

ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH

A Parish under the care of the Augustinians

Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)
18th December 2022

Gospel Teaching

In today's Gospel, Joseph is betrothed and is expecting to marry Mary. Then he finds that she is pregnant. We are told how he discovers this; it would have been a shattering blow. All his plans for the future are in disarray. Yet as a man of honour he decides not to shame Mary but divorce her informally, for betrothal then in Jewish culture was a serious legal contract. At first, Joseph seems to see things as they are: Mary is having a baby outside wedlock, and this is unacceptable. But it takes an angel for Joseph to see things as they *really* are – as God sees them. To do this, Joseph has to put aside his fears: “do not be afraid”, the angel tells him.

So Joseph first has his world turned upside down, and then makes a choice about what he will do next that will go against the customs of his people, against what he has accepted all his life as the way to behave. It is an extraordinary challenge, but Joseph has both the strength of character and the faith in God to do it. It is not the life he has chosen, or at least not the way he expected life to turn out. Joseph highlights what comes with responsibility and what comes with love. Above all, he is open to listening to God through a messenger.

While Joseph's situation is unique – unique in the history of salvation – his story is one that so many of us can identify with. Everything he thought was sure – that he had found love with Mary, and could look forward to a certain future – is suddenly undone. Nor can life go back to normal. Suddenly, God is asking of him something more momentous than Joseph might ever have envisaged. In the Gospel story of the annunciation, when the angel appears to Mary, she has to make a choice and she accepts the role that God wants of her. In Joseph's case, what God asks of him could be said to be even harder: he is being asked to stand by Mary's choice. What his life will be in the future is a consequence of her decision. We have to face those decisions ourselves in life, too. A husband who stands by his wife when she gives up a well-paid job to take on a much lower-paid but worthwhile career; a wife who accepts that her husband can no longer take the suffering of more chemotherapy treatment and instead chooses palliative care.

Joseph's story also highlights the importance of listening. We are all influenced by our culture, our past experiences, our expectations. But Joseph was prepared to listen to the angel. Are we prepared to recognise those among us who are credible messengers, who might have something to say that is totally unexpected? Can we put aside our preconceived notions, and be open and humble enough to listen to those around us, and to discern what God might be saying and what God is calling to us to do? The Gospel stories around the birth of Jesus frequently refer to fear. When the angel appears to Mary explaining that she will conceive the Son of God, when angels appear to the shepherds in the fields announcing Jesus' birth, as well as when the angel appears to Joseph, the message is the same: do not be afraid. All of them were shocked by what they saw, and what they were told, but faith in God helped them muster courage to deal with what befell them. When we are faced with the most tremendous challenges, can we also find the courage to heed the message: do not be afraid?

MASS TIMES

Sunday:

9 am, 10.30 am, 12.15 pm & 6.30 pm

Monday to Friday:

8 am & 12.15 pm

Saturday: 12.15 pm, 6 pm (Vigil)

Holy Days of Obligation:

8 am, 12.15 pm & 7 pm

CONTACT DETAILS

Address:

55 Fulham Palace Road,
Hammersmith, London, W6 8AU.

Tel No: 020 8748 3788

Mobile No: 07901 523 267

Email:

hammersmith@rcdow.org.uk

Website/Live streaming:

parish.rcdow.org.uk/hammersmith

PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Tomas Banayag OSA

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Monica Hamilton

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 9 am - 3 pm.

Tuesday to Friday: 10 am to 3 pm

SAFEGUARDING

Margaret Manners

hammersmithsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Teresa Felongco Sagge

hammersmithsg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Suzette Dennis

hammersmithsg4@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

ST. AUGUSTINE'S CENTRE

Contact for all Hiring and Centre

Helen Murphy - Manager

Email:

helen@staugustinescentrelondon.org

ORDER OF ST. AUGUSTINE (OSA)

Province of England & Scotland

Bishop Emeritus Michael Campbell

OSA (*in residence*)

Fr. Barry Clifford OSA (*Prior*)

