



Mass Times

Monday (Funeral)
Tuesday 9.30am
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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Parish website

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

ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter – 13th December 2020
+ 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First reading: Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Catholic Christians traditionally call this 'Graduate Sunday' (Latin *gaudere*, 'to rejoice,' from the Entrance Anthiphon) to stress the joy of anticipating the Lord's coming. Today's texts express the joy of the watcher who heralds the dawn while standing between darkness and light.

The prophet of the school of Isaiah was one returning from exile in Babylon. Our passage appears in a magnificent series of salvation proclamations (chapters 60-62) that bolstered the courage of the exiles.

The prophet exults in his call as bearer of God's good tidings:

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord....for God has clothed me with the garment of salvation" (61:10)

New Testament readers know this text from the time Jesus stood in his home synagogue at Nazareth announcing his messianic mission.

(Luke 4:18-19). Here on Gaudete Sunday it characterizes

John the Baptist's joy as the herald of Christ.

John is a dour man in a camel-hair tunic who eats a ghastly diet foraged from the wilderness. But a distinct joy infuses the New Testament texts about him, springing from his privileged position as forerunner and friend of Jesus. His mother Elizabeth hears the greeting of Mary and says,

"The child in my womb leaped for joy" (Luke 1:44). In the fourth Gospel account, John came 'to testify to the light' (John 1:7), saw Christ's glory, 'full of grace and truth,' and cried out in witness to his majesty (1:14).

Later, when Jesus first came to him, John exclaimed,

'Here is the Lamb of God' (1:29). He then surrendered his disciples to Jesus and described his joy with a vivid metaphor:

"The best man rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made complete. He must increase; but I must decrease" (3:29-30). This is the joy in the Isaiah text applied to John today, all the more striking for the contrast between the prophet's 'garments of salvation' and John's rough clothing.

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians strongly anticipates the Lord's coming, while also reminding readers to 'rejoice always' (5:16).

How would you describe the character of joy in a time of waiting?

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve: 4pm, 6pm and 8pm

Christmas Day: 9am and 11am

Please see website for further details. No need to book in advance.

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

Confirmation: Details and application forms available on Website.

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 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017. The deadline to return this to the school office is 15th 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 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019. Closing date will be 31st 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.

Please remember in your prayers the sick:

Kevin Kerr, Leslie DeSouza

all the recently departed and their loved ones

Frank Dolan

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

Rosa Leonardi, Delfina Paganini

Lilian Bullock, Wilfred Pereira

Bernard Madden

