

Presbytery

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

Parish Priest

Fr. Michael Jarmulowicz
michaeljarmulowicz@rcdow.org.uk

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 87.

Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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

and

OUR LADY OF SORROWS, (PADDINGTON)

DECEMBER - MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

17TH DECEMBER 2023

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — YEAR B

Recognising Jesus In Our Lives



If we were still using the Latin Mass, one of the first words we would have heard this Sunday would have been 'Gaudete' meaning 'Rejoice'. The third Sunday of Advent, otherwise known as 'Gaudete Sunday' is a day upon which we are invited to rejoice. But what if we don't feel as though there is much to rejoice about? Should we pretend? Should we put on a smile and thank God for our blessings with a joy that we don't honestly feel in our hearts?

There's a well know saying that goes "Every cloud has a silver lining." The old adage is telling us to look for good in every circumstance, but in truth it's not always easy to believe in silver linings or know how to find them. Our lives can sometimes feel like a pointless spiral of problems, and finding joy can be elusive.

In the days of John the Baptist, the Jewish people had been praying for a messiah who would come in great power like a regal warrior to restore Israel. They were unable to recognise Jesus as the answer to their problems, because he was just the humble son of a poor carpenter. They didn't recognise him because he wasn't what they were expecting. They were unable to embrace their 'silver lining'.

Today it can be easier to recognise Jesus in our lives when things are going well, but in our suffering Jesus' presence can be harder to recognise. God's agenda is hardly ever our own agenda. The solutions we yearn for and pray for are probably not God's solutions. Today's challenge is to rejoice in God's presence in all of life's circumstances both good and bad. We need to recognise God when he comes to us in ways we do not expect.

Gaudete Sunday

Celebrated on the Third Sunday of Advent, this day takes its common name from the Latin word Gaudete ("Rejoice"), the first word of the Entrance Antiphon of this day's Mass. In churches which have an Advent wreath, the rose coloured candle is lit in addition to two of the violet coloured candles. And if the church has them, the priest wears rose coloured vestments. Despite the otherwise sombre readings of the season of Advent, which has as a secondary theme the need for penitence, the readings on the third Sunday emphasize the joyous anticipation of the Lord's coming.

Mass Intentions for both parishes for week beginning Saturday 16th December 2023

Saturday	6:00 pm	Jim Kinsella (Anniv)	Sunday	9:30 am	People of the Parish
Sunday	11:30 am	Mary Forry (RIP)	Monday	10:00 am	Margaret Mullan (Ints)
Tuesday	10:00 am	Joseph Thornicroft (Sick)	Wednesday	10:00 am	No Mass
Thursday	10:00 am	Fr Sebhat (RIP)	Friday	10:00 am	John & Susie Gillepsie
Saturday (23.12)	10:00 am	Joseph Thornicroft (Sick)	Saturday	6:00 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday (24.12)	9:30 am	Alberto Ligan (Thanksgiving)	Sunday	11:30 am	Gregory Cardosa (T'Giving)

Diocesan News

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. I will be showing the last episode from the famous Robert Barron series "Catholicism". It will be this coming Monday:

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.

Christmas Season Liturgies. Please pick up the leaflet giving all the times of our Christmas Liturgies. Please note that next Sunday (4th Sunday of Advent) is treated as a normal Sunday, (as well as Christmas Eve) and Monday is Christmas Day and a Holy Day of Obligation. So we need to be at Mass both on Sunday and Monday (Morning Mass on Sunday of 4th Sunday of Advent and then the Evening Christmas Mass also fulfils the obligation).

With Fr Dan being here we will be able to have daily Mass during Christmas week at both Harrow Road and Paddington parishes.

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 detailed 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.

Looking Forward to Lent! The year 2025 is a jubilee year (with the title *Pilgrims of Hope*), and to prepare for the 2025 jubilee year, 2024 will be a 'Year of Prayer'. There has been a collaboration between our diocese, Southwark diocese and the Bishops Conference to prepare a 5 week course (**We Dare to Say**) during lent, concentrating on the words of the Our Father (We will be running this course here during Lent). The authors hope it will lead to a deeper understanding of those words which the Lord gave us as the pattern of all prayer, a sure foundation to our praise and petitions. But given that Ash Wednesday is only nine weeks away, they have asked us to order the course books by 8th January so that proper numbers can be printed. So please sign up at the back of the church if you would like a course book—cost per booklet will be £4.

Funeral Notices

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late **Johnson Massicott** will take place on **Thursday 4th January 2024 at 1:00 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 11:00 am** at the church of **Our Lady of Lourdes, Harrow Rd**, followed by burial at East Finchley Cemetery.