

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



2nd Sunday of Advent (Year A) 4th 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 3rd December	Vigil: 2nd Sunday	6.00pm	Anne Harte RIP
Sunday 4th December	2nd Sunday of Advent	8.30am	Dick Carey RIP
		10.30am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 6th December	Advent feria	7.00pm	Albert Noakes RIP
Wednesday 7th December	St Ambrose	9.15am	Jim Dunne RIP
		12.15pm	Requiem Mass Thomas Conlon RIP
Thursday 8th December	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.15am	Thomas Conlon RIP
Friday 9th December	Advent feria	9.15am	Brendan Duncan RIP
Saturday 10th December	Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent	6.00pm	Mary McCarthy

CONFESSIONS Saturday 5.30pm or see Fr John

Liturgy of the Word: 4th December 2022

Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold,
 the Lord will come to save the nations,
 and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
 in the joy of your heart..

Responsorial Psalm: In his days justice shall flourish
 and peace till the moon fails.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
 Prepare a way for the Lord,
 make his paths straight,
 and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
 Alleluia!

Next week's Readings: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 Psalm 145 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

As we move closer to Christmas, today we hear in our Gospel John the Baptist preparing a way for the Lord. When the pregnant Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was also expecting a child who would be known as John the Baptist, we are told that he leapt in her womb when he heard the voice of Jesus' mother. Elizabeth and John were filled with the Holy Spirit. That same Spirit led John the Baptist into the wilderness where he was tested and grew in the knowledge of God. The Spirit prepared John for his mission as forerunner of Jesus, the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world.

Like the prophets of previous centuries, John spoke God's word to the people of Israel. To those unconcerned with the things of God, it was his work to awaken their interest, unsettle them from their complacency and arouse in them enough good will to recognize and receive Christ when he came. In a week where new statistics showed that less than half of people in England and Wales described themselves as Christian, we recognize that the work to promote the good news about Jesus is urgent in our own day.

What the prophets had carefully searched for and angels longed to see, came to completion as John made the way ready for the coming of the Messiah, God's Anointed Son.

John's baptism was for turning away from sin and taking on a new way of life. Our baptism in Jesus Christ by water and the Spirit results in a new birth and entry into God's kingdom as his beloved sons and daughters. The Lord Jesus gives us the fire of his Spirit so that we may radiate the joy and truth of the Gospel to a world in desperate need of God's light. His Spirit has power to change and transform our lives that we may be lights pointing the way to others. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Jesus Christ.

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.



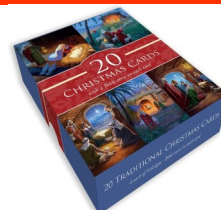
Confirmation 2023

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.

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.



Watford Catenians are coming to talk at all Masses this weekend to tell us about this Catholic Men's Association.

Please take a leaflet or have a chat with them after Mass.



If you are considering becoming involved with the Watford Catenians, you can attend one of their monthly meetings to see more of what goes and to meet other members.

Contact John Evans (Membership Secretary) 07748 178 165.

Further details on The Catenian Association can be found <https://www.thecatenians.com>

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>



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/ or contact Christina Reffold, Clerk to the Trust Board at 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, Bebe Ryan, Bernadette Cruickshank and Alice Sheppard.

Offertory for Sunday 27th November

Envelopes £231.50 Loose £317.27 **TOTAL £548.77**

Many thanks