

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

Third Sunday of Advent
 GAUDETE SUNDAY



Rejoice

3rd Sunday of Advent (Year B) 17th 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 16th December	Vigil: 3rd Sunday	6.00pm Hanan Pereira RIP
Sunday 17th December	3rd Sunday of Advent	8.30am Maurice Rodrigo & John Crowle RIP
		10.30am People of the Parish
Tuesday 19th December	Advent feria	7.00pm No Mass
Wednesday 20th December	Advent feria	9.15am Pupils & Staff of St Joseph's School
Thursday 21st December	Advent feria	9.15am Mary Reilly RIP
Friday 22nd December	Advent feria	9.15am Mary Bridget Foley RIP
		followed by Holy Hour
Saturday 23rd December	Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent	6.00pm Maria & Vincent Delgado 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: 17th December 2023

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
 Indeed, the Lord is near.

Responsorial Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
 The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
 He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
 Alleluia!

Next week's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14-16 Psalm 88 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with the story about the appearance of John the Baptist. The Gospel of John contains no details about Jesus' birth. Instead, John begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests the Levites, and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John the Baptist confirms that he is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah, nor the prophet who was promised as a successor to Moses.

John the Baptist tells them that he is the voice in the wilderness, promised by the prophet Isaiah, making 'a straight way for the Lord.' John announces that the saviour they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized.

John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our saviour. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for today's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading "Be happy . . . God has called you and he will not fail you."

Change to Masses

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

The pupils and staff of St Joseph's School will be joining us for Mass on Wednesday 20th December.

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 just need a few more people to register their interest 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**



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 24th December (4th Sunday of Advent) Sat
6pm, Sun 8:30am & 10:30am

Christmas Day Masses

Sunday 24th December -Vigil 6pm & Midnight (12pm)
Monday 25th December –10:30am *only*



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 and type in *Westminster Cathedral* when prompted.

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, Dave Jessop and Michael O'Brien.

Offertory for 10th December

Loose £ 367.93

Envelopes £ 211.75

Total £ 579.68

November 2023

Standing orders £1,896

Online £ 199

Many thanks