



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, OF THE ROSARY



+ 4th Sunday of Advent, Year B & Christmastide – 24 December 2023

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



The Nativity of Jesus is one of the most painted scenes of all time. The richness and variety is incredible. One reason for the variety is that, so often, like the artwork by Piero della Francesca above, the artist captures the scene with figures in contemporary dress and playing instruments of the time. We shouldn't flinch from this inaccuracy, because it reveals a deeper truth: the Nativity of Jesus transcends the confines of time and space. It is a momentous event that is equally relevant to every generation, as it was to the shepherds and wise men who came to the crib. God became one with us, the timeless Word became flesh. He entered our world. It begins a new era of hope and salvation for humanity. The crib in Bethlehem is not merely a historical incident but an ongoing revelation of God's boundless love.

The message of the Nativity reminds us that God's love knows no bounds and His presence is constant. Whilst we might not see the infant Christ in the simplicity of a stable, we are in his presence before our tabernacle today and on the altar at Mass. In these Christ is present to us in our modern world.

The Nativity is a guide for all ages, teaching all generations the essence of humility, love, and divine grace. The Nativity speaks to us today as vividly as it did centuries ago, inviting us to embrace its meaning of the love of God for each of us and to wonder at the marvel of God becoming human for our sake. Happy Christmas to you all. *Fr Kevin & Fr Alex*

**Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Rosary,
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<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)

Mass Times

Sunday 24 December

Christmas Eve

11:00am (Sung Family Mass)
8:00pm (Sung with carols)

Monday 25 December

Christmas Day

11:00 am (Sung with Carols)

Holiday Church opening times

Wednesday 27 December,
Friday 29 December,
11:45am – 1:00pm

Saturday 30 December

6:00pm (Vigil Mass of Sunday)

Confessions (Saturday)

5:00pm – 5:30pm

Sunday 31 December

11:00am Mass

Monday 1 January

Wednesday 3 and Friday 5

11:45am – 1:00pm

Saturday 6 January

6:00pm (Vigil Mass of Sunday)
Confessions 5:00pm – 5:30pm

Sunday 7 January

11:00am Mass

Music for Christmas Eve

11:00am (Sunday)

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| 522 | O Come, O Come Emmanuel |
| 686 | The Angel Gabriel |
| 562 | Of The Father's Love Begotten |
| 684 | Tell Out My Soul |

Sunday Readings

Page 90
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16
Psalm 88:2-5, 27, 29 R v 2
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

A 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 the Christmas season.

Christmas Offering. Please take home a Christmas offertory envelope. This is your Christmas gift to the parish and is not taxed by the Diocese, so even if you are going away please 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.

Westminster Year Book 2024 is now available priced £5.00 from the repository.

Solemnity of the Epiphany Masses (Holy Day of Obligation) on Saturday 6 January 2024 at 6:00pm (Vigil) and on Sunday 7 January 2024 at 11:00am,

Welcomer for today are Nuala O'Duffy and Marie Lagree

First Holy Communion Programme continues on Sunday 14 January 2024 from 9:45am.

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 6:00pm. in the Lower Hall.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024 will take place from 19—26 July 2024. The Sanctuary's theme for the year is '*Come here in procession*'. Please see the poster in the porch.

March for Life UK are launching their new initiative 'Connect' in 2024 to help bring together like minded pro-lifers in their own communities and turn the tide on abortion at a local level. If you are interested in being part of this, please send an email to: info@marchforlife.co.uk. More information can be found at: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/connect/>

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.

Your Offerings can be given electronically via <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood/donating-to-the-parish/> but please remember to say what your donation is for, and if you pay tax, please complete the *Gift Aid* form. Standing order forms, the easiest way to give regularly, can also be found there too. To *Gift Aid* using Dona follow the prompts to register each card or 'phone on the machine, or scan the QR code and register them at home. God bless you for however you give to us and to those in need.

SVP. The Special Works Conference provides food and hot drinks for homeless people every Tuesday and Friday for 49 weeks of the year. 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.

Feasts

Sunday 24 December	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Monday 25 December	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Tuesday 26 December	ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr
Wednesday 27 December	ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist
Thursday 28 December	THE HOLY INNOCENTS
Friday 29 December	ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop & Martyr
Sunday 31 December	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Collections for last weekend

Envelopes	£160.00
Loose plate	<u>£336.14</u>
	<u>£496.74</u>

Many thanks and have a blessed Christmas week