

NEWS

Third Sunday of Advent

13 December 2020

TIMES OF MASS IN ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS: Available today from church is a leaflet with full details of the times of Mass for Christmas Day and the period up till 6 January. This information is also posted on the church noticeboards and of course on this website.

VOLUNTEERS!! Returning to public Mass means that we depend again on our wonderful volunteer stewards. Can you help? Please consider volunteering as the more volunteers we have the easier the job is for everybody and the more our churches can be open, especially for the beginning of the Christmas season. See the homepage for details of how to volunteer.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK 2021: Copies of the new Year Book are available from the Repository at St Gabriel's, priced at £4.50. Ask a steward or at the Parish Office.

MISSIO ADVENT REFLECTIONS: Online each Friday of Advent to reflect on the Sunday Gospel, with input from a Mill Hill Missionary. Email redbox@missio.org.uk or call 020 7821 9755 to register.

CRIB OFFERINGS 2020: The Catholic Children's Society writes to us: "Since March CCS has provided emergency food, essentials and mental health services for over five and a half thousand children and parents/carers. Families under lockdown and losing income etc have faced desperate circumstances". Please support the crib appeal all through the Christmas season... and plan a visit to the cribs in church. Because of social distancing needs, our cribs will be situated differently from the usual and fewer people can visit them at any one time.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSE NEWSPAPER: We are stopping our subscription to the Catholic Universe Newspaper at least for the time being, as an expense that cannot be subsidized in present conditions. Anyone who would like to receive the Universe please contact the Parish Office and we will put you in touch directly with them to arrange a subscription.

"JESUS, I ADORE YOU": is a new book of prayers before the Blessed Sacrament for younger children. Available from St Gabriel's office or stewards priced £5.95. A really good teaching resource for parents.

DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2019: has arrived. We keep a copy of the full report in the Parish Office, but at present that means it is unavailable. If you want to study all the figures and information, it is online at www.rcdow.org.uk/about

SCHOOL TRANSFER AND ADMISSION APPLICATIONS: Any family needing to discuss the endorsement of "school forms" will need to arrange to meet with one of the clergy at a covid-secure setting and at an appropriate time. Please send in an email to the parish address with details of your name, address and the child's name also. Primary school applications are now being processed. See information below from particular schools.



HAND MADE ICON FOR SALE: Cristinel Paslaru, who made the icons of the Baptism of Christ in St Gabriel's and of the Holy Trinity in St Bernard's is a professional Icon Writer from Iasi in Romania.

He has made a new icon of St Christopher (25cms x 12cms) which is looking for a home. His price is £150. Cristi's work is beautiful and of the highest quality. All questions or enquiries to Fr James.

LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITY WITH WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICE: A job opportunity has arisen with the Youth Ministry Department. The role is for a Senior Retreat Leader and all the details are included in the link below.

<https://dowym.com/voices/job-opportunity-programmes-senior-retreat-leader/>

HEATING IN CHURCH: This will soon be an issue. At St Gabriel's we can use the heating as normal - but the church must remain ventilated when in use, so the windows will be open. At St Bernard's the heating is in the form of air circulated in the building, and this we cannot use when church is open for reasons of covid security. All we can do is heat the church before Mass. Again, the church must continue to be ventilated when in use. Please come dressed in extra layers as the weather changes!