

SS MICHAEL AND MARTIN



Roman Catholic Parish of Hounslow
Archdiocese of Westminster

This Parish is served by the Spiritans

NEWSLETTER

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+ 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C) &
NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

23rd December 2018

CHRISTMAS IS AT HAND

This is the time of the year when families, friends and neighbours gather together to mark the birth of the child Jesus in a special way. The question could be asked, what is the reason for celebrating Christmas? A very simple answer to this question is that Christ is the reason for Christmas. As simple as this statement may appear, yet, it is embedded with profound theological and moral implications. In this regard, we tend to understand the meaning of Christmas from the standpoint of love. The greatest gift of God to the world is Jesus Christ. Through the Incarnation, God has demonstrated His profound love for humanity. The human family is invited to share in this love which generates hope and joy.

The birth of Christ announced great rejoicing and peace to the world. Jesus came into our world and became the difference maker. The unfathomable difference which Christ made in the world was revealed through His acts of kindness, mercy, compassion, love, forgiveness and charity. While we celebrate Christmas, we are encouraged to always keep alive its true meaning. Christmas challenges us as the human family to bring hope to the hopeless, to feed the hungry and care for the needy and to proclaim the joy of Christ to the world.

Christmas speaks so eloquently about our humanity more than the fanfare that is associated with it. As we celebrate this Christmas, let us remember to add value to the lives of the poor and the less privileged of our society. Let us become the light in the midst of darkness. Let us commit to making a positive impact on the lives of other people. Our humanity is advanced when we strive to make our world a better place by promoting justice, equality, true freedom, peace, unity, respect for one another, forgiveness and righteousness. This is the responsibility that Christmas imposes on us. This is the responsibility that we should discharge conscientiously and joyfully. In addition, Christmas encourages us to continually offer our thanksgiving to God and to demonstrate our gratitude to our families, friends and neighbours for all they have been to us.

In the spirit of Christmas, we wish to thank the family of SS Michael and Martin Church for being so wonderful, dynamic and generous with your time and resources. We are particularly grateful to the Parish Team, Ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar Servers, Lectors, Cleaners, Decorators, Counters, Parish Council, Finance Committee, Choral Groups, Catechists, St Vincent De Paul Team, those who contributed to the Jacobs's Angels, the Christmas food hampers and everyone who is dedicated to making our parish a wonderful, vibrant and humane faith community. You are uniquely appreciated for being an enviable mission family that is united in purpose and commitment towards advancing the message of hope, love and joy. This is the essence of Christmas.

Best wishes for a joyful, peaceful, memorable Christmas celebration and a truly remarkable New Year – 2019. God bless all of you!

Fr Austin.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

From Monday 24th December 2018 to Wednesday 2nd January 2019

All enquires to the Priests

CHRISTMAS –

Christmas Eve Mass for Children at 6pm (Vigil Mass). There will be Christmas Carols at 11.15pm followed by 12pm Midnight Mass. Christmas Day Masses are at 9am, 10.30am and 12noon. Church will remain open. There is no 6pm Mass

DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD –

Morning Mass will be at 10am each morning. The church will open ONE-HOUR BEFORE MASS and will be CLOSED IMMEDIATELY AFTER MORNING MASS. All enquiries to the Priests.

A FAMILY BLESSING ON THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY: All families and especially those who have had a child baptised during this year are warmly welcomed. This will take place on Sunday, 30th December, at 3pm in the Church followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre.

DAY OF PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The usual morning Mass on Monday 31st December at 9am will be followed by a Day of Prayer ending with Benediction at 6.30pm.

NEW YEAR

New Year's Eve Mass on Monday 31st December at 8pm. Tuesday 1st January Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Masses at 9am & 11am. The Feast of Mary, Mother of God rings out clearly as the eight-day echo of Christmas, recalling as it does that God chose the young virgin of Nazareth to make the dwelling of his only Son.



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST – Jan to Mar 2019 ROTA: A copy of the rota is available for collection in the sacristy & parish website.

Throughout 2018 we have demonstrated that we are the family of God through our LOVE for our neighbour and those in need. Here are some examples of what we have achieved:

Jan	Catholic Children Society	£1,851.98
Feb	Sisters Mission Committee	£1,142.12
Feb	CAFOD Lenten Fast Day	£2,887.02
Mar	Friends of the Holy Land	£6,736.25
Mar	Lenten Alms	£1,334.00
Apr	Holy Places	£4,417.29
May	Priest Training Fund	£1,371.91
May	Mary's Meals	£2,062.14
Oct	Church in Need (ACN) Appeal	£2,615.60
Oct	CAFOD Harvest Fast Day	£3,937.18
Nov	MISSIO - APF – Mill Hill	£1,025.73
Nov	Sick & Retired Priests	£2,005.37

CRIB OFFERING 2018

This Christmas our Crib Offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society to support their work with disadvantaged children and families. This will help provide mental health services, family support and emergency grants for vulnerable children in our Diocese.

Justice & Peace Christmas Cards for Prisoners of Conscience: 185 cards have been sent to give heart to Christians in prison or persecuted for their beliefs. Thank you to everyone who has shown their support to them and their families who are truly encouraged to know that someone remembers them with messages of hope and prayers.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION –Thank you for your contributions, we have raised £594.56.

