



# SS MICHAEL AND MARTIN

Roman Catholic Parish of Hounslow  
Archdiocese of Westminster

*This Parish is served by the Spiritans*

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

## 03rd December 2023

### The Church at Advent: Excited by an Anticipated Joy

The Advent season is a season of expectation. Expectation comes with joy - the joy of hope. This joy is borne out of faith in the word of God about the coming Messiah. Aside the primary meaning of the Emmanuel prophecy (Isaiah 7:14), its fuller sense alludes to the birth of Jesus – the expected Messiah. Jesus is indeed our Emmanuel, he is the living sign that God will never abandon us. In the same vein, the prophecy of a glorious future (Isaiah 9:1-7) which will become possible because “a child is borne to us” finds its ultimate interpretation in the incarnation.

At Advent the Church expresses her longing and yearning for the fulfilment of God’s promise. Now, this promise has already been fulfilled at the incarnation. Hence, this period is a period of preparation, a two-fold preparation. On the one hand, it is a preparation for the second coming of Christ (parousia). On the other hand, it is the preparation to celebrate the anniversary of the first coming (Christmas). In other words, advent is a double-edged sword, while presenting a platform for Christians to remember the event of the incarnation and what it means for them, it also calls them to reflect on and prepare for the second coming of Christ.

The works of the Messiah carried out during the time of his earthly ministry still make meaning today and has remained the motivation for many works going on in the lives of Christians. Having been reconciled with God, we now relish the joy of our salvation. We are the people who once walked in darkness but have now seen a great light (Isaiah 9:2). The prophet Isaiah captures quite clearly what the Messiah will accomplish upon his arrival. These tasks of the Messiah could be recognized from the names with which he will be called: wonderful counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

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### SUNDAY

#### MASSES

Sat Vigil 6.15pm  
7:30am, 9am,  
10.30am,  
12noon  
6pm

### WEEKDAY

#### MASSES

Mon – Sat 9am  
Mon -- Thu 6pm  
Fri 7pm

### CONFESSIONS

Friday 6pm –  
6:30pm  
Saturday 9:30am  
– 10:15am &  
4:30pm – 5:15pm

### PARISH

#### ROSARY

Mon – Fri at  
8:15am

### HOLY HOUR & BENEDICTION

Saturday 4.30-  
5.30pm

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – THURSDAY 9:30AM – 1PM (FRIDAY THE OFFICE IS CLOSED)**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Damian-Mary Moneke, CSSp.

[damianmoneke@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:damianmoneke@rcdow.org.uk) (Day off: Mon)

**1st Assistant Priest:** Fr Ignatius Nguyen Quy Quan,  
CSSp

[guyquannguyen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:guyquannguyen@rcdow.org.uk) (Day off: Wed)

**2nd Assistant Priest & Chaplain at Heathrow**

**Airport:** Fr Terkura Igbe, CSSp.

[terkuraigbe@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:terkuraigbe@rcdow.org.uk) (Day off: Thurs)

**PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL THE PRIEST  
DIRECTLY FOR AN APPOINTMENT**

**Parish Administrator:** Priya Joseph

[priyajoseph@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:priyajoseph@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Catechist:** Lionel Pereira

[hounslowcat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hounslowcat@rcdow.org.uk)

**Youth Worker:** Ivan Čižmárik

[ivancizmarik@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ivancizmarik@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Centre Manager:** Señorita Evans

[senoritaevans@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:senoritaevans@rcdow.org.uk) – (07542 531 956)

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

**Parish Safeguarding Representatives:**

[hounslowsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:hounslowsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) (Lorna – Admin)

[hounslowsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:hounslowsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) (Chinyere)

[hounslowsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:hounslowsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) (Areis)

[hounslowsg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:hounslowsg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) (Mary Pierre-Harvey)

The Messiah is our teacher, he gives us the best counsel, he is mighty and so will free us from the grasp of Satan, he will be a father to us, showing us the path to eternal happiness, and he will give us peace of a more lasting kind.

The features of the year of the Lord, previously announced by Isaiah (61:1-3) were subsequently applied to Jesus by the evangelist Luke (4:16-20) since it is in Jesus that we witness the coming of God's kingdom. Hence, while we await his second coming, let us continue to enjoy the benefits of the first: good news to the poor, binding up the broken hearted, liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison, the Lord's favour to all, comfort to those who mourn. Furthermore, the Lord's favour is seen in the healing and restoration we enjoy: the lame walk, the deaf hear, the blind see, the dumb speak, those in any kind of captivity are freed. At Advent we remember, relive, recognize, and appreciate the joy of our salvation wrought for us at his first coming. Our sentiment of joy is captured well in the old hymn which proclaims the mystery of our faith: "keep in mind that Jesus Christ has died for us, and is risen from the dead, he is our saving Lord, he is joy for all ages."

