



Diocese of Westminster


Our Lady, Queen of Apostles

Served by the Society of the Divine Vocations - Vocationists

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Parish Priest: Fr Luigi Morrone, SDV

Assistant Priest: Fr Rionelle Hinampas, SDV

Parish Secretary: Bejoy Ignatious (Mon), Gill Satchell (Tue & Thur) **Bookkeeper:** Bejoy Ignatious

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Salette Coutinho and Melanie Keshwala

Parish Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday – 9.30 am – 1.00 pm

17th December 2023 – 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)



This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John. The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfilment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness. Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the

Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine. The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the saviour they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our saviour. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfil the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day. The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/third-sunday-of-advent-cycle-b-sunday-connection/>

"The Penny Catechism" - 6. THE COMMANDMENTS AND PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH

54. Why did God make us? God made us to love and serve Him.

55. How can we love and serve God? We can love and serve God by keeping the Ten Commandments and the precepts of the Church.

56. What are the Ten Commandments? The Ten Commandments are:

1. I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.
2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
3. Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honour thy father and mother.
5. Thou shalt not kill.
6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
7. Thou shalt not steal.
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods.

***** NOTICES *****

NOVEMBER COLLECTION: Throughout the month of November our Sunday collection was £4545.49 of which £932.30 were from gift aid envelopes.

NEWSLETTER: Please note that the next Newsletter to be published will be for Christmas Day.

POLITE NOTICE – If your child becomes noisy and disruptive can you please take them to the room at the back of the church for the duration of the mass. Also, accompany the kneelers when you are using them and do not drop them so to avoid loud noise especially at Consecration time.

LITTERING: We have noticed that some people have a habit of leaving behind used tissues, please dispose of them on your way out or put them in your pocket and dispose of them when home. It is a matter of respect, hygiene and common sense, do not leave your rubbish for other to clean.

SWITCH OFF YOUR PHONE: When you enter the Church, it may be possible that you hear “the call of God”. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. It may be a good exercise to switch it off or at least put it on silent before you enter the Church. If you want to talk to God, find a quiet place, pray and talk to Him.

SUNDAY OBLIGATION: This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday and this means that it is the fourth Sunday of Advent. While the evening Masses are for the celebration of Christmas Eve, we still have the Sunday obligation and to fulfil it we need to attend the Sunday Mass either the morning or the vigil Mass on Saturday 23 December. The Masses on the evening of 24 December are not the Sunday Mass.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Many thanks to all those who attended our Christmas Fair and to all those who have helped setting up and running stalls on the day. The total amount raised is £2,750.25; this will be divided with the Rosary Catholic Primary School.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS: Please refer to the programme for Mass times in the coming weeks.

ALTAR SERVERS: There will be Church Cleaning on Saturday 23 December at 10am, followed by rehearsals for those who will be serving at the Midnight Mass. On Tuesday 26 December we gather at 10am for the Mass of the renewal and enrolment. After the Mass we will gather for a moment of celebration in the Pope John Centre, please bring food or snacks to be shared with everyone!

THANK YOU! Heartfelt thanks to the Goan community who have donated £1000 from the proceeds of the Feast of St Francis Xavier towards a new Sanctuary Carpet. Together with the Finance Committee, we have decided to add to these the funds from the Christmas Fair. We will look at a new carpet in the New Year once the Church is redecorated. In addition, heartfelt thanks to a family within our Parish who sponsored our Christmas Tree this year. May God bless and reward your generosity!

CARITAS ADVENT CALENDAR: Caritas Westminster has prepared a different Advent Calendar that should help us think of those who are less fortunate or may be struggling at this moment. The calendar gives a suggestion for items to be donated to foodbanks for each day leading to Christmas. You can find it at <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/food-security-918.php#AGC> During advent we will have a trolley at the back of the Church for those of you who wish to give any donation.

MASS INTENTIONS: We are now booking mass intentions for 2024 up until June.

FIRE WARDENS: We are looking for fire wardens to help us in case of an evacuation, the role only foresees that you would ensure the Church is evacuated promptly and people know where to assemble. Contact the Parish Office if you would like to offer this service, training will be provided.

PARKING: We are lucky to have a rather large car park, something that not all Churches can afford. When you come to Church, please use the Car Park entrance on Eton Avenue rather than parking outside the Church. Often, there are too many cars with some blocking the fire exit at the front making it difficult to have any activity outside the Church.

PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI: We are looking into the possibility of arranging a Pilgrimage to Assisi, the town of St Francis and St Clare and where Blessed Carlo Acutis is buried, in April after the Easter holidays. The cost should be between £500 and £600, depending on accommodation and the programme we will follow. If you are interested, you can speak to the Parish Office or Gabriel Fernandes. Please note that the pilgrimage is not suitable for those who need assistance to walk, cannot walk long distances, uneven surfaces and steep streets as Assisi is a medieval town and roads can be very steep and not smooth.

VOTIVE CANDLES: Each stand has a lighter with it so please use it to light your candles and not use candles to light other candles, please also **refrain from taking candles around the Church**, especially lit candles as it poses a risk for yourself and others around you.

THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL is seeking new Foundation Governors to serve on our Governing Body. Like all school governors, Foundation Governors work to support the Leadership team and staff but also have a special responsibility to support the Christian ethos of the school. This is an important voluntary role, offering the opportunity to make a positive difference, working with the team to promote the school's success. If you would be interested in receiving more information about the role and an application form, please email Mrs Dulko at admin@rosary.hounslow.sch.uk

WINTERSHALL NATIVITY STORY Experience the Christmas story 14th -18th December Discover the true meaning of Christmas with an unforgettable event for all the family. It's a Nativity like no other, placing you in the middle of an immersive theatre experience. Stand with the shepherds, walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey, journey with Roman soldiers and enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. To book tickets go to: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/nativity-journey-0>

SECRETS OF PAUL (ONLINE WEEKLY) FROM JANUARY 2024: An opportunity to reflect on the life of St. Paul, as a model missionary disciple via a 10-WEEK Zoom course run by Mission Northampton from Wednesday 10th January 2024 to Wednesday 20th March 2024 (7.30-9pm) <https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/secrets-of-paul-online/>

A MESSAGE FROM FR LUIGI: My heartfelt thanks to all those who has a thought for me on the day of my birthday. Many thanks to those who with an email, a card, or in person have wished me a happy birthday. You all have contributed to make the day even more special! May God bless you all!

***** USEFUL PRAYERS *****

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER OF ST ALPHONSUS

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Divine Jesus, Son of the eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant many of the faithful true generosity in following your call and bestow on them the grace of your Holy Spirit to persevere in overcoming all obstacles to their vocations. Give the church in this Diocese and throughout the world many holy priests and fervent religious. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Justin, all the Angels and all Saints, we humbly ask you to hear our prayers and multiply the ministries by which we may serve one another in faith and love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION OF SAINT JUSTIN RUSSOLILLO

O my God and my all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, may your will be done, your love reign, your glory shine always more in me and in everyone as in yourself, O my God and my all.

INVOCATION OF OUR LADY – THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you, I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me.

PRAYER FOR ASKING FAVOURS THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF ST JUSTIN RUSSOLILLO

O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for the wellbeing of the Church you endowed with extraordinary gifts Saint Justin Maria Russolillo, and you made him a pious and zealous Priest, an apostle of "Divine Vocations" and a fervent promoter of your Glory, Love and Will for the Universal Sanctification and for the "Divine Union" of all souls, grant us the grace of experiencing the power of his intercession while imitating his devotion, humility, patience, zeal and kindness. May the Grace (...) that you will grant us through his intercession, be of spiritual advantage to us, for your own glory and for the growth of Your Kingdom on earth. (*Three "Glory Be" in honour of the Holy Trinity*)

OUR LADY QUEEN OF APOSTLES

Christmas Programme 2023

THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER

7 PM - Reconciliation Service

FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER

6 PM - Carol Service and Nativity (led by the FHC Children)

SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER

10 AM - Church Cleaning

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER - 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat. 7 PM (Vigil), 8 AM, 9.30 AM & 11.30 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE - 24 DECEMBER

