



Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

THE PRESBYTERY
Fr. Ivano Millico, Parish Priest
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Third Sunday of Advent (Year B) *Gaudete Sunday* 17th December 2023

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12.30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: Mondays 12-12:30pm (and on request)

Sunday 24 Dec CHRISTMAS Eve

9:30pm Mass in the Night
(followed by a time of celebration
in the Parish Hall)

Monday 25 Dec CHRISTMAS Day

9:45am Mass at Dawn



12noon Mass of the Day

*take home the full Programme of Mass times
and the attached Christmas Offering envelope*

"God is with us and we are with him".

Spend some time in prayer before our Nativity set. In silence. It speaks to us.

"The Christmas crèche' – wrote Pope Francis – "is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith. Beginning in childhood, and at every stage of our lives, it teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God's love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with him, his children, brothers and sisters all, thanks to that Child who is the Son of God and the Son of the Virgin Mary."

Copies of Pope Francis Letter – "*Admirabile Signum*" – on the beauty and meaning of the Christmas Nativity set are on sale at the back of the Church.

If you wish to help (setting up or with food & drinks) for the celebration in the Parish Hall following Christmas Eve Mass let Fr. Ivano know, thank you!

SCAN to GIVE
You can scan this QR
code for your weekly
Sunday donation.
Thank you.



Christmas Cards on sale after Mass

SILENT(?) NIGHT



These six days left of Advent before Christmas, and the days after, may turn to be not easy for many reasons. We could easily become agitated and get anxious. Looking for last-minute presents, making sure our last Christmas cards arrive on time. We might get upset because of holiday plans and family gatherings been cancelled due to strikes or unforeseen inconveniences.

We could actually (and very easily), lose completely the GRACE of these last days of Advent. What shall we do then?

Pope Francis offered us a 'model' to imitate: **Saint Joseph, man of silence**. "We must learn from Joseph", said the Pope, "to cultivate silence, that space of interiority in our days in which we give the Holy Spirit the opportunity to regenerate us, to console us, to correct us. I am not saying to fall into muteness, no; but silence, yes. How often, while at work or doing something we are looking at our phone to do something else... always in this mode. This does not help us; it makes us slip into superficiality. **The depth of our heart grows with silence**, silence that is not mutism but which leaves space for wisdom, for reflection and for the Holy Spirit. We are afraid of moments of silence. Let us not be afraid! It will do us good. And the benefit to our hearts will also heal our tongue, our words and above all our choices."

Come to pray in front of the Nativity set. Our Church is open. Cultivate silence, make space and time for the Holy Spirit. It is true, this year Advent is the shortest it could get (three full weeks), yet these are 'holy days'... Search for silence, find it, keep it, then sing *Silent Night!*

In. h. m. n.

Father Ivano