

SS MICHAEL AND MARTIN



Roman Catholic Parish of Hounslow
Archdiocese of Westminster

This Parish is served by the Spiritans

NEWSLETTER

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1st Sunday of Advent

29th November 2020

ADVENT REFLECTION

Today, being the first Sunday of Advent, the Roman Catholic Church enters a new season and a new liturgical year, Year B. Etymologically, Advent comes from the Latin word “adventus” which means “coming” or “arrival” translating the Greek word “parousia”. It is a special season set apart to prepare us for the worthy celebration of our Lord’s nativity. Advent like every period of preparation, has low joyful mood. This explains why during Advent season, the liturgical colour is violet, and the Gloria is omitted. This does not however remove the joy that comes from every Eucharistic celebration. The preparation of the season is more spiritual than physical. We prepare through repentance, penance and reconciliation with God and human beings. The season of Advent prepares us for the two important dimensions of our Christian life – “the here and now” and “the hereafter”. On the one hand, the “here and now” dimension is the nativity of Jesus - God dwelling among humankind. Although we are not worthy to have him as our guest, we can be less unworthy through our sincere little effort of good preparation. Remember the story in Matthew 22: 1-14, of a rich man who called a feast... The man that did not come with wedding garment neglected the little effort of preparation that could have saved him the embracement and torture. On the other hand, the eschatological dimension prepares us for the “hereafter”; as we wait in joyful hope for the second coming of our lord Jesus in glory, cf. John 14:2. This will make us ready to welcome him on his return. Advent is a time of grace, which enables us to avail ourselves of the spiritual transformative opportunity that God offers us through his Church during this sacred season. But remember, like every opportunity, this free offer of God can be lost. It is therefore pertinent to put our hands on the plough without looking back cf. Luke 9: 62, so to make the best use of this opportunity. It may be for some people, their last opportunity - it could be anyone. Happy Advent Season. **Fr Damian**

SUNDAY MASSES

Sat Vigil -
6.15pm

Sunday - 10am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday to
Friday -
6pm

PARISH OFFICE TIMES:

Monday –
Thursday
10am – 12noon

**NO
CONFESSIONS
DURING
LOCKDOWN**

PARISH OFFICE: MONDAY – THURSDAY, 10am – 12noon.

Parish Priest: Fr Augustine (Austin) Nwosu, CSSp.
augustinenwosu@rcdow.org.uk (Day off: Mon)

Assistant Priest: Fr Gerald Bonaventure Peter, CSSp.
bonaventuregerald@rcdow.org.uk (Day off: Wed)

Assistant Priest & Chaplain at Heathrow Airport:
Fr Daniel Adayi, CSSp.

danieladayi@rcdow.org.uk (Day off: Thu)

Supporting Priest: Fr Damian Moneke, CSSp.

PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL THE PRIEST DIRECTLY FOR
APPOINTMENT

Parish Administrator: Priya Joseph
priyajoseph@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Administrator: Ryagina Khortiyeva
ryaginakhortiyeva@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Catechist: Lionel Pereira
hounslowcat@rcdow.org.uk

Youth Worker: Ivan Čižmárik
ivancizmarik@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Centre Manager: Señorita Evans
07948 834 867
senoritaevans@rcdow.org.uk

(BOOKINGS TAKEN BY PHONE MON, THURS, FRI 7.00-8.30AM, AND
TUES/WED 4.00-5.00PM, OR BY EMAIL)

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Mary Pierre-Harvey
hounslowsg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk (Case Report)

PARISH NOTICES

RESUMPTION OF COMMUNAL WORSHIP

We will resume communal worship in our Church on Thursday 3rd December with the morning Mass at 9.00am. The advertised maximum capacity of our Church, given the **1m plus social distancing rule** is still **220**. In addition, Baptism and Wedding ceremonies will resume on Friday 4th December. Only **six (6)** people are allowed for Baptism ceremonies; whereas **fifteen (15)** people are allowed during Wedding celebrations in the Church.

ADDITIONAL SIGNING OF CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE (CCP)

Please contact **Fr Bonaventure Gerald Peter, CSSp.** through email for additional signing of the Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP). [Fr Austin is no longer available for the signing of CCP now due to other serious pastoral commitments.](#)

ANNUAL HOUNSLOW DEANERY BLESSING OF GRAVES

– Sadly, the Hounslow Deanery Annual Blessing of Graves will not take this year due to the ongoing pandemic. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in perfect peace. Amen.

