

FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parish Bulletin – 1st Sunday of Advent – 3rd December 2023

Welcome to everybody at Mass today and especially to anyone who is new or visiting. We ask God’s blessing on you and your loved ones this week.

THIS WEEK

Sunday 3rd December Saturday 6pm 10am 12pm Monday 4th December No Mass Tuesday 5th December 10am Wednesday 6th December 10am Thursday 7th November 10am Friday 8th December 10am Sunday 10th December Saturday 6pm 10am 12pm	1st Sunday of Advent Frank Gilmore - RIP Anniversary Annie Biada - Thanksgiving Iris Julien - RIP Anniversary St John Damascene, Priest Grace - RIP St Nicholas, Bishop Albertha Plaza - RIP Anniversary St. Ambrose, Bishop Lena Queally- RIP The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Vergin Mary Medina Villanueva Masbad - RIP 2nd Sunday of Advent Michael Gary Marshall - Birthday - Thanksgiving Philomena McMillan - RIP Anniversary Albertha Plaza & Clarence Plaza - RIP Anniversary
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PARISH SCHEDULE

- Sunday Mass:**
6pm Saturday (Said Mass), 10.00am (Sung Mass), 12pm (Mass with hymns)
- Weekday Mass:**
Tuesday – Friday 10.00am
- Holy Days of Obligation:**
10.00am and 7.00pm
- Eucharistic Adoration:**
Friday 10.35-11.20am and Saturday 5.00-5.45pm
- Confessions:**
Friday 10.35-11.20am and Saturday 5.15-5.45pm
- Nigerian Friends:**
Monthly on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 1.00 pm
- Ghanaian Association:**
Monthly on the last Sunday of the month at 1 pm
- Filipino Association:**
Mass on the First Sunday of the month at 3 pm
- First Saturday Devotion – Rosary Group:**
First Saturday of each month at 4.00pm in the parish hall.
- Divine Mercy Devotion:**
Third Saturday of each month at 3.00pm in the parish hall.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today we begin the season of [Advent](#), which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year’s first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark’s Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord’s return at the end of time and John the Baptist’s preparation for Jesus.



Today’s Gospel is taken from the end of Mark’s Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark’s account of Jesus’ Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today’s passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus’ warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark’s Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark’s audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus’ warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today’s Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church’s celebration of Christ’s birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ’s return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark’s community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

TODAY’S MASS READINGS

FAITH APPS FOR YOUR PHONE

Here are some great apps to help you develop your faith, which you may be interested in exploring:

Bible in one year • Hallow • Amen • Laudate • The Catholic App • Universalis



Entrance Antiphon:

Cf. Ps 24: 1-3
To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First reading:

Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8
You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
‘Our Redeemer’ is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;

we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19
God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second reading:

1 Corinthians 1:3-9
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.
I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation: Ps84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

Gospel:

Mark 13:33-37
Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!’

Communion Antiphon Ps 84: 13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

AROUND THE PARISH



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Planned giving 397.65, loose plate £445.39. Our parish relies entirely on your donations to pay our bills, so thank you for making a difference! Many are now switching to making a standing order with their banks to make their weekly contributions. For more information, please visit our website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stonebridge/donate/> and follow the link to making a donation.

Advent and Christmas

This Sunday (3rd December) marks the beginning of the season of Advent. A booklet with the times of all our Advent and Christmas services is now available. In the meantime, here is an important date for your diary: our **Annual Carol Service on Sunday 17th December at 7pm**, followed by a reception and raffle in the hall. All welcome!

Red poinsettia plants

Do you think you can bring a poinsettia plant or two to decorate the church for Christmas? As in other years, we would like to make the church look beautiful with a sea of red plants! You can leave your plant donation by the Sacred Heart Chapel.

If you cannot donate a plant, please consider making a donation towards the cost of our Christmas flowers. There is a donation box in the wall on the left immediately as you come into church. Thank you!

Walk with Me - Advent 2023

Walk with me is a daily Advent companion in the form of a small booklet, with readings and reflection for each day of this holy season. Copies of Walk with me are now available at the back of church. The suggested donation is £1 per copy.

A personal request

Fr Tony writes: as many of you know, my mum, Lin, has been diagnosed with an aggressive lung cancer. She will be beginning a 6-week course of radiotherapy around Christmas time. Please continue to pray for my mum's healing and for my family's intentions at this concerning time. I greatly appreciate the many kindnesses that have been shown to us. God bless you.

Alpha celebration

On Thursday 14th December at 6.30pm, we are holding a celebration evening to mark the end of our parish Alpha course. Join us for food, conversation, testimonies and praise and worship

music. If you haven't been to Alpha, you are very welcome to join us for a preview of the next season.

