

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



Christmas Double Edition 2023 (Year B)

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 23rd December	Vigil: 4th Sunday	6.00pm Maria & Vincent Delgado RIP
Sunday 24th December	4th Sunday of Advent	8.30am William Ford RIP
		10.30am People of the Parish
	Vigil: Nativity	6.00pm Hoyle & Mabe families
	Midnight Mass	12.00pm People of the Parish
Monday 25th December	The Nativity of the Lord	10:30am Maurice Rodrigo & John Crowle RIP
Tuesday 26th December	St Stephen	No Mass
Wednesday 27th December	St John	No Mass
Thursday 28th December	The Holy Innocents	9.15am Gerry Archer RIP
Friday 29nd December	St Thomas Becket	9.15am Cecilia Arulananthar
		followed by Holy Hour
Saturday 30th December	Vigil: Holy Family	6.00pm Mary Duignan Intentions
Sunday 31st December	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	8.30am Maurice Rodrigo & John Crowle RIP
		10.30am People of the Parish
Tuesday 2nd January	Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	No Mass
Wednesday 3rd January	Christmas feria	No Mass
Thursday 4th January	Christmas feria	No Mass
Friday 5th January	Christmas feria	No Mass
Saturday 6th January	Vigil: Epiphany of the Lord	6.00pm People of the Parish

At Christmas we receive the gift of light, joy and peace that Jesus brought into the world. We welcome the nativity of Christ as an event capable of renewing our existence. May the Child Jesus make us people who do not think only of ourselves, but rather open us to the expectations and necessities of our brothers and sisters. In this way we too become testimonies of the light that Christmas radiates over the humanity of the third millennium. We ask holy Mary, the tabernacle of the incarnate Word, and St. Joseph, silent witness of the events of salvation, to increase in us the joy of our faith and our love for others.

Christmas speaks to everyone; it celebrates the gift of life -- often fragile or endangered -- and the fulfilment of our deepest hopes for a world renewed. Wars and economic challenges, causing so much suffering, can however help us to focus on the spiritual meaning of Christmas, and to welcome into our hearts the hope brought by God's coming among us. The Word became flesh to offer humanity the salvation which can only be received as a gracious gift from God. The same Word by whom the universe was made, the Word which gives all creation its ultimate meaning, has come to dwell among us: he now speaks to us, he reveals the deepest meaning of our life on earth, and he guides us to the Love which is our fulfilment. In the Christ Child, God humbly knocks on the doors of our hearts and asks us freely to accept his love, his truth, his life. This Christmas, let us rekindle our hope in God's promises and, in humility and simplicity, welcome the light, joy and peace which the Saviour brings to us and to our world.

The Parish Office will be closed after Christmas and re-opens on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. Fr John will be away for a few days after Christmas, and some weekday Masses will not take place; see schedule above. Canon Michael Munnely will be here celebrating Masses on the weekend of 6/7 January.

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

Liturgy of the Word: Sunday 24th December 2023 (4th Sunday of Advent)

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One ;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Responsorial Psalm: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let what you have said be done to me.
Alleluia!

Liturgy of the Word: Christmas 2023

Entrance Antiphon: Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world.
Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

Responsorial Psalm: Today a Saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
I bring you news of great joy:
Today a Saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Liturgy of the Word: Sunday 31st December 2023

Entrance Antiphon: The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant laying in a manger.

Responsorial Psalm: O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
let the message of Christ find a home with you.
Alleluia!

Next week's Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6 Psalm 71 Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

Collection for the Holy Land

On weekend of 30/31 December we will be holding a collection for the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, for the relief of those suffering from conflict in the Holy Land.

First Holy Communion 2024

Registration is open 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. * **There will be a meeting for all parents of children in the First Holy Communion programme on Thursday 18th January at 7pm in the Parish Hall (parents only)** *

Confirmation 2024

Registration is open 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. * **There will be a meeting for all Confirmation candidates and parents in the Confirmation programme on Thursday 25th January at 7pm in the Parish Hall** *

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 2024 to raise funds for the upkeep of the Church. 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**. Thanks to all those who have expressed interest. Please contact the parish office if you wish to participate and have not as yet let us know.

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 17th December

Loose £ 300.46 Envelopes £146.30 **Total £446.76**

Many thanks