

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



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) 21st January 2024

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 20th January	Vigil: 3rd Sunday	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 21st January	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am	Stasia Finn RIP
		10.30am	Helen Birch RIP
Tuesday 23rd January	Feria	7.00pm	Josie & Michael O'Brien RIP
Wednesday 24th January	St Francis de Sales	9.15am	Eileen Wade RIP
Thursday 25th January	Conversion of St Paul	9.15am	Betty & Kevin Murphy
Friday 26th January	Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops	9.15am	Mary & Tom Griffin
			followed by Holy Hour
Saturday 27th January	Vigil: 4rd Sunday in OT	6.00pm	Phil Carey

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: 21st January 2024

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
 In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make me know your ways.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
 The kingdom of God is close at hand; believe the Good News.
 Alleluia!

Next week's Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 94, I Corinthians 7:32-35, Mark 1:21-28

Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. (Jonah 3:3)

If you were caught up in some of the traffic jams around Watford during Christmas shopping hours, you might have been forgiven for wondering if, like Nineveh, it might take three days to cross the City !

Nineveh, located in modern day Mosul, northern Iraq, was in around 600 BC the largest city in the world. It is ironic that although, as Jonah tells us, the Lord God relented when seeing the repentance of its people and did not carry out his intended destruction of the city, some of its outstanding monuments were just a few years ago bulldozed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Nineveh occupied a key crossing point over the river Tigris and marked the route between East and West, the highway between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. It achieved its pre-eminence under Sennacherib, King of Assyria. After the Babylonians rebelled, supported in a coalition of other subject peoples, Nineveh was sacked and left in ruins.

Our first reading provokes theological questions: can God go against his own Word ? Once determined upon a course of action, might it be possible for God, as it were, to change his mind.

It seems clear that God took into account the repentance of the people of Nineveh and showed mercy. It encourages us that God truly hears our prayers and has regard to genuine contrition. Perhaps we might speculate that God was true to his Word in that the destruction of the city took place, but not in the way we might have foreseen. Likewise, God always hears our prayers, but we will not always be able to understand the way in which they are answered.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! (Romans 11:33).

****100 Club****

Thanks to everyone who has supported our proposed 100 Club to raise funds for the Parish. There is still time to join. Each entry/number is £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. Please consider buying more than one number. 3 monthly prizes of £100/£50/ £25 and an annual bonus prize of £500 for all who play continuously for 12 months.

We are aiming to have our first monthly draw in February. This relies on everyone paying for their number/s as soon as possible. Ideally if you could pay £60 upfront for the 12 draws, or £15 minimum for 3 draws direct into our HSBC bank account :

Account Name: WRCDT Carpenders Park

Sort Code: 40-05-20

Account Number: 61095579

Reference: Surname/ 100 CLUB

You can also pay by cash or cheque (payee: WRCDT Carpenders Park). Envelopes will be left out in the Narthex. Your co-operation and support is greatly appreciated.

Join the Synodal Journey!

A Synodal *Day of Discernment* will take place on **Saturday 10th February** at the London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, Mayfair, London W1K 3AH. Join people from a range of parishes and backgrounds for a day of reflection, conversation, and action to prepare for the October 2024 Synodal Assembly, in Rome. Arrive at 10am (refreshments) for 10.30am-4pm meeting, with a Bring and Share Lunch - liquid refreshments, provided! RSVP - FarmStreetOffice@rcdow.org.uk or 020 8986 0807

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 this Sacrament is attendance at Mass. By applying for this course it is expected that those participating express their commitment by joining the Parish community as we pray together at Mass.

Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes

On *Saturday 10th February at 2.30pm* the Cardinal will celebrate the annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes in the Cathedral which will include anointing of the sick. This is a ticketed event. We are waiting for further information.

Vocations weekend for women (20s & 30s)

Are you wondering if God is calling you to religious life and you would like to find out more? There is a vocations weekend in Liverpool on *16-18 February* organised by FCJ Sisters. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit www.fcjsisters.org

Knock Pilgrimage

Escorted tour to Knock on **10th March 2024**. 5 nights £899 pp to include flights, hotel, food and excursions. See poster in the narthex for further details. Or contact Patricia on 07740 175557 / email: knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

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 7th January

Loose £ 346.50
Envelopes £ 246.61
Total £ 593.11

Offertory for 14th January

Loose £359.17
Envelopes £202.01
Total £561.18

Many thanks