Open House There will be an Open House this Tuesday between 5pm and 6pm in the presbytery, to see Fr Tony briefly without an appointment.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 03033033030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers

Friday collection

As many of you know, we are blessed in having music at our Friday morning Mass and Adoration. To help defray the cost for our Friday music, we have introduced a collection at the end of Mass and Adoration. If everyone who comes on a Friday donates just a pound or two to this collection it will go a long way to covering these costs and helping the parish in difficult financial circumstances.

First Holy Communion 2023-24

Our First Holy Communion programme takes place today 3rd December, at 10.45am in the parish centre. Parents should sign the Mass attendance register which will be at the back of church.

Parish Alpha

Please continue to pray for God's blessing on Alpha in Stonebridge:

Heavenly Father,
fill the hearts of our Alpha guests with the Holy Spirit,
so that each person may grow in friendship with Jesus,
and experience the depths of your love in their lives.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Forthcoming funerals

Michael Smith RIP

The Requiem Mass of the late Michael Smith will take place on Friday 8th December at 12.00pm. *May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

Holy communion for the sick and housebound

Are you able to help with the important role of taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound? Just one visit a month to someone at home can make a world of difference to them. If you can help, please speak to Fr Tony. You will receive training and be enrolled as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

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."

Christmas Fayre

There will be a Christmas Fayre at Our Lady of Lourdes School on Friday 8th December between 2:30pm and 5pm.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School & Nursery - Open Morning for 2024-2025 Intake – Thursday 16th November 2023

Nestled in the midst of a busy community, Our Lady of Lourdes is an oasis of calm that provides a fantastic learning environment for your child to develop. Our wonderfully spacious and colourful learning environment has the most up-to-date facilities to encourage your child's development, providing a happy and secure stepping-stone from which your child can progress. Our staff are highly qualified, dedicated and caring, with a wealth of experience in delivering early years education. The children are presented with a wide range of practical experiences intended to motivate, stimulate and challenge and which promote learning through experience and encouragement of independence in preparation for the next stage of their learning journey. We still have limited spaces in both settings for this academic year. To arrange a visit please contact the school office on 0208 961 5037.

Let there be peace on earth: Young Adult Advent Retreat

Come and take time aside with other young adults aged 18-35 this Advent. We will have time to reflect and pray to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Prince of Peace.

When: Saturday 16th December 2023, 10:30am-2:30pm

Where: FCJ Spirituality Centre, 32 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1TA (a short walk from London's Euston station)

Who: facilitated by Sr Anouska Robinson-Biggin fcj (The Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) are an International Congregation of Catholic Sisters founded by Marie Madeleine d'Houët in France in 1820)

Cost: By Donation

For more information book your place email: bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection 2023 at Sacred Heart RC Church New Priory Quex Road Kilburn London NW6 4PS on Sunday 10 December 2023 from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm led by the Marian Fathers. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call millie on [07957594646](tel:07957594646) for more information

AROUND THE PARISH

HOW TO CONTACT US

Address:
Brentfield Road, London, NW10 8ER
Telephone:
0208 965 3313
Website:
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stonebridge>

Parish priest:
Fr Tony Thomas
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Permanent Deacon:
Rev. Andrew Safo Poku
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Parish administrator:
Violet D'Souza
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Safeguarding representative:
Janeen Nwosu
stonebridgesg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Primary School
Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School
www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk

The parish office is open from 10.30-2.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
There is an 'Open House' each Tuesday between 5.00pm and 6.00pm to see Fr Tony briefly without an appointment.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The Immaculate Conception is the belief that the Virgin Mary was free of original sin from the moment of her conception. It is one of the four Marian dogmas of the Catholic Church

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Solemnity day falls this Friday

Alpha celebration evening

Thursday 14th December 6.30pm

Join us for an evening of food, conversation, testimonies and praise and worship music.

If you've not done Alpha, come along for a preview of our next season.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

This wordsearch is inspired by today's Gospel. How many hidden words can you find?

S	H	P	E	E	L	S	A	R	T
W	M	O	R	E	V	E	N	R	H
O	O	E	M	O	H	R	A	I	G
R	G	N	I	N	E	V	E	S	I
C	U	P	K	S	E	A	T	Y	N
K	A	T	O	L	K	N	W	A	D
C	R	I	L	E	A	T	K	T	I
O	D	I	M	E	W	S	I	S	M
C	N	I	R	D	A	O	R	B	A
G	T	R	E	T	S	A	M	O	T



TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASS

There are refreshments in the hall after the 12.00pm Mass on Sundays and after all weekday Masses.

Please join us for a friendly cuppa and chat!

PRAYERS, PLEASE

Please keep in your prayers our parishioners who are sick or housebound:

Lin Thomas, Kadeem Edwards, Amar Atienza, Betty O'Reily (Elizabeth), Eileen Dowd, Marcella Frawley, Valda Baptist, Omolara Ademuyiwa

Please give the names of any sick or housebound you would like mentioned in the newsletter to Fr Tony or Violet, our administrator.