

PARISH OF ST CHARLES BORROMEO
8 OGLE STREET, LONDON W1W 6HS



P. Priest: Fr Oscar Ardila / Sr Pauline Forde
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 Email: oglestreet@rcdow.org.uk
 Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/oglestreet>

Neocatechumenate: Michael Anderson 07956281186
Confessions: Tues to Fri at 12noon before Mass
Masses: Tues to Fri 12:30pm
Thu 6pm
Sat 8:15pm & Sun 9am & 11am

Morning Prayer of the Church: Mon to Fri during Advent from 6:30am to 7:30am. Everyone is welcome!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2025



"He sent his disciples to ask [Jesus], 'Are you the one who is to come or have we got to wait for someone else?'" Matthew 11:2-3

CHRISTMAS 2025

RC Church of St Charles Borromeo

WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER Christmas Eve

- 12:30pm Vigil Mass
- 6:00pm (Children's mass)
- And Vigil Mass directly after Carol Service at 7:30pm

THURSDAY 25th DECEMBER Christmas Day

- 9:00am
 - 11:00am
- (Please note that there is no 6pm Mass today)

FRIDAY 26th DECEMBER St Stephen's Day

- 12:30pm

SATURDAY 27th DECEMBER

Christmas Retreat THE BIRTH OF SALVATION

- 11am to 3pm

WEDNESDAY 31st DECEMBER Mass for the New Year

- 6:00pm

Preparing for Marriage at St Charles Borromeo: eight sessions at 8pm on Thursdays 22nd & 29th Jan, 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th Feb, 5th & 12th Mar and an all-day retreat on Saturday 21st Mar. The course is free but we expect people to register their interest at oglestreet@rcdow.org.uk.

Mass Schedule	
Sat 13 th Dec	8:15pm The Neocatechumenate
Sun 14 th Dec	9am Ethel Guzman Intent.
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT A	11am Pro Populo 2pm Filipino Community
Mon 15 th Dec	6:30am Morning Prayer
Tue 16 th Dec	12:30pm Anne Munnelly RIP
Wed 17 th Dec	12:30pm John Munnelly RIP
Thu 18 th Dec	12:30pm Anthony Munnelly RIP 6pm Mrs Patsy Culpin RIP
Fri 19 th Dec	12:30pm James & Mrs J Munelly RIP

Praying with the Scriptures for Advent.

Wednesday 10:30am in St Charles' Crypt.

Christmas Retreat: The Birth of Salvation



Christ saves by grace through faith for works.

Salvation in the Holy Family

Sat 27th Dec 11am to 3pm

at St Charles Borromeo, Ogle Street.

Please register your interest at:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/oglestreet/events/christmas-retreat-the-birth-of-salvation/>

Collection totals for November:

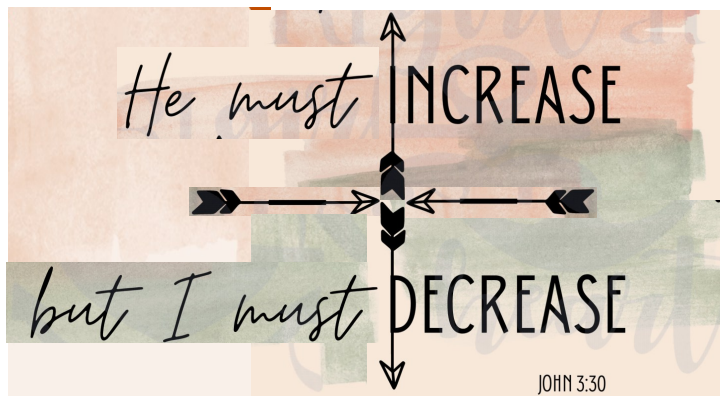
Sunday Masses: 1051.31
 Standing Orders 1849.30
 Contactless 180

TOTAL 3080.61 Many Thanks!

SIMBANG GABI Everyone is welcome to join our Christmas Filipino Mass this Sunday 14th December at 2pm and/or to enjoy sharing food and drink immediately after the Mass in the Crypt. "Mabuhay at Maligayang Pasko!"

Join our WhatsApp group to find the hymns to be sung on Sunday.





Beloved,

Our life has horizontal and vertical dimensions. The cross has a horizontal and a vertical beam.

The horizontal dimension includes all that happens as we move in space and time aiming for goals, reaching targets and seeking to achieve. It is the linear experience of everyday existence. It is

the dash between birth and death. The time we spend earning money, doing our work, getting a degree, a mortgage, a spouse, a pension, an operation or a child. The joy of achieving and the negative emotion that ensues whenever something or someone prevents us from doing so.

But there is also a vertical dimension in which we move higher or lower in a transcendental realm beyond time and space. This plane is invisible, taps into eternity and has to do with who we are or who we become in the sight of God rather than the successes or failures we experience in the sight of people.

The Lord Jesus Christ revealed a life-saving secret about the intersection of these two planes. Whenever we stop resenting and rebelling against the interruptions, the obstacles and the "enemies" who prevent us from reaching our goals in this life, choosing instead to lay our pride low and to place our hope in God, we grow taller in his sight because *"whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted"* Matthew 23:12.

The frustration we feel in front of the obstacle can hardly be avoided. Is there something more infuriating than a slow walker in front of you when you are in a hurry to reach a place in time?

Remember, however, the vertical dimension. With the right disposition you may be interrupted and late and yet in perfect harmony with eternity. Does not the cross look like the most terrible of obstacles interrupting the greatest project ever carried out under the sun? And yet, in faith, we know that the cross was not an obstacle but rather the trampoline by which the horizon of Christ's earthly life was catapulted to the highest realms of God's glory. On the cross the Son decreased to the lowest, the Father was raised to the highest and we were raised with him, through him and in him through the Spirit.

Whenever life puts a stop in your path, remember the secret of the Baptist: *"He must increase but I must decrease"*. Christ's glorious presence increases in us as our prideful self decreases. Bring your pride low for love of him. Place all your hope in him and you will not be let down. On the contrary, you will be brought higher than your eye can see, your ear can hear or your mind can understand in this world.

This is why He came down from heaven and was brought low on the cross. This is why He must increase but we must decrease.

Fr Oscar