

CHRISTMAS at OUR LADY of the VISITATION

Monday 10th December

Cardinal Wiseman High School Carol Service
6.30 pm, in Church.

Sunday 16th December

Sunday School Nativity
10.30 am, in the Parish Centre.

Monday 17th December

Our Lady of the Visitation School Carol Concert
2.00 pm, in Church.

Wednesday 19th December

Our Lady of the Visitation School Carol Concert
6.30 pm, in Church.

Friday 21st December

Cardinal Wiseman High School Christmas Liturgy
9.00 am, in Church.

Saturday 22nd December

Penitential Service at 11.00 am, in Church.

Sunday 23rd December

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
1.00pm to 3.30pm, in the Old Church Hal

Monday 24th December

Christmas Masses on Christmas Eve
Children's Mass (Pageant) 6.00 pm
Carols from 8.30 pm, followed by Mass at 9.00 pm
Carols from 11.30 pm, followed by Mass at 12.00 midnight.

Tuesday 25th December

Christmas Masses on Christmas Day
9.00 am 10.30 am 12.00 noon
NO 8.00 am and NO evening Mass

Wednesday 26th December – St. Stephen's Day
Mass at 12.00 noon

Bank Holiday – the office will be closed.

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Under the pastoral care of the Pallottines, Society of the Catholic Apostolate.
Registered Charity No. 252929

358 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 9AN
020-8578-1363
greenford@rcdow.org.uk

COMMUNITY

Fr. Eugene Lynch SCA, Fr. Liam O'Donovan SCA,
Fr. Joe McLoughlin SCA, Fr. Tom Daly SCA

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Saturday 9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Sunday 10.00 – 1.30 pm

MASSES

Mon - Sat 12.00 noon
Sunday Sat. 7.00 pm – Vigil Mass
8.00 am, 9.00 am, 10.30 am
12.00 noon and 7.00 pm

Confessions 11.00 am – 12.00 noon
(Saturday) 6.15 pm – 6.45 pm

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GAUDETE SUNDAY (year C)

16th DECEMBER 2018

**The readings for today's Mass start on
page 87 of the Mass book.**

The Creed – page 11/12 The Lord's Prayer - page 56

**The response to the Psalm:
*Sing and shout for joy for great in
your midst is the holy one of Israel.***

**The Acclamation is:
*When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.***



***The Advent Penitential Service will take place at
11.00 am on Saturday 22nd December.***

READERS, etc, FOR CHRISTMAS

There will be lists in the Sacristy for readers, ushers, collectors and Eucharistic Ministers for the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please put your name on the list for whichever Mass you will be attending.

***OUR LADY of the VISITATION SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERTS***

Our Lady of the Visitation School will be having their Christmas Carol Concerts on Monday 17th December at 2.00 pm, and Wednesday 19th December at 6.30 pm, both concerts will take place in the Church. The children would like to invite you to come along and join them in the singing of some wonderful carols.

***CARDINAL WISEMAN HIGH SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS SERVICES***

Cardinal Wiseman High School extend an invitation to you to join them for their Christmas Liturgy at 9.00 am on Friday 21st December in the church. All are welcome to come along to pray, sing and prepare for Christmas.

Christmas cards, Novenas and gifts are available in the Parish Office. Also, parish diaries are on sale at £1.00. The Westminster Year Book for 2019 is now available, priced at £4.50.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

James Joe Guy

Mass 10.00 am, Tuesday 18th December, Visitation Church, to be followed by burial in Mortlake Cemetery.

Antonio D'Avella

Mass 1.00 pm, Thursday 20th December, Visitation Church, to be followed by burial in Greenford Park Cemetery.

Advance Notice

Davis Straker

Mass 1.00 pm, Friday 11th January 2019, Visitation Church, to be followed by burial in Greenford Park Cemetery.

**Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
Statement on the Settlement Scheme for EU citizens**

The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all EU citizens who have made their home here. As the majority are themselves Catholic this is a special pastoral concern for us. The Church has experienced first-hand the contribution that people from across Europe have made to our society. They are an integral and valued part of our parishes, schools and communities. We also recognise the evidence that immigration from Europe has not undermined opportunities for UK citizens, but rather brought considerable economic and social benefits. It is clear that since the 2016 referendum many people living here have faced profound uncertainty and insecurity about their future. Although the reassurances offered by senior politicians are important, people have been given far too little information or binding commitments about their right to stay. For some this has been worsened by the appalling rise in hate crime, which has left them feeling unwelcome or even threatened in the country that has become their home.

The Settlement Scheme

The government will soon launch a Settlement Scheme, offering EU citizens living here a legal route to remain. While this is an important step, we understand that, especially for people who have contributed to our society over many years, it may feel unjust and divisive that they are now required to apply for permission to stay. We also expect that some people, particularly those who are already vulnerable, may face difficulties in practically accessing the scheme, leaving their immigration status at risk. We strongly oppose the decision to charge people for securing the rights they already have. This is not only unprincipled but will also create a barrier for larger families or people facing financial difficulties. The Bishops' Conference has made representations on these issues to ministers and through the Home Office working groups set up to discuss the Settlement Scheme. We will continue to do so as it is implemented.

Applying for the scheme

Notwithstanding our concerns about these principles and practicalities, it remains a fact that EU citizens must apply if they are to protect their existing rights and their place in our society. We therefore ask that Catholic parishes, schools and organisations to bring the Settlement Scheme to the attention of all who need to avail of it and to be aware of vulnerable people who may face barriers to applying or not realise that they need to apply. In particular we encourage you to signpost people towards the official information on the Settlement Scheme: **gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families** Also to make use of the various information resources available:

gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit

Finally we urge the whole Catholic community to take up Pope Francis' call to welcome, protect, promote and help to integrate everyone who has made their home here – with particular concern at present for our European brothers and sisters.