



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, OF THE ROSARY

+3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B - 17 December 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



"Don't tell me to be happy"

What is that sound that really sets you on edge? That noise that can cut through you like glass. For some, its fingernails scraping on a blackboard. For others, it's the squeal of a sound system when the microphones aren't working. Or even a puppy's cry or the curate's pleas not be sent out in the rain!

For me that sound takes place today in our second reading. In St Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. It isn't what Paul says, but the translation of the Greek that Paul said. St Paul begins, in our translation, "Be happy at all times."

But that is not the word the Greek uses, instead, it uses the word χαίρετε. Charitate means rejoice, or, to use the Latin word, Gaudete. Happiness and rejoicing are similar they're not the same. Happiness is something we hopefully feel quite often but fleetingly. When our team has won at sport, when we organise that holiday or when we finish at work. It is a passing emotion, one which appears all of a sudden and can vanish just as quickly.

Rejoicing is rather bigger than feeling happy. We often wake up feeling happy, but rarely do we awake from our slumber rejoicing. We rejoice when something monumental happens to us or someone we love. The birth of a new child let's say, or a marriage.

When we rejoice, even if something annoying happens, it doesn't disturb that inner joy we have. St Paul is saying we likewise should rejoice that our salvation has been accomplished by Jesus Christ, even when bad things happen.

It's that same rejoicing Our Lady did at the annunciation of Our Lord's birth. She became pregnant before betrothal, she was a young girl from a backwater town of the Roman Empire. She must have had many things that could have worried her. Yet she rejoices in the Lord, because she trusts in his goodness and mercy.

As we in these final days draw closer to the Lord's birth and we face the inevitable pressures and expectations Christmas brings let's seek not to just have a happy Christmas but one that we charitate, Gaudete, or rejoice. Whilst happiness comes and goes, that joy in the Lord and our salvation can see us through the darkest days of winter and our lives. For he who came in the flesh once will come again in Glory and until then, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is made present to us through the sacraments.

Fr Alex

Mass Times

Sunday

11:00am (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

- 133 Come, Thou
Long-Expected Jesus
- 128 Come, Lord Jesus, Come
- 663 Soul Of My Saviour
- 575 On Jordan's Bank the
Baptist's Cry

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11
Psalm Lk 1: 46-50.53-54
1 Thessalonian 5:16-24
John 1:6-8. 19-28

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@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk)

Childrens Liturgy is today, led by Marguerite-Marie Mitterlehner

Welcomer for today are Ruben Bernardini and Helena Monaghan

Tea and Coffee after 11:00am Mass. Our hosts are Clemence and Marie. All are welcome.

Parish Carol Service. A big thank you to Maureen and all those who helped organize and participate in our Carol Service. Thank you also to the UCM for the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. It was a lovely afternoon.

First Holy Communion classes are now on Christmas break. Classes will resume back on 7 January 2023

Christmas Offering. This week you can take home a Christmas offertory envelope. This is your Christmas gift to the parish and is not taxed by the Diocese, so if you are going away please do use it. Thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity throughout the year.

Crib Offerings will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society to support their work with local children and families, many of whom are facing severe hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis. Thank you for your support.

Legion of Mary. Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Praesidium of the Legion of Mary warmly invites you to their weekly meeting, held on a Thursday evening at 6 p.m. in the Lower Hall.

An Advent/Christmas Leaflet with the times of all Masses, Confessions for the season is available to take home with you today. Please give them out to people who might be thinking of coming to our parish over Christmas.

Repository Opening Times. Saturday 5-6:30pm and Sunday 9:30—11:30am. Our Church has selection of Christmas cards and gifts. Please consider buying local and supporting our parish this Christmas Time.

A Christmas Celebration in Westminster Cathedral. Tickets are now on sale for our annual Christmas concerts which celebrate the mystery of Christ's Incarnation in carols and readings performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers, on 19 and 20 December at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or from Ticketmaster; go to www.ticketmaster.co.uk and type in Westminster Cathedral when prompted.

SVP. This Special Works Conference provides food and hot drinks for homeless people every Tuesday and Friday for 49 weeks a year for nearly 30 years. They provide clothing, blankets, toiletries etc. and £25 clothing vouchers at Christmas. Your generosity will be much appreciated. Please put something into the special collection or pay into the SVP account: Account: A220108 SVP ST JAMES – SPANISH PLACE, Sort code 60-60-04, Account number 46079858 Please gift-aid your donation if possible.

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.

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.

Feasts

Sunday 17 December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
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Collections for last weekend

Envelopes	£146.00
Loose plate	<u>£252.71</u>
	<u>£398.71</u>

Many thanks

Have a blessed week