



Diocese of Westminster

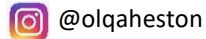
Our Lady, Queen of Apostles

Served by the Society of the Divine Vocations - Vocationists

15 The Green, Heston, Hounslow TW5 0RL

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www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/heston



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

3rd December 2023 – 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE ADVENT WREATH TRADITION & MEANING

by Gretchen Filz



For many Christians, Advent wreaths are a favourite way to celebrate the month of December leading up to Christmas Day. Although Advent Wreaths are very popular, many are not aware of the rich meaning and symbolism embedded in this tradition. If we learn this meaning, we can appreciate it all the more!

DARKNESS AND LIGHT

Advent candles readily demonstrate the strong contrast between darkness and light, which is an important biblical image. Jesus referred to himself as the "Light of the World" that dispels the darkness of sin: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Human history spanned long ages shrouded in the darkness of sin before our prophesied Saviour would finally make his appearance to free us from its dominion. As the Messiah's "Advent" (or "coming") draws nearer another candle is lit, with each candle dispelling the darkness a little more. Thus, the Advent wreath helps us to spiritually contemplate the great drama of salvation history that surrounds the birth of God Incarnate, who comes to redeem the human race and make all things new (Rev. 21:5). It also reminds us that, as Christians, we're meant to shine the light of Christ in this world. As Jesus tells us, "*You are the light of the world ... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven*" (Matthew 5:14-16).

SHAPE, NUMBER, AND COLOUR

SHAPE: The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's complete and unending love for us—a love that sent his Son into the world to redeem us from the curse of sin. It also represents eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

NUMBER: The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. Each candle represents 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world's Saviour—from Adam and Eve to Jesus, whose birth was foretold in the Old Testament. Some Advent wreath traditions also include a fifth white "Christ" candle, symbolizing purity, that is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day. Many circular wreaths can incorporate a white candle by adding a pillar candle to the wreath centre.

COLOUR: Violet is a liturgical colour that is used to signify a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice and is used during Advent and Lent. Advent, also called "little Lent," is the season where we spiritually wait in our "darkness" with hopeful expectation for our promised redemption, just as the whole world did before Christ's birth, and just as the whole world does now as we eagerly await his promised return.

<https://www.catholiccompany.com/magazine/the-advent-wreath-tradition-meaning-5924>

"The Penny Catechism" - Part 5. THE SACRAMENTS

47. What does Baptism do for us? Baptism takes away Original Sin and makes us children of God.

48. What does Confirmation do for us? Confirmation makes us soldiers of Christ.

49. What does Penance do for us? Penance takes away sins committed after Baptism.

50. What does Holy Eucharist do for us? Holy Eucharist brings our Lord into our heart.

***** NOTICES *****

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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: For the next three Sundays, until 17 December, we will have a second collection towards the Christmas Flowers.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: On Friday, we are celebrating the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Masses are: Vigil 7/12 at 7pm, and on the day 9.30 am and 7 pm. If you are planning to attend the morning Mass at 9.30 am please note that we will also have the school with us.

MASS TIME CHANGE: On Saturday the morning Mass will be celebrated at 9 am and on that day there will be no Adoration and Confession as we will be preparing for the Christmas Fayre.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: We are holding our Christmas Fair on Saturday 9 December 12noon to 3 pm, and like past years, this is a joint effort with The Rosary Catholic Primary School. We are looking for donations of bottles for our Tombola and our Bottle Stall, as well as Toiletries Sets and any other donation. Please do not bring clothes, books, DVD or electrics without a PAT test or that are not brand new and sealed.

CHRISTMAS DRAW: Tickets are now on sale for the Christmas Fair Raffle, £1 per ticket or £5 for the book, if you are taking books home, please make sure you return stubs and money to the Parish Office by 5 December. When writing your name and contact please ensure that it is written clearly.

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.

AVAILABILITY FORM: Please note that Availability Forms for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers are due on Saturday 10 December. Make sure you hand in yours by then!

FIRE WARDENS: As part of our H&S requirements, we need to have Fire Wardens to help in case of evacuation. We need some people to help at any of the Masses. If you are willing to help please contact the Parish Office. Training will be offered to those who will be helping.

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/>

*****SACRAMENTS*****

BAPTISMS: Please use the form on the Parish Website to enquire about the Baptism for your child. We celebrate Baptisms on a Saturday only; we ask that you give us minimum 6 weeks' notice.

MARRIAGE: If you are planning to marry, we can only start the paperwork needed by the diocese 6 months prior your wedding day. Whether you are marrying in the UK or abroad we need minimum 6 months' notice, especially if we need to arrange a marriage course. Please do not leave it to the last minute!

***** 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*)

DECEMBER 2023	TIME	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 2 nd	7 pm Vigil Mass	Souls in Purgatory Mendes & Barretto Family
Sunday 3 rd 1 ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8 am Mass 9:30 am Family Mass 11:30 am Mass 5:30 pm Mass	Veronique Bigela John Benjamin & Sita Mary Mendes – RIP Hope Meranchi Galappathi – 1 st Birthday
Monday 4 th	9 am 9:30 am Mass 12noon 7 pm Mass*	Prayer of the Rosary Louis, Mary & Felix – RIP Requiem Mass for the late Cuthbert Calliste Antony Fernandes - RIP
Tuesday 5 th	9 am 9:30 am Mass 7 pm Mass*	Prayer of the Rosary Avelino Colaco & Providencia Colaco Dias – RIP Joaquim Dias & Ditosa Santa Luisa Rebello - RIP
Wednesday 6 th	9 am 9:30 am Mass 7 pm Mass (Novena)	Prayer of the Rosary Thanksgiving, 15 th Wedding Anniversary Inacio Piedade Vas & Rita Maria Fernandes - RIP
Thursday 7 th	9 am 9:30 am Mass 7 pm Vigil Mass	Prayer of the Rosary Leanne Connie Fernandes – RIP Castino D'Souza
Friday 8 th THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9 am 9:30 am Mass 7 pm Mass	Prayer of the Rosary Caroline Carver Thanksgiving
Saturday 9 th	9 am Mass 7 pm Vigil Mass	Thanksgiving for St Anthony Erral Fernandes - RIP
Sunday 10 th 2 ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8 am Mass 9:30 am Family Mass 11:30 am Mass 5:30 pm Mass	Nahshon D'Souza – Birthday Soul of Maryann Furtado Joseph Rozario – RIP Singlin Rodrigues
* 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

Hannah Mary Cole, Tony Brennan, Paul James Doyle

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them;
may they rest in peace. Amen.*

DATES OF UPCOMING EVENTS

3 DECEMBER: TOY COLLECTION

8 DECEMBER: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

8 DECEMBER: Christmas Fayre Set-up (Pope John Centre/Downstairs Hall) from 4 pm

9 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS FAYRE

10 DECEMBER: Confirmation Class after 9.30 am Mass

16 DECEMBER: FHC Carol Service Rehearsals

21 DECEMBER: Advent Reconciliation Service 7pm

22 DECEMBER: Carol Service and Nativity 6pm

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.