## **PARISH NOTICES**

### **ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS**

Please we kindly requests all volunteers to attend a meeting with Parish clergy on Wednesday 6th December at 7pm in the Church to present the new volunteers policy. All volunteers are endeavored to attend.

### **NOTIFICATIONS FOR PARISH EVENT PLANNER 2024**

As 2023 ends, we must anticipate the parish's plans for 2024. We call associations and groups to forward their significant events to the Parish Calendar. The goal is to avoid events clashes and cloistering. The regular Masses of the ethnic chaplaincies are already registered and will continue, but they will have to indicate celebrations outside their ordinary hours.

### **CHRISTMAS HAMPERS DONATION**

Annually, as a parish, we prepare Christmas Hampers to assist the families in need during the festive season. This kind gesture provides a lot of relief to such families, and they rely on us to make their

Christmas celebration a happy one. We therefore appeal to everyone to kindly donate some food items which will be distributed to the families in need. Please do not bring perishable/fresh food items. Thank you very much for your anticipated kindness and generosity.

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP) ADVENT CALENDAR**

The St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Team have prepared the SVP Advent calendar that gives a suggestion for items to be donated to our SVP foodbank for each day leading to Christmas. This initiative has been successful in previous years, helping us collect essential food items for families while minimising food waste. Kindly see the poster in the Porch area. Thank you for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

The SVP Parish Foodbank is available on the following schedule:

**When: Every 2nd Saturday of the month**

**Time: 10:30am to 12pm**

**Location: Church Car Park / Parish Centre**

All safety guidelines are adhered to (Note: If you want to donate food then you can either do that during the above time slot or **before/after weekday/weekend masses in the Church**. Contact the number below for more information) SVP Contact: Jwela on 07824 067524 (For food donation and also for all volunteering opportunities).

### **ANNUAL CAROL SINGING AND ADVENT PLAY**

Please join us for our Annual Carol singing on and Advent play "**The Magnificat**" on Sunday 10th December at 7:15pm in the Church (followed by refreshments). All are welcome.

### **MASS DIARY 2024**

The parish Mass diary for 2024 will open on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December! Please note **only TWO INTENTIONS per person** will be taken, this is due to the large number of parishioners we have and to ensure we are fair to all our parishioners. Any additional requests for Mass intentions will be sent to other Spiritans Churches and will be celebrated as intended. Kindly note that the **stipend** per Mass intention is a **minimum of £10** (Diocesan Guidelines). **Payment can be made either by cash, online transfer or card payment**

## **NEWCOMERS WELCOME SUNDAYS/COFFEE MORNINGS: CALL FOR SOCIETIES HOST**

The third Saturday of each month is the Parish Coffee/Tea Morning, which occurs after 9am and 10.30am Masses in the Parish Centre. To this, we have added the welcoming of those who are new to the Parish since the preceding month. Societies or groups hosting the Morning will host the new and old members at the center and make leaflets with parish information available to the new members. Societies are hereby called upon to indicate which month(s), between January and December, they wish to anchor the Coffee/Tea Mornings. The Parish Office will give the hosting groups all the supports they need with refreshments and information materials. To book a place, please email [hounslow@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hounslow@rcdow.org.uk).

## **MASS ATTENDANCE CARDS AND STICKERS**

This Card will be requested by the Priest before signing of the *Certificate of Catholic Practise (CCP) for Catholic Schools*. Stickers will be given when you ENTER THE CHURCH BEFORE MASS BEGINS.

- Please ensure your card has a recent PHOTO of your child and their FULL NAME.
- All parents are reminded that a sticker will only be issued if the child is present for the Mass.
- Stickers will not be given if the card is not presented. We will stop issuing stickers once the First Reading starts.

## **CATECHETICAL PROGRAMMES**

### **WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION ON PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES:**

Type [parish.rcdow.org/Hounslow](http://parish.rcdow.org/Hounslow) in your browser. Then navigate to PARISH WEBSITE → PARISH LIFE → SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION; it has general information on the various programs. The next place to check is the Parish Newsletter. If the information you seek is not found on either of these then email the Parish Catechist Lionel Pereira on [hounslowcat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hounslowcat@rcdow.org.uk). Please reserve phone calls for urgent matters.

