

**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



## Christmas Double Edition 2022

Fr John Warnaby	Parish Priest	Tel: 0208 428 0088
Linda Grimes	Parish Administrator	Tel: 0208 428 0088
Office hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am-3pm		

### MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 24th December	Vigil: Christmas Mass Midnight Mass	6.00pm Maria & Vincente Delgado RIP 12pm People of the Parish
Sunday 25th December	The Nativity of the Lord	8.30am Maurice Rodrigo & John Crowle RIP 10.30am Mary Bridgit Foley RIP
Tuesday 27th December	St John	7.00pm Gerry Archer RIP
Wednesday 28th December	The Holy Innocents	9.15am The Griffin Family
Thursday 29th December	St Thomas Becket	9.15am John Daly RIP
Friday 30th December	The Holy Family	10.00am Requiem Mass Tom O'Connor RIP
Saturday 31st December	Vigil: Mary, Holy Mother of God	6.00pm Thomas Conlon RIP
Sunday 1st January	Mary, the Holy Mother of God	8.30am Maurice Rodrigo & John Crowle RIP 10.30am People of the Parish
Tuesday 3rd January	Christmas Feria	7.00pm Tom & Mary Griffin
Wednesday 4th January	Christmas Feria	9.15am Sheila Maria Butler
Thursday 5th January	Christmas Feria	9.15am Maria & Harry Ryan RIP
Friday 6th January	Epiphany of the Lord	9.15am Pupils & Staff at St Joseph's School 7.00pm Josie & Michael O'Brien RIP
Saturday 7th January	Vigil: Baptism of the Lord	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**

### A Christmas Meditation

The Lord of all comes in the form of a servant; and he comes as a poor man, so that he will not frighten away those souls he seeks to capture. He is born in an obscure town, deliberately choosing a humble dwelling-place. His mother is a simple maiden, not a great lady. And the reason for all this lowly state is so that he may gently ensnare us and bring us to salvation. If he had been born amid the splendour of a rich family, unbelievers would surely have said that the face of the world had been changed by the power of wealth. If he had chosen to be born in Rome, the greatest of cities, they would have ascribed the same change to the power of her citizens. Suppose our Lord had been the son of an emperor; they would have pointed to the advantage of authority. Imagine his father a legislator, their cry would have been, "See what can be brought about by the law." But, in fact what did he do? He chose nothing but poverty and mean surroundings, everything that was plain and ordinary, and in the eyes of most people, obscure. And this so that it could be clearly seen that the Godhead alone transformed the world. That was why he chose his mother from among the poor of a very poor country, and became poor himself. This is the lesson of the crib. Since there was no bed, our Lord was laid in a manger. This lack of necessities of life was the best way of proclaiming the will of God. He was laid in a manger to show that he was to be the food even of simple folk. We know in fact, how the divine Word, the Son of God, drew to himself both rich & poor, the eloquent and the inarticulate, as he lay in the manger surrounded by poverty. See then how poverty acted as a prophecy - how his poverty showed that he who became poor for our sake was thereby made accessible to everyone. Christ made no ostentatious display of riches, which would have made people frightened to approach him; he assumed no royal state. No, he came among ordinary people as one of themselves, offering himself freely for the salvation of all." We are made in the image and likeness of our God and so we pray with Gerard Manley Hopkins: "Make me pure, Lord; thou art holy: Make me meek Lord; thou wert lowly, Now beginning, and always; Now begin, on Christmas Day." Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! O Holy Night. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

### Liturgy of the Word: 25th December

- Entrance Antiphon:** A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;  
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,  
and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.
- Responsorial Psalm:** All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.
- Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia!  
A hallowed day has dawned upon us.  
Come, you nations, worship the Lord,  
for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.  
Alleluia!
- Next week's Readings:** Numbers 6: 22-27, Psalm 66, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21

### Liturgy of the Word: 1st January

- Entrance Antiphon:** Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King,  
who rules heaven and earth for ever.
- Responsorial Psalm:** O God, be gracious and bless us.
- Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia!  
At various times in the past  
and in various different ways,  
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;  
but in our own time, the last days,  
he has spoken to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!



The Parish team wishes you a blessed and happy Christmas. Thank you for all your cards, gifts and prayers.

Please note, the Parish Office re-opens on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

#### 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.

#### 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)

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

#### Offertory for Sunday 18th December

Envelopes £184.09 Loose £197.34 TOTAL £381.43

Many thanks