



Catholic Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Northfields  
38, Camborne Avenue, Ealing, London, W13 9QZ. Tel. 020 8567 5421  
e-mail: [northfields@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfields@rcdow.org.uk); website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/northfields>  
Facebook page: <https://fb.me/38camborneavenue>  
Parish Priest: Fr. Jim Duffy; Parish Deacon Rev Andrew Goodall  
Pastoral Assistant: Anna Maria Dupelycz; Parish Administrator: Rosa Bambury  
**Alternative Number:** 07787 048144 (Anna); [northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Office Opening Hours Mon – Weds. & Fri, 10.30am – 2.30pm. Closed Thursdays.**  
**Sacraments and Devotions: Suspended until further notice.**

Psalter Week 4 & 5



## Christmas Eve & Holy Family Year B 24th December 2023 and 31st December 2023

### Readings:

**This Week 4<sup>th</sup> Advent/Christmas Eve)** Samuel 7:1-5, Ps 88:2-5; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

**(Christmas Day)** Isaiah 52:7-10; Ps. 97:1-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

**Next Week (Holy Family )** Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, Ps 127:1-5, Colossians 3:12-21, Luke 2:22-40

**Following Week (Epiphany Year B)** Isaiah 60:1-6, 6-7, Ps 71:1-2, Ephesians 3:2-3, Matthew 2:1-12

### Message from Fr Jim

Dear Parishioners and friends of St Peter and St Paul's Northfields as I write this Christmas message to you we are facing a cost of living crisis and a prolonged war in Ukraine which has affected, and continues to affect, us all in some way.

Also, we cannot fail to think of all those who are suffering because of the conflict between Israel and Gaza, especially women and children. That the land of Our Lord's birth should be suffering so much is tragic. May the Prince of Peace touch the hearts of all who are suffering and bless the efforts of those seeking just and lasting solutions for all faiths and people of the Holy Land.

The Christmas story has been celebrated for over 2,000 years in times of wars and conflicts, of plagues and pandemics, of natural disasters and uncertain times. The message is the same : that God entered our fragile and broken world to bring light, hope, peace and joy where these are missing. Let us keep in our prayers and thoughts those who have lost loved ones during this year, and more recently, and those who have anniversaries coming up at this Christmas time. May the Christmas story give hope and comfort that theirs and all our loved ones will rest in peace and rise in glory to share forever in light, happiness, and eternal joy.

The hope is that whatever we are going through at this time we can still make Christmas a very special time and celebrate it as best we can in the circumstances with those we love and care for.

Christ entered our world to bring light where there is darkness, hope where there is despair, courage where there is fear, and love where there is conflict and division.

My wish for all of you is that you will have a blessed and happy Christmas, while staying safe and well. My thanks go out to all those in our parish who work in health and social care in any way, and all who have been volunteering to help vulnerable people.

With that in mind I wish you many blessings and peace and joy in the New Year for you and your families and loved ones. Keep safe and look after yourselves.

Fr Jim



## Reflection from Fr Hilary: Keep me Going, Lord

Here is a helpful quote from the late Cardinal Hume:

If we do not believe there is a heaven beyond and outside this present life, for which we are ultimately destined, then life is difficult indeed and our mood one of pessimism. Why? **Man has deep aspirations and limitless desires which almost instinctively we sense must be fulfilled or else life is absurd and certain failure.** No, it is not so. There is a gentle breeze, if we can but catch it, which blows all the time to help us on our journey through life to our final destination. The breeze is the Holy Spirit... Life is often like going through a dark tunnel, knowing that at the end there is light. But you have to keep going. From time to time there are chinks of light but you have to pass beyond them. It is the memory of those chinks that keeps you going along the tunnel of life, knowing that at the end you will be coming out into the marvellous light. All the time, someone is walking with you, sometimes carrying you.

*Please keep for prayerful reflection*

**Carbon Neutral Project update** This year cavity wall and roof insulation has been carried out on the hall and parish house. We have had quotes to install solar panels on the hall roof with batteries to provide electricity for the house and hall. As the diocese owns the property, we are now in the process of getting the go ahead from the diocese with their recommendation as to which company will best meet our needs. We are hoping to be able to move forward in the near future.