COLLECTION OF PLANNED GIVING BOXES

– If you want to collect your Planned Giving Box, during Office hours, from Monday to Thursday, 10am to 12noon, please contact the Parish Office, and speak to either the Parish Administrator, Priya Joseph, or the Assistant Administrator, Ryagina Khortiyeva. They will assist you in collecting your Planned Giving Box. If it is only convenient for you to collect your Planned Giving Box during the weekend, then, contact any of the Priests, and arrange a suitable time for its collection.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASSES IN OUR PARISH

– This is to inform everyone that the daily live streaming of Masses in our parish is as follows: Monday to Friday at **6pm**; Saturday at **6.15pm** and Sunday at **10.00am**. The link to the live-streaming of these celebrations is <https://tinyurl.com/ssmmlive>

ONLINE OFFERING/DONATION TO THE CHURCH

With the vast majority of our parishioners, currently participating from their respective homes, during the celebration of Sunday Masses, it has become critically important for us to adopt **online offering and/or**

donation to the church, especially through **Standing Order**. A new Standing Order Form, which the Diocese sent to us recently, has been uploaded to the parish website. Online offering/donation to the church will help our parish to continue to fulfil its financial obligations, including the ongoing maintenance of the Church, Presbytery, Parish Centre, and Parish Office.

REGULAR NOTICES

NEW PARISHIONER OR FAMILY? ANY CHANGES TO THE EXISTING RECORD? -

Please fill in the Parish Registration Form (GREEN COLOUR) available [in the Church porch](#) & drop the completed form into the Mail Box (Red) in front of the Church.

SIGNING THE CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE (CCP) FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Archdiocese requires that families attend regularly (that is weekly) for at least **TWO years** before a Priest is able to sign your form.

Attendance Card - temporarily suspended as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

If you are new to the Parish, you will need **a letter** from your previous Parish Priest in order to obtain a signed Certificate of Catholic Practice from any of the Parish Clergy. Parents, YOU are responsible for the FULL education of your child. **Parents looking for Admission**, please visit the **Local Council & Schools or their websites**. Once your school application is ready, then sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) with the Priest and submit your applications to Council & Schools.

The Certificates of Catholic Practice are signed:

(A). *For Secondary Transfer - Year 7 (in Sept -Oct), Reception (in Dec - Jan) & Nursery (in Mar- Apr)*, please keep reading the Newsletter near the time for Online appointment(s) with the Priest & visit the Parish Website for more information.

(B). *For School years (Yr1 to Yr6) or other School years (Yr8 onwards) or you have missed the online appointments*, please make an appointment directly with the Priest.

PLANNED GIVING: 2020-2021. Those who would like to have a box of envelopes please fill in the Planned Giving registration (White colour). If you prefer a Standing Order, please complete a yellow colour form.

If you are a UK Tax payer, the parish will receive 25p more for every £1 you give. So please sign the Gift Aid Declaration Form.

EVERY FAMILY SHOULD HAVE A WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION BOX – so, please sign up. For those who have recently signed up, the box of envelopes will be issued shortly. If you would like to cancel your box due to a change of circumstances or have any other query related to Planned Giving, please contact the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE PAPERWORK—A GENTLE REMINDER — you need to give **6 MONTHS NOTICE of MARRIAGE** — whether it is taking place HERE or ABROAD. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE IT TO THE LAST MINUTE. Couples or individuals should speak to a Priest VERY EARLY IN THE PROCESS — so that there is no last minute rush. Marriage Preparation Courses are NOT offered EVERY MONTH.

MARRIAGE PAPERWORK PREPARATION (OVERSEAS) The following are some NEW DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS with regard to overseas marriage paperwork.

A couple is required to obtain the written consent of the Parish Priest in the country where the wedding will take place. The Parish Priest will indicate in his email, the confirmation of the wedding date, and his willingness to accept scanned Baptism and Confirmation Certificates, which may be more than SIX MONTHS from their dates of issue, if obtaining updated certificates is not possible. A couple is required to obtain the written consent of the Diocesan Chancery where the parish is located, through email, indicating that the Chancery will accept approved scanned marriage paperwork which will be sent to them from Westminster Diocesan Chancery. In addition, the designated Chancery will indicate that they will accept Baptism and Confirmation Certificates which may be more than SIX MONTHS from their dates of issue, if obtaining updated documents is not possible.

A couple is required to forward the above mentioned emails to any of the Parish Clergy after receiving them. Marriage paperwork process (overseas) can **ONLY** commence when the above conditions are fulfilled.

