

St. Agnes Catholic Church, Cricklewood

35 Cricklewood Lane, London, NW2 1HR

www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/cricklewood

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Last Sunday's collection: £1760. Empowering Vulnerable Children Uganda. £817. Many Thanks.

A message from the Cardinal about the Holy Land and the Crib Collection. He thanks all those who have made contributions to charities seeking to support victims of the conflict between Israel and Hamas. He thanks all those who made contributions through Friends of the Holy Land who continue to do such remarkable work in these difficult times. An appeal has arrived from the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pizzaballa, who is deeply concerned about the impact on the Palestinian people in the West Bank, for many of whom sources of earning have effectively ended.

Discussion at the Archbishop's Council provide the following indicators in these matters. The crib offerings this year will be applied, as is our custom, to the Catholic Children's Society for the relief of poverty at home. A special collection will be held immediately after Christmas, on the Feast of the Holy Family or on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, for relief for those suffering from the conflict in the Holy Land. The collection will be gathered from parishes by the Finance Department to be forwarded to the Latin Patriarch as a response to his appeal. In the meantime contributions to the CAFOD appeal for immediate use through their networks are encouraged.

Feasts this week. Tuesday. Our Lady of Guadalupe. Wednesday. St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Thursday. St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor.

Next week we will announce the times of all Masses and Services over the Christmas and New Year period.

CAFOD Advent Carol Service on Wednesday 13th December at St James's Church, Spanish Place, 22 George Street, London W1U 3QY. 7 to 8pm. Including the Choir of St James's Spanish Place. Free Admission.

Christmas Parish Party in the Parish Centre on Sunday 17th December. 1pm to 3.30pm. Please sign up in the Church Porch if you wish to attend.

Church Heating. The weather is certainly getting cold which is all the more reason that our heating should be fully functional at this time. It is vital that the heating should be left on for the entire period of each Mass. If switched off the Church gets cold quickly and people have rightly registered their concern about that. The heater in the Porch is currently out of action and awaits repair.

The Pope's Monthly Intention for December. We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

The Choir at the 10.30 am Sunday Mass are anxious to acquire new members. Their participation has embellished the Mass in recent times and they have been improving as a choir. We thank them for their strong effort and contribution. They practice in the Parish Room prior to the Mass itself.

The Governors of Loreto College (St Albans) have recently agreed to propose some changes to their admissions criteria for 2025/2026. The full detail is available on the website.

<https://www.loreto.herts.sch.uk/Admissions/Admissions-Consultation-2025/>

Written comments are welcomed by the closing date of the formal consultation, 9am on 31st January 2024 - these should be emailed to swilliams@loreto.herts.sch.uk

Gospel Notes. Mark 1:1-8. Mark opens his gospel by describing it as the good news about Jesus Christ. John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. He calls the people to repentance, a change of heart, as a way to a new life. He baptised people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart.