



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST BEDE

185 Baldwins Lane, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 3LL

Tel **01923 231969** e-mail croxleygreen@rcdow.org.uk

website: www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/croxleygreen

Parish Priest: **FR JOHN WILEY**

Parish Administrator / Safeguarding Representative: Mrs Ursula Bartlett

THIS PARISH IS PART OF THE WESTMINSTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE TRUSTEE CHARITY NO. 233699

Third Sunday of Advent – Sunday 11th December 2022

MASSES

Tuesday	10.00am
Thursday	10.00am
Saturday	6.00pm
Sunday	10.00am

Sri Lankan Sinhalese Mass

First Sunday of the month – 4pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 10th December – 6.00pm

People of the parish

Sunday 11th December – 10am

Mrs Martin RIP (intention of June Jones)

LIVE-STREAMED MASSES

Masses and other liturgies can be located on-line.

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales website:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk>

MESSAGE FROM FR JOHN

This Third Sunday of Advent has long been nicknamed Gaudete Sunday, the Latin word for 'rejoice'. The church allows us a cautious note of rejoicing that we are half way to Christmas. It is therefore appropriate that we are holding our Festive Coffee Morning after Mass this Sunday, and we renew our thanks to everyone involved in preparing for it.

Our first reading this weekend, from the book of Isaiah, is thought to be a poetic description of the triumphant return of the Jews from exile in Babylon. The people who are released from slavery have been ransomed by the Lord God, and the deaf and dumb, the lame and the blind will be the first to enjoy the blessing of this deliverance. By Our Lord's time, the healing of the sick was expected to accompany the coming of the Christ.

WARM SPACE – 2.30 to 4.30pm ON THURSDAYS in the Hall

Everyone is welcome to our Warm Space on Thursday afternoons.

Volunteers needed for Thurs 22nd and Thurs 29th December

to make tea/coffee, and provide a warm welcome for visitors.

If you can help, please contact:

Ursula – 01923 445163

croxleygreen@rcdow.org.uk

Churches Together CHRISTMAS WALK OF WITNESS

Saturday 17th December – 3pm

Join us as we walk and sing the Christmas story through the streets of Croxley. ***Starting at the corner of Watford Road & Winton Approach at 3pm, and finishing on The Green at approximately 3.45pm***, followed by mince pies & mulled wine on The Green.

Feel free to dress up in Nativity costumes, and remember to bring a torch!

THURSDAY CLUB

Everyone welcome to join us for **Mass at 10am**, followed by refreshments in the Hall.

CHRISTMAS 2022

Please join with us to celebrate!

We need your voices -

SINGERS (all ages) to sing with a group to lead in the first carol, and **READERS** (all ages) at the **Candlelit Service of Carols & Readings**

(followed by mince pies & mulled wine in the Hall)

6pm – Sunday 18th December

(please note change of time)

ALSO

5pm – Saturday 24th December
Children's Christmas Nativity Mass

Calling all our younger members of the parish

If your children would like to participate in one or both of the above events – singing with a group / reading a prayer

Please speak to Ursula or one of the Parish Team. **Contact:**

croxleygreen@rcdow.org.uk

Tel: 01923 445163

HELP YOUR CHILDREN TO STAY FOCUSED DURING MASS

There is a selection of books on the rack in the church porch, which the children are welcome to use during Mass.

Please remember to return them before you leave.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

A range of virtual charity gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family", that will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges, and help bring home to those we love that there is so much more we can do.

Catalogues are available at the back of the church. Fabian (Parish CAFOD Representative) will also be at some Masses with a barcode scanner so you can scan the relevant QR code with your smart phone. More information at:

<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023 Parents Meeting

Wednesday 14th December at 7.30pm in the church hall.

We look forward to welcoming all who have registered their interest.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE for Catholic Children's Society

Tickets will be on sale after our weekend Masses, and will be drawn on Sunday 11th December, during our Refreshments in the Hall after 10am Mass.