Please make an appointment directly with the Priest. Contact details available overleaf

CATECHETICAL PROGRAMMES

WHERE TO FIND THE LATESTS UPDATES ON SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES: The **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION** section of the parish website is always

updated first. Parishioners are advised to first check there for the latest updates before sending an email or calling on the phone. The next place to check is the Parish Newsletter. If the information you seek is not found on either of these, kindly send an email to the Parish Catechist. Phone calls are the least effective mode of communication due to availability.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS 2020/2021 - Online registrations for the 2020/2021 programs of Walk with Me, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and RCIA, has been uploaded to their respective pages on the parish website on Monday 9th November. Parents are requested to register their children as early as possible because the number of places available are limited. For further information, please email the Parish Catechist, Lionel Pereira. His email address is available on the front page of the parish newsletter.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM — We will resume the celebration of Baptism in the Church on **Friday 4th December at 1.00pm**. Only **six (6)** people are allowed in the Church during Baptism celebration.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE — As we are unable to conduct Baptisms due to the lockdown and as we already have many registrations, we will suspend new registrations until further notice. Families that have already registered will be contacted by the Parish Catechist with new dates for the course when we are able to resume. Registrations will reopen once we are able to proceed with Baptisms.

WALK WITH ME: SPRING 2020 batches — Children that began the Walk with Me programme in Feb/Mar 2020 will continue the sessions online. The Parish Catechist will contact the parents directly with dates and times, and further instructions.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY — The 'Children's Liturgy' in our Parish remains suspended until further notice. Parents may register for the free online children's liturgy run by CAFOD every Sunday at 10am. Links for these sessions have been posted on our Parish website on the Children's Liturgy page. You will also find links to our Dioceses' resources for children's liturgy to use at your own pace. During the lockdown, all parishioners are encouraged to attend the online Masses of our Parish online at home, so that they may be spiritually nourished, remain connected to our Parish community and receive timely updates. Search for the **SSMMLIVE** channel on YouTube.

TEXTS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8 – O that you would tear the heavens open and come down

Psalm Response: *Lord of hosts, bring us back, let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

Corinthians 1:3-9 – We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed

Mark 13:33-37 – If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep.

NEXT SUNDAY'S MASS

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11 - The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it

Psalm Response: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

Peter 3:8-14 – We are waiting for the new heavens and the new earth

Mark 1:1-8 – A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

21st/22nd Nov 2020

Envelopes: £618.00

Loose: £61.17

TOTAL: £679.17

IN YOUR KINDNESS PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK: Calistus

RIP: Bernadette Nwosu, Joaquim Agostinho, Jeff Nicholson, Veronica Roache, Florence Tsang, Stan Tucker, Elizabeth Gallego, Cynara Stephanie Ferrao, David Payne, Stefania Wolanska, Jack Nicholl, Nick Cheand, Lorna Newman, Pedro Simbe, Esther Pereira, Veronica Lapworth, Harry Duddy.

ADVENT RETREAT

There will be a Parish Advent Retreat on Sunday 13th December 2020. It will start at 4.15pm in the Church and conclude with a Benediction at 5.30pm. The Advent Parish Retreat will also be streamed live for the benefit of parishioners who cannot come to the Church on that day.

JACOB'S ANGELS PROJECT

Sadly, due to the ongoing pandemic, the Jacob's Angels Project has been suspended this year. Hopefully, we will continue with this noble parish charitable work next year.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

The Parish Annual Christmas Hampers, meant for feeding of the poor and less privileged members of the parish will be launched sometime in December. We are encouraged to be more generous with our food donation this year because many parishioners have lost their jobs. We shall not abandon them in their greatest moments of need.

FUNERAL CELEBRATIONS

The maximum number of people allowed in the Church for **FUNERAL celebration is Thirty (30)**.

SS MICHAEL & MARTIN CHURCH FOOD BANK

Our Parish St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Conference along with Anne Shine Charity UK would be launching the Community Food Bank in our Church.

Location: Church Car Park

Date: From Sat 28th Nov (and thereafter every Saturday)

Time: Strictly 10am to 12pm only

All safety guidelines would be adhered to.

Please contact the number below for any questions:

SVP Contact: Either contact Vincent or call 075 515 58951 (For food donation and also for all volunteering opportunities)

Anne Shine Charity: 07883609590

Kindly note that all volunteers would have to be approved by the SVP, be above 16 years and sign the mandatory SVP Voluntary Consent Forms. No one is permitted to assist without fulfilling the above requirements and the use of PPE.