Fr. Tomas Banayag OSA (*Parish Priest*)

Fr. Arthur Bolivar OSA

Fr. Robert Marsh OSA (*Provincial*)

Br. Gregory Tan OSA

Br. Michael McLaren OSA

Email: info@theaugustinians.org

Website: theaugustinians.org

Vocations Facebook:

[AugustinianVocationsUK](https://www.facebook.com/AugustinianVocationsUK)

See also: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2020-02/sunday-reflection-vatican-news2.html>

Readings: Isaiah 7: 10-14, Psalm 23, Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-24



AUGUSTINIANS

St. Augustine's is under the care of the Order of St. Augustine and part of the Archdiocese of Westminster Registered Charity No. 233699.

PARISH DIARY

Sunday 18th December

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

9 am, 10.30 am, 12.15 pm & 6.30 pm Masses

7.30 pm - Simbang Gabi

Expectant Mothers

Monday 19th December *Advent Feria*

8 am Mass

12 noon - The Angelus

12.15 pm Mass

7.30 pm - Simbang Gabi

Tuesday 20th December *Advent Feria*

8 am Mass

12 noon - The Angelus

12.15 pm Mass

7.30 pm - Simbang Gabi

Wednesday 21st December *Advent Feria*

8 am Mass

12 noon - The Angelus

12.15 pm Mass

7.30 pm - Simbang Gabi

Thursday 22nd December *Advent Feria*

8 am Mass

9.15 am - Requiem Mass

12 noon - The Angelus

12.15 pm Mass

7.30 pm - Simbang Gabi

Friday 23rd December *Advent Feria*

8 am Mass

12 noon - The Angelus

12.15 pm Mass

7.30 pm - Simbang Gabi

Saturday 24th December *Advent Feria*

12 noon - The Angelus

12.15 pm Mass

5 pm Children's Mass

8 pm Solemn Mass of the Nativity

Sunday 25th December

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (Year A)

9 am, 10.30 am, 12.15 pm Masses (No Evening Mass)

PARISH LIFE

**FR. TOMAS AND THE AUGUSTINIANS
WISH YOU ALL
A JOYFUL AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS
AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR**

Live Streaming Masses and Services - To view, either click on the link on the parish website or visit: www.churchservices.tv.

Car Parking - The management of the car park has been handed over to external agents and have installed ANPR. The arrangements for the weekend Masses (Saturday evening and Sunday up until the 12.15 pm

Masses remain the same, i.e. the gate will be open around Mass times). **For any Masses or services during the week, ie, Weekday Masses, Funerals, Baptisms and Weddings,** you will have to book a space, which can be done online at <https://parkbee.com.uk>

Piano Lessons - Our organist, Antonio who is a dedicated and passionate Piano Teacher for over ten years (currently working as a Piano Tutor at the Royal College of Music in London), is offering fun but professional piano lessons to both adults and children. It does not matter what age you are! Please contact him at antonio.Morabito@rcm.ac.uk if you are interested.

7 to 9 Votive Day Candle Stands

(located near St. Anthony's/St. Patrick's Statues)

Please **only** use candles which can be purchased from the Repository or Parish Office

Price per Candle **£5** (available in Blue, Red & White)

Christmas Carol Concert - Fr. Tomas and the Augustinian Friars wishes to thank everyone involved in the organisation/performing for the Parish Carol Concert and Christmas Party last Sunday; Martin Kincaid and St. Augustine's School, the Readers, The Organist and Choir, and the Volunteers who helped prepare the Church for Christmas/set up the hall, those who donated food items and for all who attended the party itself. Your support to this Parish makes this Christmas season joyful. Thank you!

Hamper Raffles - £600 was raised for the sale of raffle tickets for the hampers. Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Office - is closed and will re-open on Tuesday 4th January 2023.

Newsletter - The next newsletter will be available for the weekend of 8th/9th January 2023.