Many thanks to all of you who have been supportive and encouraging and to those who have supported the project financially whether by donation, attending the September fundraiser and coffee mornings. We are very grateful to you all.

Wishing all parishioners a Happy Christmas and New year. Mary Howley, Fr Jim, Anna, Andrew and Rosa.

**Crib Appeal** Offerings for the crib are in aid of Catholic Children's Society.

### Liturgical Ministries:

**a) Altar Servers** Recruitment of new servers is ongoing. Please contact Deacon Andrew ([andrewgoodall@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:andrewgoodall@rcdow.org.uk)). Training sessions in the church continue in the New Year, **on 16<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm.**

**b) Ministry of Welcome** For weekend Masses and special celebrations (eg First Communions and Confirmations, Easter and feasts), please consider if you and/or your family would like to be involved in this important role.

**c) Welcome, Readers & Eucharistic Ministers over the Christmas Period** For all services either please sign up on the lists in the sacristy or contact Anna via e-mail ([northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk))

We need to increase the numbers exercising these ministries. For more information or to express an interest, please contact Anna or Deacon Andrew. (This includes young readers i.e. Post-First Communion upwards.) Next reader training session: **Tues. 9<sup>th</sup> January, 6.30pm** in the church.

**New Rota** Please let Anna know of your availability between January and Easter preferably by e-mail ([northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk) (or texting 07787 048144). The new rota will begin on 21<sup>st</sup> January and be available on 14<sup>th</sup>

**d) Music** : Rehearsals for the 10.00am and 11.30am Masses will resume in the New Year. New musicians and singers of all ages always welcome to join. Watch this space for details!

### Thank yous!

- to all who helped to celebrate Christmas: flower arrangers, stewards, readers, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, children who dramatised the gospel and dressed up, readers at all the services, music ministry,
- volunteers who helped serve mulled punch and mince pies at the Carol Service, singers and musicians. and readers
- to those who helped erect the cribs and Christmas tree.
- for your generous donations for Acton Homeless by giving items from the Caritas Westminster Advent Calendar. Around 5 large boxes were filled and taken over this week by parish volunteers.

### To Confirmation Candidates

A special note of thanks goes to the group of around 15 volunteers who have helped in preparations for the Carol Service and Christmas services: decorating the Christmas tree, arranging the candles in the church, serving as meeters and greeters, setting up, serving and washing up at the Carol Service. Their willingness and helpfulness are a credit to themselves, their families and this parish.

### For your Generosity

A huge thank you to all of you for your generous financial giving to special appeals and fundraisers since September, Energy Project, CAFOD Harvest Fast Appeal, Sick and Retired Priests of the diocese and Acton Homeless Concern. You have donated over £6000, over and above your continued weekly offerings.

**Parents and Toddlers** **Wednesdays (term time) from 9.30am to 11am**, in the Parish Hall, more volunteers needed to help run the group. Please contact Rosa or Anna in the parish office.

**Second Sunday' Monthly Coffee mornings** **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January** from 9-11.30 am. All welcome to the church hall for bacon sandwiches, tea, coffee and cake and craft for the children after 8.30 Mass, after 10am and before 11.30 Mass. Please contact [Jonny.sullens@futurenet.com](mailto:Jonny.sullens@futurenet.com) if you would like to help by making a cake or helping to serve for an hour. We look forward to regularly meeting up as the church community.

## Masses this Fortnight

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December (4<sup>th</sup> Advent/Christmas Eve Year B)

9.30am Bernard Nicholas (LD.)  
5.00pm Children's Mass  
7.00pm Family Mass  
9.00pm Solemn Mass

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Day)

8.30am Kate Hussain (1<sup>st</sup> Ann.)  
10.00am Annette Sayagam (Fam Int.)  
11.30am Martin Londra (Ann.)

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December (St Stephen) Bank Holiday

10.00am Tharmdratnah Family (Int.)

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December (St John)

10.00am Kathleen Keane (RIP.)

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December (Holy Innocents)

No Mass

### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December (St Thomas Becket)

9.30 Breda Gerathy & Maureen Potter (Birthday)

### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December

No Morning Mass

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December (Holy Family Year B)

(Sat) 6.00pm John Percival (Ann.)  
8.30am Frank Clarke (Ann.)  
10.00am Gerrard Hartnett (LD.)  
11.30am John Patrick Callaghan (LD.)

