rodrigo & John Crowle RIP
		10.30am	Primitivo Arano & Candido Baisac RIP
Tuesday 29th November	Advent feria	7.00pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday 30th November	St Andrew	9.15am	Thomas Conlon RIP
Thursday 1st December	Advent feria	9.15am	Holy Souls
Friday 2nd December	Advent feria	9.15am	Martin Francis O'Sullivan RIP
Saturday 3rd December	Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent	6.00pm	Anne Harte RIP

**CONFESSIONS Saturday 5.30pm or see Fr John**

**Mass Intentions: Please leave plenty of time if you want a special date**

**Liturgy of the Word: 27th November 2022**

**Entrance Antiphon:** To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.  
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

**Responsorial Psalm:** I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
'Let us go to God's house.'

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help.  
Alleluia!

**Next week's Readings:** Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 71, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. when the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish Christian community trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple. Some of them will have believed that the tumultuous events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs: there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. As Christians, we know that our Lord will come again even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner.

### First Holy Communion 2023

Registration has now opened for those children in Year 3 and above who would like to make their First Holy Communion next Spring-May 2023. The course will commence in January 2023. Please collect a registration form from our catechist Donna, or Fr John after Mass.



### Confirmation 2023

Registration has also opened for students in Year 9 and above who would like to make their Confirmation next Summer– 2023. The course will commence in January 2023. Please would Candidates collect in person, a registration form from our catechist Donna, or Fr John after Mass.

**The most important preparation for both Sacraments is attendance at Mass. By applying for these courses it is expected that those participating express their commitment by joining the Parish community as we pray together at Mass.**



**Volunteers needed.** Are you free to help with counting our offertory collection? We are looking for volunteers who can commit to **approx. 1 hr on a weekday**. Hopefully we can set up a rota. Training will be provided. Please see Fr John after Mass, or contact Linda in the parish office.

### TRAINING SESSION FOR NEW ALTAR SERVERS

**Saturday 3 December at 4pm** in the church. Please sign the registration sheet at the back of church to indicate your child's attendance or email Linda in the parish office.



**The Passage** is a Diocese of Westminster charity that assists people who have experienced homelessness to realise their own potential to transform their lives. It has been established for over 42 years and now runs the largest Resource Centre in the UK.

The Passage have a '**BigGive**' campaign launching on **Tue 29 Nov until Tues 6 Dec** whereby they plan to raise £500,000 through matched funding to ensure they can continue to support those most at risk of homelessness this Christmas and into next year. If you are in a position to help, please consider donating via <https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a056900002NEXYWAAP>



### Memories Café – Bereavement and Loss drop-in support sessions.

*Every Monday - 11am to 1pm* at the Watford Hospital Chaplaincy.

Memories Café offers a chance to meet with others who understand the experience of loss. It is a space to talk about the pain of bereavement and find mutual support and encouragement when you need it most. For more information please email: [westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net](mailto:westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net)



**Advent Retreat for Young Adults (18-30s)** with the Assumption Sisters on **Saturday 3rd December 2022** at Our Lady of Victories Church Hall, Kensington W8 6AF . Young people are invited for a day retreat (**10am-5pm**) to prepare spiritually for Christmas, with teaching, workshops, prayer, adoration and confessions. Donations only. Register: [tramy@assumptionreligious.org](mailto:tramy@assumptionreligious.org)

**Vacancies for Foundation Directors** The All Saints Catholic Academy Trust (ASCAT) which consists of St Joan of Arc, Holy Rood, St Johns, St John Fisher and Divine Saviour, is currently seeking to appoint up to 4 additional Foundation Directors to the Trust board as part of the ongoing expansion of the Trust in line with the Diocese of Westminster's Academy Strategy.

Foundation Directors are key strategic decision-makers in a Catholic Academy Trust (CAT). The legal responsibility for the performance of each academy rests with them. Their role is strategic rather than operational much in the same way that the role of a Foundation Governor is within a single non-academy Catholic school.

The Trust Board is keen to ensure that there is a wide range of complementary skills and areas of expertise reflected on the Trust Board. For more information please visit our Foundation Director Recruitment page on the ASCAT website [www.ascatonline.co.uk/Become-a-Foundation-Director/](http://www.ascatonline.co.uk/Become-a-Foundation-Director/) or contact Christina Reffold, Clerk to the Trust Board at [clerk@ascat.co.uk](mailto:clerk@ascat.co.uk)

### SVP Vinnie Packs

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**

**Please remember all our sick parishioners in your prayers, especially**  
Helen Birch, Tom O'Connor, Bebe Ryan, Bernadette Cruickshank and Alice Sheppard.

### Offertory for Sunday 20th November

Envelopes £229.62    Loose £297.99    **TOTAL £527.61**

*Many thanks*