Church Shop

Christmas items now available
Calendars, Cards, Nativity Sets etc

Opening Times

Weekday before the 12.15 pm Mass
and Every Sunday

VOLUNTEERING

Can you Help? - We still need of more volunteers to come forward for the various ministries in the Church;

Would you like to join the Choir? - Please pick up a form from the Church Porch.

Church Cleaning - Please speak to Antonia if you can help on Mondays after the 8 am Mass.

Readers - Please email Annabel if you would like to read at any of the Sunday Masses staugustinesreaders@yahoo.co.uk

OPENING TIMES, DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Church Opening Times for Individual Prayer

Weekdays: 7 am to 5 pm

Saturdays: 10 am until after the 6 pm Mass

Sundays: 8 am until after the 6.30 pm Mass.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Saturday 10.30 am - 11.45 am.

Reconciliation - Saturday 10.30 am to 11.45 am and by appointment.

The Angelus - Every day at 12 noon.

Novena Mass to Sto. Niño - Every first Friday of the month at 7 pm.

Rosary - (Led by parishioners) recited daily after the 8 am Mass (Monday to Friday) & 12.15 pm Mass Mondays to Saturdays.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

Normal Mass times and Services until
Friday 23rd December 2022

Confessions

10.30 am to 11.45 am every Saturday up to
24th December or by appointment

Thursday 15th December - Friday 23rd December 2022

Simbang Gabi A traditional Filipino Novena Mass
for the preparation of Christmas at 7.30 pm

Saturday 24th December - During the Day

Mass at 12.15 pm

Christmas Eve

Children's Mass at 5 pm

Solemn Mass of the Nativity at 8 pm

**Sunday 25th December - The Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas Day)**

Masses at 9 am, 10.30 am & 12.15 pm (no evening Mass)

Monday 26th December - Friday 30th December

Mass at 12.15 pm

Saturday 31st December

Masses at 12.15 pm and 6 pm (Vigil)

**Sunday 1st January 2023 - Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God**

Masses at 9 am, 10.30 am & 12.15 pm (no evening Mass)

Monday 2nd January - Thursday 5th January

Mass at 12.15 pm

**Friday 6th January - The Epiphany of the Lord
(Holy Day of Obligation)**

Masses at 12.15 pm and 7 pm

Saturday 7th January

Normal Mass/Confessions Schedule resumes

Sunday 8th January - The Baptism of the Lord

Normal Mass Schedule

Sunday 15th January - Feast of the Señor Sto. Niño

Normal Mass Schedule

Señor Sto. Niño SINULOG Celebration
will take place at the 6.30 pm Mass

Annual Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine - Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland on 15th May 2023. £699 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Crouch Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278/07740 175 557 or email: knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

Table of Moveable Feasts 2022

Christmas

25th December 2022

Bold entries denote Holidays of Obligation in England and Wales.

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms - More information from the Parish Office.

First Holy Communion 2023 - The application process has now CLOSED.

Parents' Meeting - For parents/carers who have submitted their application, there will be a meeting on **Thursday 5th January 2023** at 6 pm in the Parish Centre.

Confirmation 2023 - Information regarding the application process, will be advertised at early next year.

Home Visit for the Sick - Please contact the Parish Office.

Marriages - If you would like to get married, we need at least six months notice longer if you wish to marry abroad, You also need to attend a Marriage Course. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

RCIA (Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults) - Ongoing.

SCHOOLS

Primary/Nursery School Applications 2023

Fr. Tomas will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice Forms on the following dates in the Parish Centre;

Wednesday 11th January 2023 - 10.30 am to 11.30 am

Thursday 12th January 2023 - 2 pm to 4 pm.

There is no need to make an appointment.

Please bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate.

Bible Stories Helpers - St. Augustine's School is looking for helpers who may be willing to come to the school once a week/once a fortnight to read Bible stories with the children in school. If you are interested, please ring Ms Peebles on 020 7385 4333.

FUNERALS

The Requiem Mass for the late John Anthony Hanley will take place on **Thursday 22nd December 2022 at 9.15 am.** We especially remember the family during this difficult time.

