

## 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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## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

## 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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It is Christmas again! A mystery that cannot be fathomed – that God came to us as a human Person. Christmas is the celebration of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity coming in the Flesh. The annual festival, commemorating the Ultimate gift of God, the birth of Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. The Eternal Word of the Father, the Son of God took flesh and came to dwell among us.

As we ponder on this great mystery of immense joy, we should open our hearts to the new life it offers. Christmas reminds Christians that following Christ means abandoning the life of self in one way or the other to embrace the life of God – life of Love (1 Jn 4:8). It is a time to deeply connect with God, with one another and with our local communities. Christmas is a time we carry the baby Jesus, whom we should make effort to have Him born in our hearts, to our brethren. It is a season of great joy, love, peace, reconciliation, almsgiving and many other deeds of compassion and mercy. We need the new light of Christ in our world today, which is becoming darker and more hostile. May God who is infinite in love and mercy grant us wholistic healing and renewed strength, and may the birth of Jesus Christ who is the light of the world dispel every darkness in our lives, homes, parish, society and the world at large, Amen.

I am immensely grateful to all our parishioners for your selfless and generous support to the parish; especially your active and regular participation in the liturgical and para-liturgical activities of the parish. The parish active Service Team is amazing and vibrant: The Parish Administrator, the Parish Catechist, the Parish Youth Worker, the Parish Centre Manager, Parish Safeguarding Reps, Volunteer Catechists, Repository Managers, Sacristans, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Council, Projector Slides Team, Cleaners, Decorators, Counters, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Lectors/Readers, Stewards/Ushers, Altar Servers, Choral Groups, Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM), Sport and Cultural Society (SCS), St Vincent de Paul Team (SVP); your services are highly esteemed. We are very proud of you.

Our Parish is blessed with people from different nationalities. Indeed, the multicultural dimension of our parish is a valued and incomparable wealth. For this, we are eternally grateful to God for the gift of these different communities to our parish. Our sincere gratitude to all those who donated to the parish Food Bank, Jacob's Angel and the Christmas Hampers initiatives. Thank you for your love, support and encouragement! I hold in my thoughts and prayers everyone dedicated to improving our parish and communal worship. We are committed to enhance love, peace and unity in our parish. Let us continue to build a united and peaceful family of Jesus Christ's disciples, where everyone is welcome, respected, have a sense of belonging, grow spiritually, feel free to participate and feel the need to contribute.

I wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas celebration and a blissful New Year!

Fr Damian-Mary Moneke CSSp.  
Parish Priest

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# PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED

From Friday 20th December 2024 till Monday 06th January  
2025



## **CHURCH CARK PARK ACCESS**

Please note the Church car park will **NOT** be in use from the 23<sup>rd</sup> December till the 2<sup>nd</sup> January. There will be a marquee in the Church car park to support the crowd expected for Christmas and New Year Masses. The school car park will be open for cars to park, and entry and exit will be via St Mark's school car park.

## **DAY OF PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Tuesday 31st December after the 9am Mass will be followed by a Day of Prayer with an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and ending with Benediction at 2.30 pm.

## **MASS DIARY 2025**

The parish Mass diary for 2025 is open! 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.**

## **CRIB OFFERING 2024**

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.

## **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 programmes. 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).

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE**

in our parish is held once every two months. Parents are advised to register for the preparation course even before the delivery. Use the online form available on the Baptism page of the Parish website to sign up. Please read the Baptism webpage for requirements & other details.

### **Leave a legacy**

Please consider including our parish in your will or leaving a legacy for the parish. For further details please email us on [hounslow@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hounslow@rcdow.org.uk)

### **Online Giving/ Standing Order**

To make your donation online, please visit:  
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hounslow/donate/other-ways-to-give/>

### **Bank Transfer**

To make a one-off donation please use the parish bank account details:

Account Name: **WRCDT Hounslow**  
Sort Code: **40-05-20**  
Account Number: **11095463**  
Reference: **Surname and First Initial**

### **QR Code**

Scan on the QR code below to donate



*If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation. The government will top up your gift by 25 percent, meaning a £20 offering becomes £25, at **NO** cost to you.*

## **PRAYER FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND**

**Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son in the Eucharist. We now place before you all the sick and housebound of our parish. As they share in this Eucharist with us, we pray that they may come to know the depth of your love for them and, the joy, the peace and healing of your presence. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.**