

The Catholic Parish of Carpenders Park & South Oxhey
St Joseph's Church, Oxhey Drive, Watford WD19 7SW
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www.carpenderspark.org.uk

GAUDETE
Rejoice in the
Lord



3rd Sunday of Advent (Year A) 11th December 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 10th December	Vigil: 3rd Sunday	6.00pm	Mary McCarthy
Sunday 11th December	3rd Sunday of Advent	8.30am	Maurice Rodrigo & John Crowle RIP
		10.30am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 13th December	St Lucy	7.00pm	Chris Walsh
Wednesday 14th December	St John of the Cross	9.15am	Bebe Ryan
Thursday 15th December	Advent feria	9.15am	Kathleen Andrews & family
Friday 16th December	Advent feria	9.15am	Nora Fox RIP
Saturday 17th December	Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent	6.00pm	People of the Parish

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: 11th December 2022

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Responsorial Psalm: Come, Lord, and save us.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

Next week's Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 23 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday, taken from the Latin first word of the entrance antiphon of the Mass, "Rejoice in the Lord always." In Advent we prepare for the arrival of the Lord Jesus, both his first coming and his second coming, and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through. We therefore rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: the Lord is near!

In our first reading Isaiah prophesies that the desert region will rejoice and sing: blooming with flowers. The wilderness "will see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God." Isaiah uses this nature imagery to convey the sense of joy that the Jewish people would experience upon their return from exile in Babylon. When the Lord comes, he says, "the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy."

In our Gospel, John the Baptist, who is in prison, sends messengers to Jesus to ask "Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?" Jesus replies by telling them to report to John what they have seen: the blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. The very things which Isaiah said would happen when the Lord came are being fulfilled by Jesus.

John the Baptist's mission was foretold by the prophet Malachi: "I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." Jesus says that among those born of women none has been greater than John the Baptist. Nevertheless "the least in the kingdom of heaven" is even greater.

In this we rejoice today, as members of Christ's mystical body, united in the bread we share and his love which binds us together.

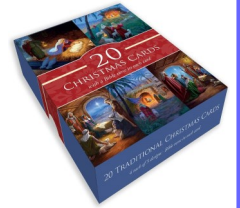


Advent Penitential Service

A Penitential Service will be held on **Wednesday 21 December at 7pm**. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an opportunity for private confession. This will be an excellent opportunity to prepare in mind and heart for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Christmas cards and gifts are available to purchase from our Repository. We have had new stock delivered this week so please take a look.

We are also looking for **volunteers to run the Repository, particularly after 10:30am Mass**. All the items are priced up, so it isn't a big task. If you can help please see Fr John after Mass, or contact Linda in the parish office.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Saturday 24th December -Christmas Eve
6pm & Midnight
Sunday 25th December-Christmas Day
8:30am & 10:30am



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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.

Pilgrimage to Knock -May 2023

Knock Pilgrimages is organising a pilgrimage for Westminster parishes to Knock Shrine in Co Mayo, Ireland from Monday 15th to Friday 19th May 2023. Cost is £699 pp inc flights, full board in a hotel & guided tours. See poster in the narthex. Contact Patricia on email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com or **07740 175557**

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. For more information please visit our Foundation Director Recruitment page on the ASCAT website www.ascatonline.co.uk/Become-a-Foundation-Director/ or contact Christina Reffold, Clerk to the Trust Board at clerk@ascat.co.uk

St Michael's Catholic High School, Garston have a *vacancy for a Cover Supervisor and a Learning Support Assistant* with a starting date of ASAP! Hence *deadline for applications is next Thursday 15th December 2022*. See posters at the back of church (on the side wall) . Contact Miss Viki Baker on 01923 673760 or email baker.v@stmichaelscatholichighschool.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, Bebe Ryan, Bernadette Cruickshank and Alice Sheppard.

Offertory for Sunday 4th December

Envelopes £204.25 Loose £330.09 **TOTAL £534.34**

Many thanks