No Evening Mass

### Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January (Mary Mother of God)(Bank Holiday)

12.00 Noon Brendan O'Brien

### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January (Sts Basil & Gregory Nazianzen)

6.00pm John Fitzpatrick (LD.)

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January (Most Holy Name of Jesus)

9.30am Geraldine Sullivan & Family

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January

No Mass

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January

9.30am Helen & John Sullivan & Family

### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January

No Mass

**Prayers for the Sick** We pray for those suffering from illness and their carers: Gerry, Collery, Madge Starr, Richard Chance, Sean Nally, Bridget Hopkins, Fraser Thompson, Aimi McEwan, Doreen Foley, Anna Keane, Barbara Lennon Snr, Teresa Hartnett, Stephania Pullin, Geraldine Davison, Dave Mortby, Cerys Edwards, Andrew Chandiram, Kathleen Walsh, Donna O'Hagan, Ann Hagan, Alan Worman. Sankar Ghosh, M.S., Margaret Adu, Therese Biks, Shantha Kumari, Sagundala Devi, Victor Young, Ernst Barroclough, Giuseppe Iannotta, Barry Kiernan, Jane Spurr. Our Lady, help of the Sick, pray for us.

**Prayers for those Recently Deceased and Anniversaries** We pray for the repose of the soul of Anne Kelly (Cork), Bernard McNicholas, Gerrard Hartnett, John Patrick Callaghan, John Fitzpatrick, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time including Anthony William Gunn, John Percival, Kathleen Keane, Kate Hussain, Frank Clarke, Brendan O'Brien, Dan Reilly and John Younger. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

**Catechetics (Sacramental Preparation)** Contact Anna initially on [northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfieldscat@rcdow.org.uk) or 07787 048144 with enquiries and queries. **Please include a mobile/phone number with your e-mail enquiry.**

**Infant Baptism** Participation in a short preparation course is required before celebrating the sacrament. For more information, please contact Anna preferably by e-mail initially. The next course will take place in January.

**Catechists** needed to serve across the age range. Volunteers, who may be interested in this particular and most important ministry should please contact Anna if you would like to know more and to arrange a chat at a mutually convenient time. Theology degrees not required! Volunteers needed not just for the present but looking ahead to September. Part of the process involves a DBS check which can take time. This is needed **before** any programme of preparation begins. Also, to be able to have some level of confidence in sharing your faith, formation, support and guidance will be offered.

**Formation of Catechists and Lay Parish Ministers** For anyone who wishes to deepen their knowledge of the faith in a more formal way, the Agency for Evangelisation in partnership with Westminster Education Service, offers a 2-year, part time study course, The Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies (CCRS). For some general information go to <https://education.rcdow.org.uk/events-courses/ccrs/>. The total cost is £400. The Agency offers a bursary of up to 50%. For details contact Anna Dupelycz at [annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk)

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** during 10am Mass, term time. Liturgy is aimed at children aged 3 -7 (Nursery to Year 2). We currently have sufficient leaders but more helpers are needed for this ministry to run safely and in accord with Safeguarding guidelines. Please contact Anna as soon as possible. DBS checks processed by the diocese are required for this role. For more information, contact Anna.

**First Communion** Sessions continue in the New Year. Parents' Meeting, **Weds. 10<sup>th</sup> January**, 8.00pm, Parish Hall

**Confirmation 2024** Sessions resume in the New Year on **Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> Jan** for 'all candidates.

**Thinking of Becoming Catholic? Or would like to know more about the Catholic faith?** For more information on how to go about this, please contact Anna to arrange an informal chat in the first instance.

**Getting Married?** Please note that at least 6 months' notice is required wherever your marriage is taking place. For further initial information, please go to: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/northfields/sacramental-prep/marriage-preparation/>

**Safeguarding** The Parish reps are Susie Worthington, [northfieldssg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfieldssg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) and Tracy Paterson [northfieldssg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfieldssg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

# Important Dates for January - July 2024

Below you will find some key dates for 2024  
Details for all events will be given at the appropriate time.

