

Presbytery

337 Harrow Road, London, W9 3RB
Tel: 020 7286 2170

Parish Priest

Fr. Michael Jarmulowicz
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Also in Residence (for advanced studies)
Fr Daniel Isah

Harrow Rd Office

Parish Administrator: Mrs Jennifer Ellis
Office Hours: Mon & Friday 9 - 3 pm
Tel No: 020 7286 2170
E-mail: harrowroad@rcdow.org.uk
Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/harrowroad

Paddington Office

Parish Administrator: Mrs Mandy O'Sullivan-Whitting
Office Hours; Thursday 10 - 2 pm
Tel No: 020 7286 2672
E-mail: paddington@rcdow.org.uk
Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/paddington

Mass Times

Monday: 10:00 am (Harrow Rd)
Tuesday: 10:00 am (Paddington)
Wednesday: No Mass
Thursday: 10:00 am (Paddington)
Friday: 10:00 am (Harrow Road)
Saturday: 10:00 am (Paddington)
6:00 pm (Harrow Rd)
Sunday: 9:30 am (Paddington)
11:30 am (Harrow Rd)

Eucharistic Adoration

One hour before weekday and both Saturday
Masses

Confessions

During periods of exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament, and on request.

Sunday Readings

Parish Mass Book—page 85.
Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pet 3:1-14; Mk 1:1-8

Parishes of
OUR LADY OF LOURDES & ST VINCENT DE PAUL
(HARROW RD)

and

OUR LADY OF SORROWS, (PADDINGTON)

DECEMBER - MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

10TH DECEMBER 2023

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — YEAR B

Finding 'You' Time



How prepared are you? Have you ordered all the presents and put up the tree? Preparation is one of the most important parts of Christmas, but Advent was never supposed to be about fixing the fairy lights. Advent is about spiritual preparation. In all the whirlwind preparations for the Christmas celebrations, we need to prepare a way for the Lord, and this preparation begins with a call from an eccentric man living alone in the desert over two thousand years ago

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance. Today we might easily dismiss the rantings of a strange man who dressed in camel hair and fed on locusts, but interestingly, people travelled miles into the desert to be baptised by him, so charismatic a man was he, and so important his message. Two thousand years later, his message is just as relevant to those of us who want greater meaning in our lives. The repentance that John teaches means so much more than being sorry for our sins. Repentance means changing the direction of our lives away from poor and ungodly choices. Was the direction of our life decided by what exams we did or didn't pass at the age of seventeen? Has the direction of our life been determined by arbitrary decisions and random circumstances? Advent is a time to decide what sort of a person we would really like to be, and in what direction we would really like to be heading.

"Prepare the way of the Lord," John tells us, "make straight his paths." To allow God into our lives, we are asked to remove any obstacles in God's path. How can we open our minds to God's will if our time is consumed in filling the freezer and making Christmas puddings? Advent is an opportunity for us to make some quiet time to contemplate and prioritise. What is it exactly that is preventing God's work in our lives?

"One mightier than I is coming after me," John tells us, "I have baptised you with water, he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." In the desert of commercialism, we are reminded that the reason for the season is not turkeys and baubles. Preparation is a time of reflection; a little 'You' time.

Mass Intentions for both parishes for week beginning Saturday 9th December 2023

Saturday	6:00 pm	Sheila John & family (Ints)	Sunday	9:30 am	Aublelio Ochoa (RIP)
Sunday	11:30 am	People of the Parish	Monday	10:00 am	Jo Martin (RIP)
Tuesday	10:00 am	Maria, Francisca, Caetana & Geralda (RIP)	Wednesday	10:00 am	No Mass
Thursday	10:00 am	Sebastian, Geralda, Jose, Sueli & Paulo (RIP)	Friday	10:00 am	Angela McLaughlin (Ints)
Saturday (16.12)	10:00 am	Joseph Thornicroft (Sick)	Saturday	6:00 pm	Jim Kinsella (Anniv)
Sunday (17.12)	9:30 am	People of the Parish	Sunday	11:30 am	Mary Forry (RIP)

Diocesan News

CAFOD are having a Carol Concert on **Wednesday 13 December** from **7:00pm until 8:00pm** at **St James Church, Spanish Place**, 22 George Street, London W1U 3QY.

All are welcome.

SVP Vinnie Packs. The SVP are distributing **over 10,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of thermal socks, face flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **Sort code 60-60-04, account no. 46088237**. Thank you so much for your support.

Parish News

Advent Adult Catechesis. We only had one parishioner coming to our first showing of episode 1 from the famous Robert Barron series "Catholicism". The other two sessions are on:

Monday 11th Dec—Episode 4—on Mary.

Monday 18th Dec—Episode 7—on the Mass.

Time—7:00 pm —8:00 pm.

All welcome—Meeting will be in Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall. (Enter via Main church entrance). Tea and Biscuits will be provided and there will be time for discussion.

Maronite Christmas Recital. The Maronite choir will be singing their traditional Christmas hymns entitled "**Your Birth Changed our World**" at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Harrow Road, this coming **Friday (15th December) between 7:30 and 8:30 pm**. Bishop Paul McAleenan and the Assistant General of the Maronites will be present. All are invited. There will be traditional Lebanese food (sweet) afterwards.

Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner. Our annual Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Harrow Road, is this coming **Saturday (16th December) at 1:00 pm**. There will be Mass at 12 noon. Parishioners from both parishes are invited. This is your last opportunity to sign up.

Also sign up for friends/relatives who may not be able to get to regular mass and need help getting here. There is also a list for volunteer helpers.

Mary's Meals. We regularly get foreign coins and notes in our collections. Recently I sent these to Mary's meals and have been told that they converted to £119.35, which will feed 6 young children one good meal every school day for a whole year. I will post the breakdown at the back of the church.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024. The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Pilgrimage will take place from **19th to 26th July 2024**. Last year we had a successful pilgrimage with 12 redcaps. I am keen to have a parish group of pilgrims coming as well as the redcaps helping pilgrims. So join the pilgrimage as a pilgrim. Serve the sick as a St Frai Helper (18+). Support the sick by sponsoring a St Frai helper to care for them on the pilgrimage and praying for our care team. For more information go to <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/>. More information will be given in the New Year.

Confessions. To make it easier to come to confessions during advent, during the Sunday, and Saturday evening, masses either Fr Daniel or myself will be in the confessional box during mass.

Funeral Notices

The Reception and Rite of Committal for Cremation of the late **Michael Matthews** will take place at the **West London Crematorium** on **Monday 11th December at 10:00 am**.

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late **Barthelemy Defoe** will take place on **Thursday 14th December at 11:30 pm** at the church of **Our Lady of Lourdes, Harrow Rd**, followed by committal at West London Crematorium.

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late **Wilhelmina Angol** will take place on **Friday 5th January 2024 at 11:00 am** at the church of **Our Lady of Lourdes, Harrow Rd**, followed by burial at Kensal Green Cemetery.

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late **Maria Jane Kifu** will take place on **Friday 12th January 2024 at 12:00 noon** at the church of **Our Lady of Lourdes, Harrow Rd**, followed by burial at East Finchley Cemetery.