

## 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 90.

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

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

and

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS, (PADDINGTON)**

**DECEMBER - MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT — YEAR B**

## Final Answer?



“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you .... Do not be afraid, for you have found favour with God.” Imagine for one moment, that instead of the Angel Gabriel speaking those words to Mary, that they had been spoken directly to you. How would you feel? It would of course be a life changing moment ... a moment filled both with

great excitement and of great uncertainty. In that moment you would know that life would never be the same again. In that moment you would know that God had great plans for you. How must Mary have felt? It must have taken huge courage for her to agree to conceive God's Son. By saying 'yes' to God's plan she was allowing her whole life to be turned upside down. By saying 'yes' she was to turn her back on the security of the normal life she had planned with Joseph, her husband-to-be.

God's call to Mary is what we refer to today as the “Annunciation” which means an announcement or a calling. There are other places in the Bible where we see people called unexpectedly from the normality of their hum-drum lives to serve God. The calling is always a two-way thing. God requires a response. Of course we don't have to respond to God's call if we don't want to. Mary didn't have to say 'yes' to God's plan. She could have declined and lived out her years in trouble free comfort.

God still calls people today, in fact he calls us all—but do we hear his call? Sadly most often not. Sometimes the call is insistent, as many who have been called to religious vocation will testify. But most often the call is less obvious, and yet we are told that God has called each of us, and that for each of us there is a role to play in his wonderful plan of salvation. We are favoured and chosen just as Mary was. The main difference is that Mary responded fully to her unique role, whilst we remain hesitant and half-hearted, plagued by doubts as to our worth.

*(Continued overleaf)*

## Mass Intentions for both parishes for week beginning Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Saturday	6:00 pm	Jim Kinsella (Anniv)	Sunday	9:30 am	Alberto Ligan (Thanksgiving)
Sunday	11:30 am	Gregory Cardosa (T'Giving)	Christmas Eve	9:00 pm	Priest's Intentions
Christmas Day	9:30 am	People of Parish	Christmas Day	11:30 am	People of the Parish
Tuesday	10:00 am	Maria & Ambrosia Fernandes (Anniv)	Wednesday	10:00 am	No Mass
Thursday	10:00 am	Eduardo Etrata (Anniv)	Friday	10:00 am	Jim Howlin (RIP)
Saturday (30.12)	10:00 am	Joseph Thornicroft (Sick)	Saturday	6:00 pm	Joseph Ballister (B'day)
Sunday (31.12)	9:30 am	-	Sunday	11:30 am	Sophie Ellis (B'day)

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Answering God's call isn't a comfortable business. Answering God's call might involve difficult decisions and hardship; but it might also be hugely rewarding, exciting and invigorating. How do we see God's call? Do we see it as a great burden, or as a great gift? Although Mary was young and uneducated, she had the faith to see that what the Angel Gabriel was offering her in calling her for God was a great gift.

The call is to us all. How does God call each of us? What talents skills and characteristics do we each possess that God can use? Advent, even in this last day, is a time in which we can look for the ways in which God is calling us ..... a time in which we can decide on the answer we will give.

### **For Expectant Mothers**

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we are asked to pray for all who are waiting for a birth of a child, may they be given patience and strength. We are asked to pray for all who work in maternity units and with parents, may they always recognise and cherish the gift of life. We also pray for those who are trying for a child that they are given courage and that their hope is rewarded.

**26th December—St. Stephen's Day.** St. Stephen's Day, better known to us as Boxing Day, is traditionally celebrated on December 26th. St Stephen was the first martyr. He was a deacon appointed to distribute food to the poor. His preaching confounded the Jews and they stoned him to death. One of those who looked on and approved of the killing was Saul of Tarsus, who was converted and became the great St Paul! The old custom of giving to the poor is reflected in today's Christmas carol 'Good King Wenceslas' who gave gifts of bread and wine to a poor man on 'the feast of Stephen'. In short Boxing Day is a day of good will to those who are not so well off as we are.

### **28th December—Feast of the Holy Innocents.**

The feast of the Holy Innocents recalls the boys aged under two whom Herod killed in order to try and remove Jesus from the scene. This is very much a feast of our time. On this day we also remember those innocent and defenceless children who still suffer today. We remember those children who suffer neglect, and abuse. We remember those children in poorer countries who suffer from hunger, poverty and poor health. We remember those children who are forced to fight or to work long hours for little or no money in hazardous conditions. We remember the children who are victims of war. On this day we remember that every child has a

right to love, security, and basic needs.

## **Parish News**

**Christmas Season Liturgies.** Unfortunately Fr Michael took a fall down some stairs. Fortunately no broken bones, just soft tissue injuries, but it has left him struggling to walk. Fr Daniel will cover all masses. Christmas Day as per Sunday. Unfortunately we cannot have daily mass in each church for the coming week, and will have our normal schedule of weekday masses.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024.** This 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. More detailed information will be given in the New Year.

**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).

We have been asked us to order the course books by 8<sup>th</sup> 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 **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.

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late **Wilhelmina Angol** will take place on **Friday 19th January 2024 at 11:00 am** at the church of **Our Lady of Lourdes, Harrow Rd**, followed by burial at Kensal Green Cemetery.