



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, OF THE ROSARY

+ 1st Sunday of Advent, Year B - 3 December 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



Stay Awake at All Times!

Sister Brigid was telling me about her chaplaincy group at St Joseph's primary school. They were reflecting on today's Gospel and Sister Brigid had to stress how the call by Jesus to "stay awake" was not an excuse for midnight feasts or binge-watching *YouTube* videos. Any parents who discovered a sudden unwillingness of their youngster to go to sleep in the past week, now know to whom their complaints should be directed.

Rather Jesus is calling us in Advent to be vigilant, to be prepared, to be ready for him. The Jewish people were told by God through the teaching of the prophets that they needed to be prepared and alert for the coming of the Messiah, yet very few were. We too are called to be prepared for the return of Jesus, his second coming, in glory. But how often do we think about it? Advent is a time to be more aware of this promise by Jesus and to live our faith with more commitment, passion and resolve. To be vigilant, watchful, and spiritually awake.

So, Advent isn't about passively waiting, with little more effort than opening the windows of our Advent calendar; it's about actively engaging with the world around us. We're called to reflect on our actions, choices, and the state of our souls. In staying awake, there's an encouragement to be alert to the needs of others, to recognize opportunities to serve, and to be present for those who require support and compassion.

Our parishes are blessed with people who are eager and willing to volunteer and be of service to their local community. But in Advent perhaps reflect whether you could give some of your time to help support and strengthen our parish communities. Perhaps that's in a regular way, such as helping at our coffee mornings, helping in outreach programmes or hidden tasks like cleaning or perhaps it is being generous at parish events whether by bringing food or helping others. Perhaps, if you're young, it's about praying about whether God is calling you to serve at the altar or be in the youth choir at 12:00 noon Mass or the 11:00am choir.

Such generosity embodies vigilance in action. It necessitates an awake, attentive heart sensitive to the Church's needs, the body of Christ's needs, as St Paul says. When we volunteer, we embody the essence of Christ's teachings—selflessness, compassion, and service to others.

It is not only us who benefit from the generosity of our time and effort, we prepare the way for Christ in the hearts of those we serve. It's a tangible expression of the Advent spirit—preparing the path for love, hope, and kindness to enter the lives of those who are marginalized, lonely, or in need. It was that spirit the shepherds and kings had when they recognised the call to come and pay homage to the infant king.

Fr Alex

Mass Times

Sunday

11:00 am

(Sung Family Mass)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

12:30pm

Saturday

6:00pm

(Vigil Mass of Sunday)

Confessions (Saturday)

5:00pm—5:30pm

Church Opening Times

Monday—Friday

9:30am—1:00pm

Music for Sunday

- 522 O Come, O Come
Emanuel
- 368 Like a Sea Without a
Shore
- 128 Come, Lord Jesus,
- 133 Come, Though
Long-expected Jesus

Sunday Readings,

Isaiah 63:16-17
Psalm 79:2-3,15-16.18-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Matthew 13: 33—37

Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, 211 Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QT

020 7723 5101 (office) 0207 286 3214 (Priests')

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/marylebone>

Parish Clergy:	Canon Kevin Jordan (kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk) Fr Alex Balzanella (alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk)
Parish Administrator:	Lorraine Etienne (marylebone@rcdow.org.uk)
Parish Office Hours::	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10.30am—3:30pm
Parish Safeguarding Rep:	Valeria Naipan (marylebone@rcdow.org.uk)

Mass times have changed. Mass will be at **12:30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; Saturday 6:00pm** (Vigil Mass of Sunday); **and Sunday 11:00am**. The Church will now open Monday to Friday **9:30am – 1:00pm**

Welcomer for today is Joe Porter

First Confessions for First Holy Communion will be next Saturday 9 December at 11.00am.

Childrens Liturgy will be next Sunday 10 December led by Marguerite-Marie Mitterlehner

Carol Service will be on Sunday 10 December at 3pm. All are welcome to attend. There will be refreshments in the parish hall afterwards. Parishioners are invited to bring mince pies and other festive treats that we can all share together.

Divine Mercy Advent Reflection led by the Marian Fathers at Sacred Heart Church Kilburn. The retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus on Sunday 10 December 2:30-5:30pm. Please call Millie on 07957594646

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support.

CAFOD are having a Carol Concert on Wednesday 13 December from 7:00pm until 8:00pm at St James church, Spanish Place, 22 George Street London W1U 3QY. All are welcome. Please see the poster in the porch.

Eucharistic Healing Service on Friday 8 December at 7.15pm, St Dominic's —The Rosary Shrine, Southampton Road, London, NW5 4LB. On the solemnity of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception, let us come before the Lord, praying for healing of mind, body, & soul as we prepare for His Nativity.

If you are applying to Catholic nursery , infant and primary schools, follow this link to Admissions: <https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions> and read the Guidance for Clergy document. If you can meet these criteria then please contact Lorraine in the Parish Office to arrange an appointment.

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or telephone 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you.

'Witness to Hope' Four online talks by Fr John Deehan focusing on the prayers and Gospels of the Christmas Masses.

7 December: The Dawn Mass

14 December: The Day Mass

The talks will be delivered via zoom, and are open to all. Further information or queries, contact Anna, annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk.

To register: please contact Warren Brown

catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

Volunteering Advent begins the Church's year, and is a good time to consider how we can live out the Lord's mission to "Make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19-20). One way is to volunteer in your parish; we're in need of volunteers to help regularly with the sacristy, tea & coffee and welcoming. If you can help, please speak to Fr Kevin after Mass today

Feasts

Sunday 3 December 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Friday 8 December **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Collections for last weekend

Envelopes £216.50

Loose plate £424.00

£640.50

Many thanks

Have a blessed week