

The Catholic Parish of Carpenders Park & South Oxhey
St Joseph's Church, Oxhey Drive, Watford WD19 7SW
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1st Sunday of Advent (Year B) 3rd December 2023

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 2nd December	Vigil: 1st Sunday	6.00pm	Tom O'Connor RIP
Sunday 3rd December	1st Sunday of Advent	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.30am	Paddy Doonan RIP
Tuesday 5th December	Advent feria	7.00pm	Maria
Wednesday 6th December	Advent feria	9.15am	Peter Hefferman
Thursday 7th December	St Ambrose	9.15am	Timothy Anthony Foley RIP
Friday 8th December	Immaculate Conception of BVM	9.15am	Nicholas Arulananthar RIP followed by Holy Hour
Saturday 9th December	Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent	6.00pm	Dolores Murphy RIP

CONFESSIONS Saturday 5.30pm or see Fr John

When booking a Mass Intention please leave plenty of time if you want a special date.

Liturgy of the Word: 3rd December 2023

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.

Responsorial Psalm: God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

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

Next week's Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Psalm 84 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

The season of Advent brings us hope, reminding us that God loves us, has sent his Son to redeem us, and that no one is excluded from God's loving care and protection.

As we begin a new liturgical year with this first Sunday of Advent, we are invited to take to heart the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: "Be on your guard. Stay awake"! We are asked to make the most of the opportunities presented us to each day. We can especially draw near to the Lord in prayer and in the reception of the Sacraments, by being of service to others; those near and dear to us and those who are strangers.

Advent reminds us of our human potential, of fully receiving the Lord into our lives, and to our destiny of being perfectly happy in the Kingdom of God. The primary focus of Advent is on the coming of God in human form in the person of Jesus Christ. He came two millennia ago; but he comes to us each day, and will come at the end of our lives, and at the end of the ages.

Advent is a time to revive what might be dormant within us, restoring our optimism and strengthening our hope. The beautiful words of the prophet Isaiah today enlighten our minds and our hearts, when the prophet prays to God: "Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down." That is exactly what our God has done and is doing for us. It is cause for great joy! This is what we celebrate in this season of Advent, which at its root is about the coming of Christ.

In Jesus' gospel story, the servants are warned to be ready for the master's return: "Do not let him come suddenly and catch you asleep." May we await the Lord's coming with prayer and patience, enthusiasm and doing our best, persevering in the call daily to know, love and serve the Lord and our neighbour.

First Holy Communion 2024

Registration has now opened for those children in Year 3 and above who would like to make their First Holy Communion next May/June 2024. The course will commence in January 2024. Please collect a registration form from our catechist Donna, or Fr John after Mass.



Confirmation 2024

Registration has also opened for students in Year 9 and above who would like to make their Confirmation next Summer 2024. The course will commence in January 2024. Please would Candidates collect in person, a registration form from 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.

****100 Club****

The intention is to start a parish 100 Club in January to raise funds for the upkeep of the Church. There will be helpers at the back of the Church this weekend taking names and contact numbers for those wishing to express an interest. No money needed at this stage. Each entry/number will be **£5 per month** (minimum of 3 months) and you can purchase more than 1 entry! Perhaps an entry might be a 'good cause' gift for a family member or friend.

3 monthly prizes of £100/£50/ £25 and a yearly Christmas bonus prize of £500

Come and be reconciled!

Our Lady & St Michael Church, Garston will be hosting a Deanery Advent and Reconciliation service on **Saturday 16th December 12am-noon**. All welcome. No need to book. See poster at the back of Church.

Christmas Concert

Watford Phoenix Choir will be performing a selection of songs at a fundraising concert on **Saturday 9th December 5.30pm-8pm at St Mary's Parish Church, Watford**. All money raised will be donated to the local charity New Hope.

Aid to the Church in Need Christmas Carol Service.

Celebrate Christ's coming with uplifting, traditional music by The Schola Cantorum of the London Oratory School, conducted by Charles Cole with organ and brass ensemble. Free entry: a collection will be taken for ACN's work with persecuted Christians. **Wednesday 13th December 7-8pm at The Oratory**, Brompton Road, London, SW7 2RP. Book via <https://acnuk.org/event/christmas-carol-service-festive-reception-2023/>

Change to Masses

There will be no 7pm Mass on Tuesday 19th December.

Mass on Thursday 21st December will be offered for Mary Reilly RIP

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 **£4.20 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 number 46088237

Parish Hall for Rent

The parish hall is available for groups who are interested in renting on a regular, weekly basis.

Please speak with Fr John or contact Linda in the parish office (carpenderspark@rcdow.org.uk) should this be of interest.

Please remember all our sick parishioners in your prayers especially Bebe Ryan, Dawn Tannian, Phil Carey, Alice Sheppard, Christine Kempster, Kathleen Andrews and Dave Jessop.

Offertory for 26th November

Loose	£ 343.44
Envelopes	£ 199.98
Total	£ 543.42

Many thanks