



# ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
+ 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Mass Times

**Monday 9:30am**  
**Tuesday (Funeral)**  
**Wednesday 9.30am**  
**Thursday 9:30am**  
**Friday 9:30am**  
**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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London  
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020 8446 0224  
[finchleynorth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:finchleynorth@rcdow.org.uk)

Safeguarding  
Claudia Clayman  
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**First reading:** Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11  
**Second Reading:** 2 Peter 3: 8-14  
**Gospel:** Mark 1: 1-8

Early in the sixth century before Jesus, the kingdom of Judah was overrun and its people carried into exile in Babylon. The Temple was destroyed and Jerusalem was leveled. Into this mournful situation came an anonymous disciple of the prophetic school of Isaiah preaching a scintillating message of hope. The poet-prophet recalled God's first 'coming' to the people at the time of the Exodus (see Isaiah 41:17-18; 42:16; 43:16-17; 48:21; 50:2). Then, God had come to the people of Israel through one of their own, Moses. But this time, the prophet proclaimed, God would come through a pagan, Cyrus, the Persian king and conqueror of the Babylonians. This second 'coming' (Here is your God! (40:9) confronted the doubt of the exiles with a trumpet call of good news "Comfort, give comfort to my people" (40:1).

Mark used this picture of God's 'second' Old Testament coming to speak to God's New Testament 'coming' in the Gospel. John the Baptist's appearance and thunderous preaching prepared the people for "one mightier than I" (1:7). John seems to have expected the day of judgement that had been announced by the old prophets. But in the rest of his account of the Gospel, Mark unfolded the unlikely story of God's anointed who came to teach, heal, suffer and finally give his life as a ransom for others (Mark 10:45).

Peter's second letter refers to a future coming of Christ. By the time the letter was written by an anonymous representative of Peter in the second century, Christ's final coming was long delayed. But the writer rekindles anticipation by speaking like John the Baptist and the Old Testament prophets. He warns that Christ delayed his Second Coming only to give people time to prepare and calls for urgent and active obedience. Such obedience not only prepares for but even 'hastens' God's final coming.

## CHANGE TO MASS TIME FOR WEDNESDAYS

With immediate effect, Mass on Wednesdays will be at 9.30am. No evening Mass.

## PARISH WEBSITE

Visit our parish [rcdow.org.uk/finchleynorth](http://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 has now closed.

**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. Closing date will be 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, Leslie DeSouza

### **all the recently departed and their loved ones**

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

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

Marie Milne, Brigid Costello



