

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

**2nd Sunday of Advent (Year B) 10th 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

THE SECOND SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT:

PEACE



**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday 9th December	Vigil: 2nd Sunday	6.00pm Dolores Murphy RIP
Sunday 10th December	2nd Sunday of Advent	8.30am Lydia Ryan RIP
		10.30am People of the Parish
Tuesday 12th December	Advent feria	7.00pm Deceased Keogh family RIP
Wednesday 13th December	St Lucy	9.15am Michael Carton RIP
Thursday 14th December	St John of the Cross	9.15am Timothy Foley RIP
Friday 15th December	Advent feria	9.15am Hanan Pereira RIP
		followed by Holy Hour
Saturday 16th December	Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent	6.00pm Hanan Pereira 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: 10th December 2023**

**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:** Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

**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 61:1-2, 10-11 Luke 1:46-50, 53-54 1Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28

Today, Mark's gospel introduces the one who prepares the way for Jesus. John the Baptist preaches in the desert wearing camel's hair and feeding on locusts and wild honey. John, with the simplest of lifestyles has become an attraction and a magnet. In these days of Advent, we are invited to seek a world of simplicity even if that means just taking a few minutes of peace and quiet each day to pray as we prepare for Christmas.

Before John the Baptist, if you wanted to meet God you went to the temple in Jerusalem. Now those in Jerusalem literally turned their backs to the temple and went out into the desert to John. He was preparing for Jesus who would replace the temple as the way to the Father.

John the Baptist is the role model for all those who call themselves Christian. We, like John, are also called to go forth and announce the coming of Christ. Like John, we too are called to proclaim the Good News by our lives; to encourage our sisters and brothers to "prepare a way for the Lord" The changes within the heart of John the Baptist enabled him to decrease while Christ within him increased. John cries out for us to prepare for the birth of Christ. He appeals for change - change within! Whatever that might mean for each and every one of us, we must strive to make those changes in our personal lives that will make us more pleasing to our loving God and Father. John the Baptist is a living sign of the transforming grace of God. Advent is the season that invites us to change.

*God of love, your Son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for his coming. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Saviour. Amen.*

### 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\*\*

**Update**-Almost there! We need to **sell another 30 numbers** to go ahead

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.

### A Christmas Celebration in Westminster Cathedral

The annual Christmas concerts which celebrate the mystery of Christ's Incarnation in carols and readings performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers, will be held on **19 and 20 December at 7.30pm**.

Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or directly from Ticketmaster; go to [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) and type in *Westminster Cathedral* when prompted.

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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 3rd December

Loose	£ 326.20
Envelopes	£ 205.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 532.14</b>

*Many thanks*