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE**

Parents of infants and those seeking Baptism may register for the course using the online form available on the Baptism page of the Parish website. The next course will be run in January 2024. Read the Baptism webpage for requirements & other details.

## **2023-24 SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMMES**

This year we have approx. 140 candidates preparing for the First Holy Communion and another approx. 140 candidates preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This year we also have 6 catechumen discerning joining the Catholic Church and 9 Catholic adults preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep them all in your prayers.

### **JACOB'S ANGELS**

The angels bearing the name, age and gift idea for a child/person, will be displayed on the notice boards in the Mother Mary chapel at all Masses beginning this weekend. Parishioners are invited to choose an angel and purchase the Christmas gift written on it. This will be presented to that child or person by one of the five charities that serves them. The requirements and ages are specific to actual persons; however, the names have been changed to protect their privacy.

### **JACOB'S ANGELS DROP-OFF**

Kindly place your gift unwrapped in a paper gift bag along with the paper angel so that your gift reaches the right person/child. Please bring your gift bags to church for the evening Mass on Sat 9th Dec and any Mass on Sun 10th Dec and leave them at the Mary Chapel. This year's Confirmation candidates will help collect and put these away.

### **VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED**

We are seeking people with cars to help take the Christmas gifts from the Jacob's Angels project to the local charities on a weekday between 10am & 2pm in the week beginning 13th December. Please email Lionel [hounslowcat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hounslowcat@rcdow.org.uk) your name and hours available if you can help. Thank you!

## **2023-24 CONFIRMATION RITE OF ENROLMENT MASS**

125 candidates currently undergoing preparation will publicly profess their intent to prepare for the Sacrament on Sunday 3rd Dec at a 2pm Mass. Please keep them all in your prayers.

## **2023-24 FHC RITE OF ENROLMENT MASS**

140 children currently undergoing preparation and their families will publicly profess their intent to prepare for the Sacrament on Sunday 10th Dec at 2pm Mass. Please keep them all in your prayers.

## 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** – *God of hosts, bring us back, let your face shine on us and we shall be saved*

**1 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*

**2 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

## WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

**25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023**

Envelopes: £1,851.64

Loose: £3,907.68

**TOTAL: £5,759.32**

**May God bless your generosity!**

## IN YOUR PRAYERS – REMEMBER

**OUR SICK:** Peter Newton, Hubert Teles, Andrew Logadasan, Steve, Sandra, Carson Javier Dabasia, Amy & Denzil Burns, Terry Lynch, Igor Sitarska, and Don Lynch.

**DECEASED:** Remy Vaz, Marie Lynch, Baby Nyssa, Roque Antonio Wellington Vaz, Edwin Rodrigues, Emmanuel Dankyi, Maria Viegas, Gina Coreixas (Mazzaschi), Lewis Barallon, Malcolm Rose and John Lynch.

## PARISH GROUP MEETINGS

### **SYRO-MALABAR CHAPLAINCY MASS**

Sunday, 03<sup>rd</sup> December at 3pm

### **SINHALESE CHAPLAINCY MASS**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 4pm

### **GOAN CHAPLAINCY MASS**

Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm

### **ST ANTHONY NOVENAS**

Tuesdays at 7pm.

### **NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP**

Wednesdays at 5pm.

### **CHURCH CLEANING**

Thursdays after 9am Mass. Thank you

### **DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

Thursdays from 5pm.

### **DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION**

First Friday of each month at 3pm

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) MEETINGS**

Weekend: 2nd & 4th Saturday at 10am in the presbytery.

## **LIVING WORD CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL PRAYER GROUP**

Invites parishioners to our weekly prayer meeting/fellowship every Friday evening in the Parish Centre. Time: 7pm - 9pm. All are welcome. Email us at livingwordccr@gmail.com; contact Sam (447450355567), Graham (+447908287917) for other enquiries.

## **MEETING WITH SPORTS AND CULTURAL SOCIETY TEAM (S.C.S)**

Fr Ignatius will meet with the S.C.S team on Tuesday 5th December at 7:30pm in the Church.

## **MEETING WITH PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Fr Damian will meet with the Parish Pastoral Council on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in the Parish Office.

## **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS COLLECTION**

There will be a collection for the Christmas flowers next weekend during all Masses. Thank you for your anticipated generosity.

## **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME CARDS**

Our December Christmas Season programme cards are now available. In the cards you will find the schedule of Masses for the season and the timetable for Christmas confessions. Please collect a copy.