

NEWSLETTER

**4 SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

The whole world is waiting for Mary’s answer.

You have heard that you shall conceive and bear a Son; you have heard that you shall conceive, not of man, but of the Holy Spirit. The angel is waiting for your answer: it is time him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for the word of pity, even we who are overwhelmed in watchfulness by the sentence of damnation.

And behold, to you the price of our salvation is offered. If you consent, straightway shall we be freed. In the eternal Word of God were we all made, and lo! We die, by one little word of yours in answer shall we all be made alive. Adam also asks this of you, O loving Virgin, poor Adam, exiled as he is from paradise, with all his poor wretched children; Abraham begs this of you, and David; this all the holy fathers implore, even your fathers, who themselves are dwelling in the valley of the shadow of death; this the whole world is waiting for, kneeling at your feet.

And rightly so, for on your lips is hanging the consolation of the wretched, the redemption of the captive, the speedy deliverance of all who otherwise are lost; in a word, the salvation of all Adam’s children, of all your race.

Answer, O Virgin, answer the angel speedily; rather through the angel, answer your Lord. Speak the word and receive the Word; offer what is yours, and conceive what is of God; give what is temporal, and embrace what is eternal.

Why delay? Why tremble? Believe, speak, receive! Let your humility put on holiness, and your modesty be clothed with trust. Not now should your virginal simplicity forget prudence! In this one thing alone, O prudent Virgin, fear not presumption; for although modesty that is silent is pleasing, more needful now is the loving kindness of your word.

Open, O Blessed Virgin, your heart to faith; open your lips to speak; open your bosom to your Maker. Behold! the Desired of nations is outside. Knocking at your door. Oh! If by your delay he should pass by, and again in sorrow you should have to begin to seek for him whom your soul loves! Arise,

then, run and open. Arise by faith, run by the devotion of your heart, open by your word. ‘And Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it done to me according to your word’.

St Bernard



MASS INTENTIONS

December 21st, 2024

6pm - Ints of R Canavan

December 22nd, 2024

9 am — For Clergy
of the Diocese

11 am - Pro Populo

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

Confession on Saturday between 5.15-5.45 pm or by appointment.

Decoration of the church.

This Sunday, 22nd December, after 11 am Mass, we decorate the church for Christmas. Please, stay and give us a hand. Also after Mass there will be an auction of a Christmas hamper that was gifted to the church. The money received from the auction will go to our collection.

The office will be closed from 30 December to 10 January.

If you need to contact Fr Christopher, please, email: millwall@rcdow.org.uk or call on 2027 987 4114.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, to whom every heart is open, every desire known and from whom no secrets are hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the help of your Holy Spirit, that we may faithfully serve you, perfectly love you, and worthily praise your Holy Name. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.
Amen

Readings for this & next Sunday

<p>A Prayer after Communion Grant O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things. We may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. Amen</p>	<p>1st Reading— Micah 5; 2-5a, Psalm 80;2ac,3b, 15-16, 18-19. responsive v 4</p>	<p>1st Reading— Sirach 3;2-6, 12-14, Psalm Isaiah 128;1-2.3. 4-5. R.cf.1</p>
	<p>2nd Reading - Hebrew 10;5-10 Gospel - Luke 1; 39-45</p>	<p>2nd Reading - Colossians 3; 12-21 Gospel – Luke 2; 41-52,</p>



CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Sunday, 22nd December 2024 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Masses at 6pm Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday

Monday, 23th December 2024 9.15 am Mass

Tuesday, 24th December 2024 *Christmas Eve*

6.00pm

Children's Mass for Christmas

11.30 pm

Midnight Mass of Christmas with Carols before

Wednesday, 25th December 2024 *Christmas Day*

11am

Mass of Christmas Day

Thursday, 26th December 2024 *St Stephen*

Mass at 11am

27th December 2023

No Mass

Sunday, 29th Dec 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Masses at 6pm, Saturday 11am Sunday

Monday, 30th December 2024 9.15 am Mass

Tuesday, 31st December 2024 11 am Mass

Wednesday, 1st January 2025 *The Holy Mother of God*

Mass at 11am

2nd January 2025

No Mass

3rd January 2025

No Mass

Sunday, 5th January 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 11am Sunday



Dear Friends,

As I look back at this year 2024. We have welcomed new members into our parish community. We had an excellent parish mission, thanks to Frs. Peter & Royston who guided us in deepening our faith and it was a good start to Advent.

From a personal perspective, I have had chemotherapy which thanks be to God I have come through, been given all clear. I have also had the stent removed. Overall, I am thank full to God and our Blessed Mother, who guided me through, as I wait to have the cataracts removed from both eyes. 2024, has seen conflicts around the world and pray that peace would reign.

If you and your loved ones are going away enjoy your Christmas, stay safe and see you back in the New Year. Remember to keep Christ at the centre of your Christmas celebrations.

Fr Christopher



Sending prayers and hearty Christmas greetings to you.
May you receive the most special of God's blessings
during this Christmas season!

Readings for Nativity of the Lord

1st Reading— Isaiah 52: 7-10,

Psalm 98;1. 2-3b. 3c-4. 5-6. Response v 3cd

2nd Reading - Hebrew 1;1-6

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God

Gospel – John 1; 1-18,

The next Baptismal Course for parents who want to baptised the child will happen on 29 January at 7pm on Zoom.

If you ARE interested contact the office by email asap.

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Fr Christopher Silva

Parish Priest,

Mrs Katherine Woznicka

Parish Administrator

The office may be contacted by phone:

Monday to Friday 9am-2pm

Closed on Bank Holidays

Mrs Diane Winship - Safeguarding Representative

Mr Tomasz Daszkiewicz - Data Protection

Parish Officer

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

loose: £250.00 envelopes: £156.00 contactless collection last weekend: £0.00 total: **£406.00**

Standing orders in **in January- £3286, in February - £2589, in March - £2715,**
in April - 3769, in May - 2152, in June - 3800, in July - 2565, in August - 2416,
in September- 4660, in October - £2349, in November - £2238,

As a Charity, we rely on your weekly donations. We will be grateful for your financial support. Your New offertory envelopes will be available at the end of March for collection after Mass or from the parish office. If you wish to have an offertory envelope, then give your details to the parish office, where a new box of envelopes will be made available to you. Alternatively, you could make your donation via bank transfer. The parish account is on our website.

Our Church.

Dear Friends, We have just finished a special collection for refurbishment in our church & premises, that was a success as we collected almost £12,000. I want to thank you for your support and to remind you, that we are doing it as a 100% money donated as a special collection is staying with the parish while money collected as general offertory must be shared with the Diocese through monthly payable Assessment (that reaches 30% of the income in that category).

Today I want to start a special collection for NEW LECTIONARY & MASS BOOKS. From 1st Sunday of Advent we have to use a new addition of Lectionary & Mass books as the new translation has come into use. That is why we have spent £825 on Lectionary and £990 for our Mass books so far. But this is not the end of the expenditure as the mass books must be changed twice a year for three years. It means that we will need £6,000 for year books in total. I ask you for a specific donations towards the books. If you are a Gift Aider, you can gift aid the donation and it will add an extra value.

Donation envelopes are available on the table in the lobby. You can also chose to donate on our digital plate or by bank transfer but doing it - do not forget to add; donation Mass Books.

We need to collect **£6,940** towards the new lectionary & books. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Fr Christopher

We have already collected £3445. Thank you.

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 homeless packs (Vinnie Packs) during the extreme cold weather. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of socks, face cloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheets and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 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.