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Parish Secretary: Sharon O' Toole

The Parish Office is open:

Tues 9:30am - 12:30pm

Wed 9:30am - 12:30pm

Fri 9:30am - 12:30pm

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<https://www.Instagram.com/roystoncatholic>

### Mass this Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent (A) 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

#### Today's Readings

*Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11* We hear a call to "prepare a way for the Lord".

*2 Peter 3:8-14* Peter suggests there will be a new creation "where righteousness will be at home".

*Mark 1:1-8* John the Baptist baptises in water, anticipating the coming of the Messiah, who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.

#### Mass This Week

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00am

10:30am

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 9:15am

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 9:15am

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 9:15am

Advent Weekday

St Lucy

St John of the Cross

Advent Weekday

#### Intentions

Bp Kenneth Nowakowski (Ukrainian Eparchy)

For Our Parishioners

Peace in the Holy Land

Fr Laurence Kingseller (RIP)

Catarina & Donato Erario (anniversary)

Vocations to the Religious Life

Deacon Michael Byker (RIP)

#### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>

4:30pm

#### Exposition and Reconciliation

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for the Holy Land

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be celebrated during exposition (5:30pm Saturday) or by appointment.

*Please note that it is our intention to livestream the 9am Sunday Mass and most of the weekday Masses.*

**Jubilee Year Preparations** Our final lunchtime meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December will be at 12:30pm in the Parish Centre. We shall look at the final Pastoral Constitution of the Second Vatican Council on the Church in the World (*Gaudium et Spes*) and its continuing significance for us. This will include a shared simple lunch. This is a long document and if you don't have time to read all of it, please read paragraphs 1-3; 11-18; 22; 40-45; *If you have time only to read one paragraph make it para 22.*

**Advent afternoon of prayer and reconciliation** On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, there will be an extended period of Exposition during which it will be possible to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 4:40pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be celebrated at its usual time of 5:30pm on the other Saturdays of Advent or by appointment.

**Advent Giving Tree** We will again collect presents for homeless people and others in special need this Christmas. Please note that we will need all gifts to be **in by next Sunday** December 17<sup>th</sup> in order to distribute by Christmas.

**Work Party to re-arrange the Church!** One of our challenges each year is to set up our Church building so that we can seat as many people as possible for the Christmas masses. It is proposed to have a work party to begin the process at 2pm on Friday December 15<sup>th</sup>. Is anyone available to help? (Sorry about the inconvenient timing but we are limited by having to have access to the Parish Centre when nobody has booked it and to make a start before the children's rehearsals for the Nativity.) Please let Fr Philip know if you can help.

**Christmas Volunteers** Thank you to all who have signed up. There are still several spaces which we need to fill to enable us to celebrate all the Christmas masses.

**Christmas Flowers** There will be a retiring collection after all the Masses next weekend to pay towards the flowers in church for Christmas.

**Annual Report and Accounts Diocese of Westminster** Copies of the 2022 Annual Report and Short Financial Summary are available for your inspection in the sacristy. The full report may be downloaded at [www.rcdow.org.uk/about-us](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/about-us)

**SVP Vinnie Packs** The SVP are distributing **over 10,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 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.

**The Saint John Henry Newman School** students would like to invite any senior or older adults to their Christmas celebration at the school on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 10am to 11:30am. They will be providing refreshments and festive cakes, as well as seasonal music and entertainment. If you would like to attend, please contact Mrs Berwick on 01438 314643 or email [BerwickA@jhn.herts.sch.uk](mailto:BerwickA@jhn.herts.sch.uk) Please let them know if you have any dietary requirements or mobility issues.

**Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December For Persons with Disabilities** We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

**Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024.** £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).



## Christmas 2023

Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> and Dec 24<sup>th</sup>. **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Saturday 6:30pm Mass

Sunday 9am Mass (NB no 10:30am Mass)

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> **The Nativity of the Lord**

Vigil Mass of Christmas 5 pm (4.30 pm carols) *please note this is the mass at which we can get over-crowded. Whilst we do want to welcome everybody, there is only so much room available in our compact Church. Please prioritise making space for young families at this mass, and if you can please come to one of the three other Christmas masses.*

The Mass of Christmas Night: 9.30 pm (9pm carols),

The Mass of Christmas Dawn Monday 25<sup>th</sup>: 9am

The Mass of Christmas Day 10.30 am