## January

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mary, Mother of God;
- 7<sup>th</sup> Epiphany
- 8<sup>th</sup> Baptism of the Lord
- 10<sup>th</sup> First Communion Preparation resumes
- 14<sup>th</sup> Peace Sunday  
Children's Liturgy resumes  
'Second Sunday' Coffee Morning  
Confirmation Preparation resumes
- 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>  
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Word of God  
Commissioning of Parish Readers at all Masses
- 25<sup>th</sup> Conversion of St Paul
- 29<sup>th</sup> Parish Finance Committee Meeting

## February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Presentation of the Lord
- 8<sup>th</sup> Day for Victims of Trafficking
- 11<sup>th</sup> Anointing of the Sick, 2.30pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday
- 18<sup>th</sup> First Sunday of Lent
- 23<sup>rd</sup> CAFOD Lent fast day
- 25<sup>th</sup> CAFOD Lent Fast Day; collection  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

## March

- Celebrations of First Reconciliation, dates & times tbc
- 1<sup>st</sup> St David  
Women's World Day of Prayer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent –
- 10<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Mothering Sunday
- 17<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent
- 19<sup>th</sup> Feast of St Joseph
- 24<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday
- 28<sup>th</sup> Holy Thursday
- 29<sup>th</sup> Good Friday

## March (cont.)

- mhhhhhhhhhhhm
- 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday  
-British summer time begins

## April

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bank Holiday
- 8<sup>th</sup> The Annunciation of the Lord
- 21<sup>st</sup> Vocations Sunday
- 23<sup>rd</sup> St George
- 30<sup>th</sup> Day of Prayer for victims and survivors  
of sexual abuse

## May

- 1<sup>st</sup> St Joseph the Worker
- 6<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday
- 9<sup>th</sup> Ascension
- 11<sup>th</sup> First Holy Communion, 10.30am & 2.30pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> World Communications Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> Ascension
- 18<sup>th</sup> First Holy Communion, 10.30am & 2.30pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> Pentecost
- 26<sup>th</sup> Holy Trinity
- 27<sup>th</sup> Bank holiday

## June

- First Reconciliation & Communion 2024 application forms  
available
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Corpus Christi
- 7<sup>th</sup> Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 9<sup>th</sup> Going Forth Mass, First Communions, 2.30pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> Day for Life
- 24<sup>th</sup> Nativity of John the Baptist
- 29<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Confirmation
- 30<sup>th</sup> Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul

## July

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dedication of Westminster Cathedral
- 11<sup>th</sup> Europe Day
- 14<sup>th</sup> Sea Sunday

**Making New Year's Resolutions? Looking for Volunteering Opportunities?** Your parish community needs you! There are many roles to fill from helping children and adults along their faith journey to cleaning the church; from a weekly commitment to a couple of hours in a year. Information concerning current needs is posted from time to time in this newsletter. Please consider answering the call when the need arises! Additionally, if you have an idea for a new activity or group in the parish, please let us know.

**London Irish Centre @ Northfields** takes place in the Parish hall here at St Peter and Paul. **Thursdays at 1.30pm to 4pm.** A warm place. Everyone Welcome. Closed now for Christmas and will restart **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January.** Contact Marie Connolly or Mary Whelan-O'Neill on 07592508682.

**Reception and Sixth Form Applications** Fr Jim will be available to sign forms **on certain days during a week at the beginning of January.** Look and listen out for details Should you require copy baptism certificates, please e-mail Rosa at [northfields@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:northfields@rcdow.org.uk) with name of child, date of birth and approximate date of baptism. No appointments necessary.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024** Next year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will be from 19th to 26th July 2024. Complete an 'Expression of Interest' form and you will be contacted when bookings open. More information will follow in the coming months. <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> Some forms available at the back of the church.

**Cardinal's Christmas Meditation 2023** For Cardinal's Vincent's meditation, please go to <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/homilies/cardinals-christmas-meditation-2023/>

**Parish Office** will be closed from 20th December to 8<sup>th</sup> January. E-mails and phone messages will be monitored during this time. The next newsletter will appear on 7<sup>th</sup> January. Please submit items by e-mail before 5<sup>th</sup> January. Thank you!