

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 A) &
NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

20th December 2020

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

This year, 2020, is ending on a note that we did not anticipate when it began; the coronavirus pandemic has radically changed our normal way of doing things. Many people were infected and many lives were lost. As governments and nations of the world strive to control the coronavirus pandemic, uncertainty, anxiety and fear have reached unprecedented level across the world. Many people have lost their means of livelihood too. As a result, it is becoming increasingly difficult for them to provide the essential needs of their families and despair is on the increase. But all hope is not lost! There is hope for a brighter future. Christmas offers us hope despite the challenges and difficulties that confront us.

Christmas is that time of the year when families, friends and neighbours gather together to celebrate the birth of the child Jesus in a remarkable manner. The birth of Christ brought joy to the world; His coming heralded a new order of peace, love, mercy, and unity. Christmas challenges us as Christians to offer hope to the hopeless, to feed the hungry, support the needy, and to be instruments of joy to the world.

Christmas invites us to celebrate our humanity and togetherness more than the fanfare which is associated with it. The celebration of Christmas this year will be different due to the ongoing pandemic. Nonetheless, as we celebrate the feast of Christmas, let us remember to touch the lives of the less privileged in a positive way. It is incumbent on us to be the light in the midst of darkness. Our humanity shines out when we commit to making our world a better place by promoting justice, equality, true freedom, peace, unity, and respect for one another. This is the responsibility that Christmas imposes on us. We are encouraged to accept this call to service with thankfulness to God who sent His Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ to the world for our salvation. Christmas also reminds us to be thankful for our family, friends, colleagues, well-wishers, and others who inspire us to strive to greater heights in all spheres of human endeavour.

In the spirit of Christmas, we thank the parish family of St Michael and St Martin Church Hounslow for being so wonderful, dynamic and generous with your time and resources. We are particularly grateful to the Parish Team, Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council, Live Streaming Team, Parish Catechist and the team of Volunteer Catechists, Stewards/Ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Sacristans, Lectors/Readers, the Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM), Altar Servers, Projector Slides Team, Cleaners, Decorators, Counters, Repository Manager, Choral Groups, St Vincent De Paul Team, those who contributed to the Food Bank and Christmas Food Hampers project, and everyone who is dedicated to making our parish an amazing, dynamic and humane faith community. Thank you so much for your numerous contributions to the growth and development of our parish community. We are profoundly grateful to you for helping to advance the message of hope, love, joy and peace to the world. This is the essential meaning of Christmas.

We wish you a joyful, peaceful, grace-filled Christmas celebration, and a truly memorable New Year – 2021. God bless all of you!

Fr Austin Nwosu, CSSp.
Parish Priest



PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED

From Thursday 24th December 2020 to Monday 4th January 2021

All enquires to the Priests

FR AUSTIN'S HOLIDAY

Fr Austin Nwosu, CSSp. will be away on holiday from 4th to 31st January 2021. He will **NOT HAVE ACCESS TO HIS EMAILS** during this period. Please contact any of the Assistant Priests, **Fr Bonaventure, Fr Daniel and Fr Damian** for any pastoral matter during this period when Fr Austin will be on holiday.

FR DANIEL'S SEND FORTH

The parish will organise a befitting send forth ceremony for Fr Daniel Adayi, CSSp. sometime in January 2021. Fr Daniel's transfer will become effective on 1st February 2021. The Government's Guidelines in January 2021 will determine the nature of Fr Daniel's send forth.

MARRIAGE PAPERWORK PREPARATION

Please read the section on Marriage Paperwork Preparation in the parish newsletter before contacting any of the Priests for your marriage paperwork process. The Marriage Paperwork preparation for this year has ended on Thursday 17th December 2020. We shall resume the Marriage Paperwork preparation from 11th January 2021.

PARISH SERVICE CARDS

The Parish Service Cards with dates/times for **CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS AND MASSES** are available at the back of the Church. Please take one Service Card home and also give it to your family and friends. It is important for every family to have at least a copy of the Parish Service Card to avoid any form of confusion or doubt with regard to our Christmas and New Year activities.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Masses are at 6pm for children, (Vigil Mass), 9pm and 12pm Midnight Mass. Christmas Day Masses are at 7:30am, 9am,

10.30am and 12noon. Church will close after the 12noon Mass. There is no 6pm Mass.

DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Morning Mass will be at 10am each morning. The church will open 30 MINUTES 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, 27th December, at 3pm in the Church.

DAY OF PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The usual morning Mass on Thursday 31st December at 10am will be followed by a Day of Prayer ending with Benediction at 5pm.

CRIB OFFERING 2020

This Christmas our Crib Offering would 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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION

The collection will be done at all the Masses today.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION - 12/13 DECEMBER

Envelopes	£1,700.80
Loose	£834.35
TOTAL	£2,535.15

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR ROTA FOR READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHRIST

Please sign up for any Mass that you would like to attend. The Rota is in the porch area of the Church.