6 PM Children Mass, 8.30 PM, 11.30 PM Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY - 25 DECEMBER

8.30 AM, 10.30 AM & 12.30 PM

26 DECEMBER - ST STEPHEN

10 AM - Mass with Altar Servers' Enrolment and Renewal

31 DECEMBER - THE HOLY FAMILY

Sat. 7 PM (Vigil), 8 AM, 9.30 AM, 11.30 AM & 5.30 PM

1 JANUARY 2024 - MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

9.30 AM, 11.30 AM & 7 PM

6 JANUARY - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sat. 7 PM (Vigil), 8 AM, 9.30 AM, 11.30 AM & 5.30 PM

8 JANUARY - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9.30 AM (School Mass - New Year), 7 PM



*We wish you a Merry Christmas and a
Blessed New Year!*

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles
&
The Rosary Catholic Primary School**

Christmas Fair

**Many thanks to our
Sponsors:**

**Farm Pizza
Be Gripped - London
Hounslow Urban Farm
School Bells Uniform
Snakes and Ladders
The Plough**

Christmas Fair

Raffle	£896.90
Tombola	£625.80
Children Tombola	£135
100 Squares	£150
Face Painting / Tattoos	£95
Bottle Stall	£167.20
Santa's Grotto	£80.10
Chocolate Stall	£97.70
Cake Stall	£80
Bric-a-brac	£150.20
Guess the Name of the Teddy	£14.12
Decorate a Biscuit	£13.50
Buy a Bee	£14
Lucky Dip	£85.55
Food	£420.50
Mulled Wine	£57.90
Children Bric-a-brac	£89.50
Drop the Penny	£29.55
Christmas Stall	£103.20

TOTAL £3,312.72

EXPENSES £562.47

TOTAL RAISED £2,750.25



DECEMBER 2023	TIME	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 16th	7 pm Vigil Mass	James & Delia Lawless
Sunday 17th 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY	8 am Mass 9:30 am Family Mass 11:30 am Mass 5:30 pm Mass	Felicio Eleuterio Mendes – RIP Soul of Lelis Fernandes German Fernandes Raul Costabis - RIP
Monday 18th <i>Christmas Novena day 3</i>	9 am 9:30 am Mass NO 7 PM MASS	Prayer of the Rosary Matthew Joseph – RIP (16 th Anniversary)
Tuesday 19th <i>Christmas Novena day 4</i>	9 am 9:30 am Mass NO 7 PM MASS	Prayer of the Rosary -
Wednesday 20th <i>Christmas Novena day 5</i>	9 am 9:30 am Mass NO 7 PM MASS	Prayer of the Rosary Isabella Menezes
Thursday 21st <i>Christmas Novena day 6</i>	9 am 9:30 am Mass 7 PM	Prayer of the Rosary Members of the Moore & Marron Family Reconciliation Service
Friday 22nd <i>Christmas Novena day 7</i>	9 am 9:30 am Mass 6 PM	Prayer of the Rosary Souls of Alice, James & Marian Banaghan Carol Service led by FHC Children
Saturday 23rd <i>Christmas Novena day 8</i>	9:30 am Mass 10-10:45 am 7 pm Vigil Mass	- Adoration & Confessions -
Sunday 24th 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8 am Mass 9:30 am Family Mass 11:30 am Mass	Kevin Kelly – RIP Nicholas Figueiredo Blaso & Milla Goves – Wedding Anniversary
CHRISTMAS EVE	6:00 pm (Children's Mass) 8:30 pm Vigil Mass 11:30 pm (Midnight Mass)	Deceased Members of the McDermott & Lynch Family - People of Heston
* The Mass is celebrated in the Martyrs' Chapel; please use the entrance from the Car Park. Doors open 30 minutes before Mass.		

Let us pray for the sick people of our Parish

Catherine Jennings, Peter Wade, Ann Duckmanton, and Grace Gauci.

Let us pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time

William Hughes, Ronald Ignatius Rose, Harold Vincent, Dorothy Willmott, Ethel Maude Lavington

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them;

may they rest in peace. Amen.

DATES OF UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE REFER TO THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME FOR THE TIMES OF UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS

CHURCH DONATIONS AND COLLECTION

Have you considered giving your donation to the Parish via bank transfer (single donations) or via Standing Order? If you wish to do so, you can use the following details:

Account Name: WRCDT Heston Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account Number: 11094912

Please add your Surname and First Name as a reference, to help our bookkeeper.

If you wish to Gift-Aid your donation, forms are available at the back of the Church or on the website. Gift-aid is available to all UK taxpayer and comes at no extra cost to you.