The Requiem Mass for the late Mrs Nelly Martha Lobo will take place on **Friday 30th December 2022 at 12.15 pm.** We especially remember Jenny and all the family during this difficult time.

COMMUNITY MASS LISTS

18th December 2022 to 24th December 2022

Recently Deceased:

Mrs Nelly Lobo, Suzanne Mowatt, Aidean Mulderry, Eileen Browne, John Hanley, Leo Timmins, Mary Thomas, Carmen Cerda, Margaret O'Connor, Mrs Theresa Mathew Foncaca, Liam Gallagher.

Anniversaries:

Maurice Doyle, Sheila Tyrrell, Kenneth Barber (1st Ann.).

Deceased:

Margo Stack.

Intentions:

Holy Souls, Mary de Caires, Ann & John Herlihy & family, John & Chris Fitzgerald and family, Terry O'Driscoll, Eileen Murphy, St. Theresa & the Holy Souls, Private Intention, The O'Connor family, Carmen & family, Geraldine Wallace.

Get Well:

Noel Horgan, Molly Pereira, Jane Carlos, Pauline Lombardi.

Birthday:

Sr. Imelda O'Sullivan, Bridie Kelly.

25th December 2022 to 31st December 2022

Recently Deceased:

Mrs Nelly Lobo, Margaret O'Connor, John Hanley.

Anniversaries:

James & Peggy Igoe, Kenneth Barber (1st Ann).

Deceased:

Margo Stack, Mary & Jack McTigue, Eileen & Sean Lally.

Intentions:

Holy Souls, The O'Connor family, St. Theresa & the Holy Souls, Private Intention, The O'Connor family, Eileen Murphy.

Birthday:

Corina Pinto.

1st January 2023 to 7th January 2023

Recently Deceased:

Mrs Nelly Lobo, Margaret O'Connor, Patrick J. Moss.

Deceased:

Margo Stack.

Intentions:

Holy Souls.

Birthday:

Sonny Kennally RIP (89th).

STEWARDSHIP & GIVING

We thank those who have continued to support our Parish during these difficult times.

If you would like to make a donation, please scan the QR code:



or use the following details:

Name:	WRCDT - HAMMERSMITH
Account No:	11308262
Sort Code:	40-05-20
Bank:	HSBC
Ref:	Your name

If you are a UK Taxpayer, you can complete a Gift Aid form from the Parish Office. We can claim back 25p in every £1 you donate.

Gift Aid & Planned Giving - This scheme enables parishes to claim back the tax element of your gift from those who pay tax and donate regularly to the Parish. This gives the parish an extra 25% on top of your donations at no cost to yourself.

Ways you can Give

Gift Aid Box - If you feel that you are able to make regular donations, and would like a gift aid box, please complete the Parish Gift Aid Form/Standing Order Form (available from the Church Porch) and return it to the Parish Office.

By Standing Order - You may wish to set up a standing order for your donations, if so, please complete the standing order instruction on the Parish Gift Aid Form and return the completed form to the Parish Office.

Not donated in a while and would like to start giving again? If anyone has not donated in a while, we have ended your box. If you would like to start giving again by planned giving envelopes. Please complete the Gift Aid form and return it to the Parish and you will be issued with a new number and box.

Changed your Address? Please let the Parish Office know if you have recently changed your address, so that our records can be updated.

Contactless Payment Machines - There are two machines at the entrance and exit of the Church for donations. Please use the hand sanitiser and touch screen to begin.

Online Donations using the QR Code - If you prefer, or if the machines are not working, for whatever reason, you can scan the QR code, which will you find above the machines, just enter your donation amount, input your card details in the normal way. Please don't forget to Gift Aid!

Foodbank - We will be collecting items for the Food Bank that can help families who are struggling. A box will in the porch to take your gifts of dried, tinned and packet foods (especially fish, vegetable and fruits) and toiletries. Thank you.

Christmas Donations - All your donations on Christmas Eve (8 pm Mass) and Christmas Day will go directly to the Friars. Envelopes are available in the Church Porch. The Friars live off your kind donations!