



## Mass Times

**Church open daily for prayer**  
**Tuesday – Wednesday 9.30am-10am**

**Thursday-**  
**10am Funeral of John McNicholas**

**Friday – No Mass**

**Saturday 6pm**  
**Sunday 9am and 11am**

### Please note:

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

## Contact Info

Parish Priest  
Rev Dermot O'Neill

Parish Secretary  
Jackie Sheils  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-1

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# ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
+ 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**First reading:** *Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64:3-8*  
**Second Reading:** *1 Corinthians 1: 3-9*  
**Gospel:** *Mark 13: 33-37*

Isaiah 63 dates from a time after the honeymoon period that followed the return from exile. The people are beginning to face the harsh difficulties of reestablishing their spiritual identity as God's people, caught in the crush between soaring hopes and paltry performance. They question and recall glories that the Lord once performed for the nation. They repent. They surrender themselves anew and, despite the possibility of rejection, plead longingly for God to appear.

Paul writes to a Church that needs that perspective. Considering itself ready for the Lord's coming, the Corinthian Church will learn in this letter how woefully unprepared the apostle thinks it is: theological errors, unethical practices, misplaced priorities, forgetting the poor, constant infighting, interest in self-advancement. But at the letter's beginning, Paul celebrates the fact that for all their faults the Corinthians are nevertheless a true Christian community. He reminds that that God alone keeps them faithful.

Mark's account of the Gospel stresses the need for constant watchfulness among the disciple-servants who must account for their actions. As subtle move by the evangelist should not be missed. Note how Mark deliberately juxtaposes these words of Jesus on the Mount of Olives with the disciples' failure in the Garden of Gethsemane in the very next chapter (14:26-41). On the mount Jesus suddenly turns to the reader directly and says, "Keep awake!" (13:37); in the garden Jesus again warns the disciples, "Keep awake!" (14:34). On the mount he warns the disciples lest the Lord come and find them sleeping; in the garden he returns after prayer and finds them asleep (14:36-41). On the mount they do not know the time that the Lord 'will come' (13:35); in the garden he declares "the hour has come" (14:41). Mark portrays these sorrowful events as a warning to disciples of every generation.

### CHANGES TO MASS TIMES - THIS WEEK ONLY

Mass will be celebrated behind closed doors this week on Monday – Wednesday, at 9am. Thursday the funeral Mass for John McNicholas will be at 10am, **NO MASS on Friday**. Saturday, public Mass will resume at 6pm and Sunday at 9am and 11am. Mass will be live streamed each day. **The church will be open for people to visit for prayer on Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30-10am only.** (The Church will remain closed all day for deep cleaning.)

### PARISH WEBSITE

Visit our parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleynorth – for all weekly updates and Children's liturgy lesson.

### DONATE TO THE CHURCH

Thank you to all who have converted their weekly contribution to Direct Debit. This has been a great asset to us. If you wish to join the planned giving scheme in our Parish, please contact the Parish office by email, if possible or visit our website for more information. The QR code is shown here on this newsletter. This will give you direct link to details of online giving.

## Parish QR code

For online donations



## Sacraments

Under current COVID restrictions:

Baptisms: No more than 6 people at the ceremony. To arrange a baptism please contact Fr Dermot.

Funerals: It is the normal procedure to first contact your chosen Funeral Director. They will liaise with Fr Dermot. At present only 30 mourners can attend the church service.

Weddings: Preparation for marriage: Six months' notice is required. Please contact Fr Dermot.

## Catechetics

### First Holy communion:

Application forms now available on our website. Closing date 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**Confirmation:** Details and application forms will be made available shortly.

## Newsletter

If you wish to receive a copy of our weekly newsletter by email, please sign up by using the website e-Alert or email the parish office to request.



## ST BARNABAS FOODBANK

St Barnabas Foodbank at 913 High Road North Finchley, accepts donations of food each Saturday between 9.30 & 12.30. They are open for those in need on Mondays 12.30 – 2pm.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS TO HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

The social committee usually organises the Christmas Treat Appeal at this time of year, to remember our elderly parishioners who are housebound, or live in residential homes. This year, more parishioners may be feeling cut off due to lockdown measures and the need to self-isolate.

There is no collection this year, but we will be sending a card to those on our list. If you know of anyone living at home who would appreciate being remembered at Christmas, please do let Claudia know (07443042714). Thank you.

## INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OR THINKING OF BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

St Alban's Church, North Finchley has a group for adults which meets every Wednesday evening at 8pm in the Presbytery when we can and via Zoom when we can't. Just phone or email the Parish if you are interested and we can put you in touch with someone who can tell you what to expect and answer your questions. You will be made very welcome.

## OUR LADY OF LOURDES, BOW LANE - APPLICATIONS FOR RECEPTION AND NURSERY

Applications are invited for the **Reception Class** for **September 2021** – this is for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017. The deadline to return this to the school office is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The forms are available to download on the school website.

Please also be advised that you must also complete a CAF (Common Application Form) from Barnet - the on-line system is already open.

Applications are invited for the **Nursery** for the Academic Year starting September 2021. This is for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The deadline to return this to the school office is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

## ST ALBAN'S CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

Due to COVID-19 we are now running as a virtual Zoom group on the same dates and times until further notice. Please email Carole O'Reilly coreilly396@btinternet.com for more information as to how to join.

## FINCHLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Vacancy for part time History Teacher for February 2021. For further information please see notice in our porch or go to school website: [www.finchleycatholic.org.uk](http://www.finchleycatholic.org.uk). Closing date December Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

### Please remember in your prayers the sick:

Kevin Kerr,

### all the recently departed and their loved ones

John McNicholas, Sr Consolata  
Smyth, Bruno Becci, John Moran

### and the faithful departed whose anniversaries occur at about this time:

Bridget Costello, Joseph O'Reilly



