

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



**4th Sunday of Advent (Year A) 18th 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 17th December	Vigil: 4th Sunday	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 18th December	4th Sunday of Advent	8.30am	Dick Carey RIP
		10.30am	Mary & Christina Duignan
Tuesday 20th December	Advent feria	7.00pm	Private Intention
Wednesday 21st December	Advent feria	9.15am	John Andrews RIP
		7.00pm	Advent Penitential Service
Thursday 22nd December	Advent feria	9.15am	The Hoyle & Mabe families RIP
Friday 23rd December	Advent feria	9.15am	Frank O'Donoghue RIP
Saturday 24th December	Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Maria & Vincente Delgado RIP
		12pm	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**

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	<b>Liturgy of the Word: 18th December 2022</b> Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b>	Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!

Mary had to face an enormous challenge to her faith and trust in God: so too did Joseph, the man she chose to marry. It had never been heard of before that a child could be born without a natural father. Mary was asked to accept this miraculous exception to the laws of nature. Mary was not yet married. Pregnancy outside of wedlock was not tolerated in those days. Mary was only betrothed or engaged to Joseph and this was expected to last for a whole year. Mary's extraordinary pregnancy could have led to her being rejected by Joseph, by her family, by all her own people. She nonetheless believed and trusted in God.

Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to embarrass or punish Mary when he discovered that she was pregnant. To all appearances she had broken their solemn pledge to be faithful and chaste to one another. Joseph no doubt took this troubling matter to God in prayer. He was not hasty to judge or to react with hurt and anger. God rewarded him not only with guidance and consolation, but with the divine assurance that he had indeed called Joseph to be the husband of Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in Almighty God. Joseph accepted the angel of the Lord's advice to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah.

Like Mary, Joseph is a model of faith for us. He is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption. God has a plan for each one of us. Like Joseph we may find our faith and trust in God challenged by perplexing circumstances and what seems like insurmountable problems. God never leaves us alone, and has sent us his only begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As we look forward to Christmas, the feast of the Incarnation, with joyful hearts let us renew our faith and trust in God and in his redeeming work.

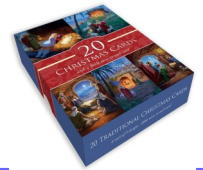


### Advent Penitential Service

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. Please take a look.

We are also looking for more **volunteers to run the Repository**. 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.**

**Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP)** have kindly offered the following assistance

### Transport to the Christmas & New Year Masses:

If you need help with transport to any of the Christmas and New Year Masses please contact Paul at the SVP on 07887 726061.

**Cost of Living Crisis:** Supporting our Brothers & Sisters, the SVP have a number of initiatives to provide support and assistance to families and individuals effected by the Cost of Living crisis. If you require support or know of someone who does, please speak to Father John who will provide further details.

### School Places for September 2023 - St Joseph's School

**Nursery**-Now offering full time provision (9am-3pm). Applications for admission has opened for children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020. Apply to the school. Deadline for applications is 24 February 2023.

**Reception**- Applications for admission is through your Local Authority, for children born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019. Deadline to apply for a school place is 15 January 2023.

Further info can be found on the school website [www.stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk) under *Statutory Information > Admissions* Alternatively, call the school office on 0208 428 5371 or email [admin@stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk)

**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/](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)

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

### Offertery for Sunday 11th December

Envelopes £213.72    Loose £292.73    **TOTAL £506.45**

November 2022-Standing Orders    **TOTAL £1,784**

*Many thanks*