



SS MICHAEL AND MARTIN

Roman Catholic Parish of Hounslow
Archdiocese of Westminster

This Parish is served by the Spiritans

PARISH NEWSLETTER

94 Bath Road, Hounslow TW3 3EH

Tel: (020) 8570 1693

Email: hounslow@rcdow.org.uk

Web: parish.rcdow.org.uk/hounslow

[/ssmmhounslow](https://www.facebook.com/ssmmhounslow) [@ssmmhounslow](https://www.instagram.com/ssmmhounslow)

4th Sunday of Advent

21st December 2025

POPE LEO GENERAL AUDIENCE 17.12.25

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we are a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

Continued on page 2.....

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 – Sat at
8:15am

THE ANGELUS

Before every
evening Mass

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 (Day off: Mon)

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

quyquannguyen@rcdow.org.uk (Day off: Wed)

2nd Assistant Priest & Chaplain at Heathrow

Airport: Fr Paul Ibekwe, CSSp.

paulibekwe@rcdow.org.uk (Day off: Thurs)

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

Parish Administrator: Priya Joseph

priyajoseph@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Catechist: Lionel Pereira

hounslowcat@rcdow.org.uk

Youth Worker: Ivan Čižmárik

ivancizmarik@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Centre Manager: Señorita Evans

senoritaevans@rcdow.org.uk

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

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

hounslowsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk (Lorna – Admin)

hounslowsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk (Chinyere) 1

MISSION STATEMENT

Building 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.



We congratulate all those who are celebrating their birthdays & wedding anniversaries this month. We also welcome all our new parishioners.



It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: cor inquietum. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the Confessions, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

I extend a warm welcome this morning to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, especially those coming from Nigeria, Indonesia and the United States of America. I pray that each of you, and your families, may experience a blessed Advent in preparation for the coming of the new born Jesus, Son of God and Savior of the world. God bless you all!

Lastly, I greet the sick, the newlyweds and the young people, especially the students of the Cicero Institute of Sala Consilina and those of the Capriotti Institute of San Benedetto del Tronto. In a few days it will be Christmas and I imagine that in your homes the preparation of the nativity scene, an evocative representation of the Mystery of the Nativity of Christ, is being completed or has already been completed. I hope that such an important element, not only of our faith, but also of Christian culture and art, will continue to be part of Christmas to remember Jesus who, in becoming man, came "to dwell among us".

My blessing to you all!

PARISH NOTICES

NEW ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER

At 11am (UK time) today, 19 December 2025, it will be announced in Rome that Pope Leo has appointed Bishop Richard Moth to be the twelfth Archbishop of Westminster. I am delighted at this news, and I trust you will be so too. Archbishop-elect Richard will bring to our Diocese many gifts and considerable episcopal experience from his years of ministry in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, and before that in the Forces.

I look forward very much to his installation as our new Archbishop on Saturday 14 February 2026. It is, of course, St Valentine's Day, as well as the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, co-Patrons of Europe. I remember being present in Westminster Cathedral

on 29 September 2009 for the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Richard as Bishop of the Forces. So today I can say: 'Welcome back, dear Bishop Richard. You are most welcome indeed.'

With all good wishes and prayers.

+ Vincent Nichols

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

CHURCH CARK PARK ACCESS

Please note the Church car park will NOT be in use from the 23rd December till the 2nd January. There will be a marquee in the Church car park to support the large 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.

CRIB OFFERING 2025

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.

REPOSITORY

Please note, the repository will be closed on the 28th December and 4th January.

GRATITUDE

We thank the Ghanaian community for cleaning our Liturgical items last week.

REGULAR NOTICES

PARISH MASS LIVE STREAMING

Every Sunday 12noon Mass will be live streamed, including special occasion Masses. Please find the link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOQzcJ9b0grzoLwx49cpdpg> and channel name:

CATECHETICAL PROGRAMMES

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION ON PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES:

Type 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.

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

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

God our Father, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sts Michael and Martin, Pray for us.

TEXTS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14 – 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive.'

Psalms Response – *Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.*

Romans 1:1-7 – Jesus Christ, descended from David, Son of God.

Matthew 1:18-24 – Jesus was born of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

NEXT SUNDAY'S MASS

The Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 – 'He who fears the Lord honours his parents.'

Psalms Response – *Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways.*

Colossians 3:12-21 – Family life in the Lord.

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 – 'Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.'

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

13th/14th Dec 2025

Loose: £3,761.24

Envelopes: £1,410.59

TOTAL: £5,171.83

Thank you very much for your generosity. May God continue to bless you as you support our parish.

NB: On average, it costs £50,000+ monthly to run our parish.

IN YOUR PRAYERS – REMEMBER

OUR SICK: Sarah Asher, Joaquim De Souza, Fr Derek McGuire, Jennita Aluan, Nizelle Soares, Peter Newton, Hubert Teles, Amy Burns, Steve, Sandra, Carson Javier Dabasia, Igor Sitarska and Don Lynch.

DECEASED: Leo Machado, Bella Felix, Cynthia Souza, Clifton Dominic Colaco, Elcina Alpesh Makwana, Tadeusz Z Wolanski, Heather Philomena Marklew, António José Visitação da Cruz Barreto, Fr Bernard Scholes, Sybil Knox, Carlos D'Silva, Mary Maher, Emma Noronha.

PARISH/PRAYER GROUP MEETINGS

SYRO-MALABAR CHAPLAINCY MASS

1st Sunday of the month at 3pm

SINHALESE CHAPLAINCY MASS

2nd Sunday of the month at 4pm

GOAN CHAPLAINCY MASS

3rd Sunday of the month at 4pm

MASS OF THE SICK

Last Tuesday of the month at 12noon.

ST ANTHONY NOVENAS

Tuesday at 7pm in the Church.

DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS &

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Every Thursday 5pm in the Church

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

First Friday of each month at 3pm

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every 2nd Thursday of the month after evening Mass.

FIRST FRIDAYS EXPOSITION

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on every first Friday of the month for adoration and silent prayers after the morning Mass and end at 5pm.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) MEETINGS

Weekend: 2nd Saturday after the Foodbank at 12pm in the Parish Centre.

GHANAIAN COMMUNITY- MEETING DAY

1st Sunday of every month after the 12.00 noon Mass in the Parish Centre.

UCM MEETINGS

2nd Tuesday of the month after 9am Mass and 4th Tuesday of the month after 6pm Mass in the Parish Centre.

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.