

# NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

20 December 2020

**TIMES OF MASS IN ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS:** Available 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. **A BIG thank you to our volunteers who because of their generosity have enabled us to open our churches for Mass.**



**“EVERY DAY IS CHRISTMAS DAY”:** See the homepage for details of this simple way to keep the first days of Christmas in a holy and recollected way. For each day there is a scripture reading, reflection with Pope Francis and prayer, together with a suggestion of something to do. This will be a good way to make an excellent new habit - if you need to - of keeping the days of Christmas in a truly festive way. As the “world” is done with the season we as the faithful of God are just beginning!!

**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](mailto: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.

**POPE DECLARES “YEAR OF ST JOSEPH”:** In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph,” beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

This has come without any advance notice...so we will be looking at ways to use this coming year in the months ahead. For now the Holy Father’s prayer to St Joseph is published on the homepage.

**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.

**JOURNEYING WITH THE BIBLE NOW ONLINE:** the series of talks presented by Fr Javier Ruis-Ortiz PhD and Sr Monica Cardona STL will look at the story of Jesus according to Mark, Matthew and Luke on 12th January from 7pm to 8.30pm. Register at [cataadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cataadmin@rcdow.org.uk)

**“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, especially in this time without public celebration of Mass.

**RIGHT TO LIFE UK ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT:** Act now and ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide. The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide.

It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners. Right To Life UK have set up and easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link:  
<https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

**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](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/about)



**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.

**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!