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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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Mass this Sunday: First Sunday of Advent (A) 3rd December 2023

Today's Readings

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8 The Prophet cries out for God to tear the heavens open and come down to save us.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 St Paul constantly thanks God for the graces his converts received in Corinth.

Mark 13:33-37 Jesus entrusts the Church, his followers, with our own special tasks as we live out our personal Christian vocations.

Mass This Week

Saturday 2nd 6:30pm

Sunday 3rd 9:00am

10:30am

Tuesday 5th 6:00pm

Wednesday 6th 9:15am

Thursday 7th 9:15am

12:30pm

Friday 8th 9:15am

6:00pm

Advent Weekday

St Nicolas

St Ambrose

Funeral Mass – Mary Wilson (RIP)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Intentions

For Our Parishioners

Patricia Barraclough (RIP)

Fred Bristow (anniversary)

Patricia Barraclough (RIP)

Children

The Church and People of Millan

Antonio Esposito Antonietta (anniv)

The Church and People of the United States of America

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of Fred Bristow (RIP)

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.

Additional Masses Please note that there are two extra masses this week.

The Funeral Mass for Mary Wilson on Thursday at 12:30pm

An evening mass (6pm) for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Jubilee Year Preparations Our next lunchtime meeting on Wednesday 6th December will be at 12:30pm. We shall look at the great Constitution of the Second Vatican Council on Revelation (*Dei Verbum*) and its continuing significance for us. This will include some video input, the opportunity to reflect on our experiences and hopes and a shared simple lunch.

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 December 17th in order to distribute by Christmas.

The Kanyike Project – Big Give Appeal 2023

As a parish community you have been generous supporters of Kanyike for a good many years. Women and girls make up 80% of the Kanyike population, and we are currently raising money to train them to make and sell soap – something everyone needs! Please, if you can, help us to do this by donating via the Big Give Appeal **before Tuesday 6 December** For more information and to donate go to www.biggive.org

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

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 15th 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 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.



Advent and Christmas 2023

Most of Advent will be relatively 'normal' and follow our usual weekly pattern.

Please note: Our Advent reflections were brought forward because of the shortness of the season this year. On Wednesday 6th we will think about the place of revelation, scripture and tradition in the Church as we continue our Jubilee preparations looking at the Vatican II Constitution *Dei Verbum* at 12:30pm in the Committee Room in the Parish Centre. On Wednesday 13th we will focus on the Church in the world

On Saturday 16th December, there will be an extended period of Exposition during which it will be possible to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A priest will be available from 4:30pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be celebrated at its usual time of 5:30pm on the other Saturdays of Advent or by appointment.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Dec 24th. It will be very difficult to have three masses with sufficient volunteers for Advent IV and four Christmas masses. Therefore, there will be a 6:30pm Mass on Saturday 23rd December but only the 9am Mass on the Sunday morning.

The Vigil Mass of Christmas will the Children's vigil: 5 pm (4.30 pm carols) on Sunday December 24th, this is always the mass at which we 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 will begin at: 9.30 pm (9pm carols),

The Mass of Christmas Dawn will be on Monday 25th: 9am

and the Mass of Christmas Day 10.30 am

We are always desperate for helpers over Christmas and if you can help please do so. There is a sign up sheet in the Sacristy. We need musicians and readers and Eucharistic ministers and servers and sacristans and nice people to calm down your over-stressed Parish Priest.