

## ***Times of Services over Christmas***

### ***Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Masses on Christmas Eve***

*12.00 noon (S)*

*Children's Masses (Pageant)*

*4.00 pm (S) and 6.00 pm (S)*

*9.00 pm*

*12.00 midnight (S)*

*Christmas Carols at 8.30 pm and 11.30 pm*

### ***Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day***

*Masses at 8.00 am, 10.00 am,  
12.00 noon (S) and 2.00 pm(S)*

***NO MASS AT 7.00 PM***

### ***Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December St. Stephen's Day***

*Masses at 8.00 am, 10.00 am,  
12.00 noon (S) and 2.00 pm(S)*

***Please note that Masses marked (S)  
will be streamed online.***

# **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,  
Reverend Deacon Jayson Wingrove

## **The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)**

**19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

MASS TIMES

From Monday to Saturday Mass at 12.00 noon will be streamed online,  
and on Sundays both the 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm Masses.

**<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/greenford/>**

### ***Parish Office opening hours over the Christmas Period***

<i>24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve</i>	<i>9.00 am – 1.00 pm</i>
<i>25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>
<i>26<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>
<i>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>
<i>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>
<i>Wednesday, Thursday and Friday</i>	<i>9.00 am – 4.00 pm</i>
<i>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>
<i>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>
<i>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>
<i>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January</i>	<i>9.00 am – 4.00 pm</i>

### ***Attending Mass at Christmas***

At Christmas it is always wonderful to welcome all, as we come together in Church to celebrate this great feast. Because of the present COVID infection rate, numbers will have to be limited in Church at all Masses to keep everybody as safe as possible. We beg your understanding if you come after we have reached our safety capacity.

### ***Our Lady of the Visitation School Admissions 2022-2023***

Application packs for admissions into Nursery and Reception classes for school year 2022-2023 at Our Lady of the Visitation School are available to collect from the school office and on the school website. The deadline for applications is 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### ***Christmas Pageant***

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, at 2.00 pm there will be a rehearsal. Please meet in the Old Church Hall. Also (because of COVID) they must provide their own costume.

### ***Funeral Arrangements***

#### ***Advance Notice.***

#### ***Thomas Ward***

Mass 10.00 am, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December, Visitation Church, more details to follow.

***Christmas Novena cards are now available from the Parish Office, as well as Christmas cards and gifts and Parish Diaries for 2022.***

### ***Please remember***

***Hand washing / sanitiser and Social Distancing.***

***Face coverings are now compulsory in places of worship.***

***If you have not already done so, we would urge you to get your Booster jab.***

Mary rushes to go to Elizabeth, whose late pregnancy could spell trouble, and Mary thinks of that. The journey is across difficult terrain, the hills are bandit territory. Mary is young. She is vulnerable. She did not hesitate. Did Joseph go with her? The Gospel story does not tell us. Did she have the benefit of a donkey to ride? We wonder what her parents, Joachim and Anna, thought about Mary heading off, even though it is a journey of mercy.

There is something so profound in this Gospel, the beginnings of God's coming to us, that is at the same time so normal and miraculous. Two pregnant women sharing compassion and love. Mary knows that Elizabeth needs her, the angel has told her. She goes. Elizabeth greets her with words that we repeat today in the Hail Mary. Mary responds with the equally inspiring words of The Magnificat.

This story speaks so eloquently. Pregnancy and life in the womb – so precious. God is saying so much to us here. This is why our Church values life so highly.

That's the story of Mary and Elizabeth's preparing for the coming of their babies. Advent has asked us to prepare too. To reflect that God came to us from the womb of Mary in the birth of Jesus. That each one of us is the result of this same miracle of life. We have so much to be thankful for.