NEXT SUNDAY – 11th December Refreshments in the Hall after 10am Mass

Everyone is invited to join us for tea/coffee & cake after Mass, when our **Christmas Raffle will be drawn**, and Angela Steele will be running a **Craft Stall in support of Watford Peace Hospice**.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The children will be invited to proceed to the Hall at the start of Mass, with a Catechist, and will re-join Mass before the Consecration. ***Volunteer Catechists needed if we are to continue into 2023.*** DBS check required (organised by the parish). Please contact Ursula if you can help.

MANY THANKS

We are very grateful to two generous parishioners who have sent in donations of £50 and £10 towards flowers in church at Christmas. This is very much appreciated.

6TH RICKMANSWORTH SEA SCOUT GROUP is now welcoming new members. Please take a leaflet (in church porch) or contact Group Scout Leader - Chris Doran. Tel: **01923 776035 / 07792 103736**
Email:
info@6thrickyseascouts.org.uk
Website:
www.6thrickyseascouts.org.uk

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
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 £4.10 per pack?** Donations can be sent in one of the following ways:
Bank transfer to Nat West
Sort code 60-60-04
Account no 46088237
By cheque payable to SVP
Handed in to parish office or posted to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ.
Thank you so much for your support.
Contact: Siobhan Garibaldi
siobhan.garibaldi@ntlworld.com

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
to assist with serving free hot meal takeaways and food bank items to people in need, at the following locations:
GoKula Vegetarian Café
65 Market Street, Watford,
WD18 0PR – 11am to 1.30pm
Meriden Community Centre
Garsmouth Way, Watford,
WD25 9ET – 10.45am to 12.30pm
Further details available from
Paul Montgomery - SVP
President, Holy Rood Church,
Watford. Tel: 07887 726061

SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS
Environmental issues and rising prices will make it very difficult for some families this Christmas. Don't feel guilty about cutting down on expensive Christmas gifts this year, and remember to re-cycle wherever possible.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Help with the following would be very gratefully received.
SOCIAL MEDIA
Promoting the parish via platforms such as Facebook / Twitter, etc.
JUSTICE & PEACE REP
Liaising with the Diocese and CAFOD to pass on information and promote various campaigns, etc.
Many hands make light work.
Please let us know if you can help.
croxleygreen@rcdow.org.uk
or Tel: **01923 445163**

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
PARISH GARDENING DAY
Saturday 28th January 2023
Please come along to help with pruning and tidying the parish grounds. Refreshments will be provided for the workers!

CONVERSATION IN CHURCH
"My house shall be called a house of prayer" (Matt 21:13)
Please be aware that some parishioners who arrive before Mass wish to spend time in silent prayer and contemplation. While we are pleased that ours is such a friendly parish, we would ask that you refrain from general conversation within the church in order to preserve a prayerful environment.

MILL END COMMUNITY CENTRE
Royal Voluntary Service
Christmas Dinner – 12noon on Christmas Day - £10 per person
Don't be alone at Christmas!
Everyone is welcome – on a first-come-first-served basis.
BOOKING ESSENTIAL – ASAP
Contact: Theresa O'Brien
01923 463031 / 07939 278787

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS
Our Stewards will continue to receive donations as you leave Mass. We are very grateful to all who continue to support the parish finances.

PARISH ACCOUNTS REPORT to 31st December 2021
This document has been posted on the parish website.
Paper copies also available at the back of the church.

CAFOD - DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) Pakistan Floods Appeal
Devastating floods have hit Pakistan, leaving millions in urgent need of help to survive. A third of the country is now underwater (an area almost the size of Great Britain). Donations will help CAFOD's local partners support communities with clean drinking water, food, emergency medical assistance and shelter.
Please pray for those affected and donate at cafod.org.uk/give

UKRAINIAN APPEAL
Much needed funds can be donated via CAFOD, a Disasters Emergency Committee member.
<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Ukraine-Humanitarian-Appeal>
Please continue to pray for an end to the suffering.

CAFOD AFGANISTAN APPEAL
CAFOD is combining efforts with the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to assist the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. Donations can be made via the CAFOD website
cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal

FOODBANK
Spare carrier bags would be welcomed by our local Foodbank. Please place these in the box in the church porch, and they will be passed on.