

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ST ALBAN

PARISH NEWSLETTER - 17th December 2023

First reading Isaiah 61:1–2, 10–11
Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

Second reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Gospel: John 1:6–8, 19–28

PARISH MASS BOOK: PREFACE 2 OF ADVENT, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER RECONCILIATION 2



MASS TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS WEEK COMMENCING 16TH DECEMBER

Saturday 16th December
6pm Lilian Bullock (RIP)

Sunday 17th December
9:30am Michael Galbally (RIP)
11:30am Mary McNamara (RIP)

Monday 18th December
9.30am Joe & Joyce Mendonca (RIP)

Tuesday 19th December
9.30am Jimmy Sullivan (RIP)

Wednesday 20th December
12pm REQUIEM MASS SEAMUS DOLAN

Thursday 21st December
9.30am Paul Geraerts (RIP)

Friday 22nd December
9.30am Mary McNamara (RIP)

Please remember in your prayers **All the sick**

Julia Forsyth, Adam Bogusz, Adriano Grazioli,
Noreen Ellisdon, Bob Smith, Bernadette McGann,
Janet Crawley, Gabriel Hadid, Brendan O'Brien, Robert Rowe

All the recently departed and their loved ones Bridgid Ablett, Seamus Dolan, James Murphy

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

Lilian Bullock, Ciara Catney, P.J. Burke, Michael Galbally, Inelfa Zanna,
Gerard Ferris, Jimmy Sullivan

John the Baptist gets so much of our Advent airtime—but why do we have him at all? He is not the main event; he is very clear about this from the beginning. What he offers is incomplete revelation, a promise yet to be fulfilled, a lesser baptism than the one who is to come. Why does God work in this way? Why not send us Christ directly and immediately and get right down to the work of salvation? We may not ever know why, but we can take a cue from John the Baptist in accepting the partial nature of what we see of God's work. John knows his place and accepts it in humility. He embodies the prayer by Bishop Ken Untener that reminds us: "We are . . . ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." Like John, we each play some small but irreplaceable role in revealing and announcing Christ. The partial nature of this work can be frustrating, but God's ways are not our ways, and God's timing cannot be rushed.

Christmas collection

The Christmas & Easter collections make up the priest's annual income. Envelopes are available around the church for you to make your offering.

Gluten free communion hosts

We have coeliac Hosts in this church which are gluten free. If you wish to receive Holy Communion with gluten free hosts please let Fr Dermot know before which ever mass you will be attending.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Priest - Rev Dermot O'Neill

Parish Secretary - Alison McKinnie (Office hours: **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.00-1.00pm, Friday 9.00-12noon**
51 Nether Street, North Finchley, London N12 7NN. Tel: **0208 446 0224** email: **finchleynorth@rcdow.org.uk**

Parish Website - Visit our website for all weekly updates at **parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleynorth**

Safeguarding - Claudia Clayman - Email: **finchleynorthsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk**

Childrens Liturgy - Takes place at the Family Mass at 9.30am on Sundays.

Repository - Open after both Sunday Masses.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS: To arrange a baptism please contact Fr Dermot.

FUNERALS: It is normal procedure to first contact your chosen Funeral Director. They will liaise with Fr Dermot.

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

CONFESSIONS: Saturday from 5.15pm

REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH: Registration forms are available from the porch. Complete and return to the Presbytery. Thank you.

ST BANABAS FOODBANK: Accepts donations of food each Saturday between 9.30 & 12.30. They are open for those in need on Monday's 12.30-2pm. 913 High Road, North Finchley.

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 ALBANS CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday 23rd December - 6pm

Sunday 24th December - 11.30am
(NO 9.30AM MASS TODAY)

CHRISTMAS SEASON

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve

Vigil of the Nativity -5pm

Night Mass of the Nativity - 8pm

Monday 25th December Christmas Day - 9.30am & 11.30am

Christmas tree

Our Christmas tree will be erected in the sanctuary by the 3rd Sunday of Advent. As usual it will be decorated with cards bearing the names of your loved ones who have died. The cards will be in Our Lady's side chapel from this weekend. Please feel free to fill in the names you want on the tree. Remember, you can write several names on a card. The cards will be attached to the tree when it is in place.

THANK YOU!

Big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the CAROL CONCERT, especially the children, and for your donations, which amounted to **£604** and is on its way to Mary's meals.

CHRISTMAS TREAT APPEAL - we were able to distribute 60 gifts to the various homes for the elderly and housebound. Thank you all for your generosity.

REPOSITORY

The repository is open after Saturday mass in December & both Sunday masses. They have a wonderful selection of gifts for Christmas, Christmas cards, Christmas cribs and a few advent calendars still available.

FINCHLEY FOOD BANK

Thank you for your continued support of Finchley Foodbank. The cost of living crisis means fewer donations and more demand, so we're really grateful for your generosity - the foodbank supports 500-600 people every week with 3 days' worth of food & toiletries. We ask for dried or tinned items that are in-date - there's a list in the porch if you need inspiration!



**QR
CODE**

**Parish QR code
For online donations**



The church will remain open during the day for private prayer.