

# FIVE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

# CATHOLIC CHURCH



## Parish Bulletin – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – 10<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b> Saturday 6pm	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Michael Gary Marshall - Birthday - Thanksgiving
10am	Philomena McMillan - RIP Anniversary
12pm	Albertha Plaza & Clarence Plaza - RIP Anniversary
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> No Mass	<b>St. Damasus I, Pope</b>
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b> 10am	<b>Our Lady of Gaudalupe</b> Julieta P. Figueroa - RIP Birthday
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b> 10am	<b>St. Lucy</b> Stella Giselle Evans - Healing
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November</b> 10am	<b>St. John of the Cross, Priest</b> Milagrina Pires - RIP
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b> 10am	Michael, Cathleen, Lilly Ann Corcoran - RIP
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> Saturday 6pm	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Michael White - RIP
10am	Diosdado S. Perez - RIP
12pm	Mary and Thomas Griffin - RIP Anniversary

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

Each Advent has two ‘John the Baptist’ Sundays: the first when we see John preparing a community for the Messiah, the second when he points out Jesus as the Lamb of God. Today is the first of these. John chose a point where the busy road from Jerusalem to the East crossed the Jordan River. There he button-holed all the busy financiers, merchants and other travellers and tourists, warning them to change their ways - and to change them now, before it was too late. ‘I am too busy,’ no doubt they said. ‘I have other things to worry about; I have a wife and family to feed.’ John was forming a community of repentance; but not so much a community which wept ‘Boo-hoo!’ about their sins, as a community of people determined to set their scale of values right. He meant them to stop going in one direction, to turn round and go in a different direction – towards God.



Do we give ourselves a moment to pause and ask whether we have our priorities right? Where on that list of priorities does the entry of Christ into our lives come? John expected Jesus to baptise with fire. Does that mean burning something away? Or warming something up? Or a shining light? What does your baptism mean to you?

### 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.

# 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. Is 30: 19, 30  
O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his  
voice heard  
in the joy of your heart.

**First reading:**

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11  
‘Console my people, console them’  
says your God.  
‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem  
and call to her  
that her time of service is ended,  
that her sin is atoned for,  
that she has received from the hand of  
the Lord  
double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.  
Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.  
Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low.  
Let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be  
revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain,  
joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice,  
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear,  
say to the towns of Judah,

‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast  
and leading to their rest the mother  
ewes.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 84(85):9-14  
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give  
us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land.

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

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven.

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

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps.

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

**Second reading:**

2 Peter 3:8-14  
There is one thing, my friends, that you  
must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a  
day’ can mean a thousand years, and a  
thousand years is like a day. The Lord is  
not being slow to carry out his promises,  
as anybody else might be called slow;  
but he is being patient with you all,  
wanting nobody to be lost and  
everybody to be brought to change his  
ways. The Day of the Lord will come like  
a thief, and then with a roar the sky will  
vanish, the elements will catch fire and  
fall apart, the earth and all that it  
contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end  
like this, you should be living holy and  
saintly lives while you wait and long for  
the Day of God to come, when the sky  
will dissolve in flames and the elements  
melt in the heat. What we are waiting  
for is what he promised: the new  
heavens and new earth, the place where  
righteousness will be at home. So then,  
my friends, while you are waiting, do  
your best to live lives without spot or  
stain so that he will find you at peace.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Lk3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of  
God. Alleluia!

**Gospel:**

Mark 1:1-8  
The beginning of the Good News about  
Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written  
in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger  
before you;  
he will prepare your way.  
A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his  
paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist  
appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming  
a baptism of repentance for the  
forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the  
people of Jerusalem made their way to  
him, and as they were baptised by him in  
the river Jordan they confessed their sins.  
John wore a garment of camel-skin, and  
he lived on locusts and wild honey. In  
the course of his preaching he said,  
‘Someone is following me, someone who  
is more powerful than I am, and I am not  
fit to kneel down and undo the strap of  
his sandals. I have baptised you with  
water, but he will baptise you with the  
Holy Spirit.’

**Communion Antiphon** Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the  
heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you  
from God.

# AROUND THE PARISH



## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Planned giving 545.90, loose plate £362.27. 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 is 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 next Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm**, followed by a reception and raffle in the hall. All welcome!

## Confessions

Every Friday 10.40am – 11.20am

Every Saturday 5.15pm – 5.45pm

In addition:

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December: 11.00am – 12.00pm

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December: 6.00pm – 7.00pm

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December: 11.00am – 12.00pm.

If you haven't been to Confession for a while, there are leaflets to help you prepare at the back of church.

## Help needed to clean the church for Christmas

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December from 10am we are going to clean and decorate the church for Christmas. Please come along and lend a hand. Many hands make light work!

## Fr Tony writes:

I am grateful for the many prayers that have been offered for my mum, Lin, following her recent cancer diagnosis. She will begin treatment just before Christmas. During the period, I will be away from the parish on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mass will take place on Tuesday mornings as usual, but please note that there will be no Open House after 12<sup>th</sup> December until further notice. During this time, please call the office to make an appointment. Many thanks for your understanding.

## 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!

## New Year Bring-and-Share Lunch

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January after the 12pm Mass we will be hosting a bring-and-share lunch to welcome (a little belatedly!) 2024. Please bring a plate of food to share with fellow parishioners. All welcome!

## Parish Grand Draw

We will soon be launching another Grand Draw! Tickets will be £10 and the top prizes will be a Samsung tablet computer, a designer handbag for ladies, and a gents' watch. The draw will be made at the bring-and-share lunch on 28<sup>th</sup> January. All proceeds to parish funds.

## First Saturday Devotion

From 6<sup>th</sup> January we will begin the First Saturday devotion to Our Lady at 4pm. This will be followed as normal by Adoration and Confessions, and Mass at 6pm.

## 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.

## Alpha celebration

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 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](https://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

The next activity for our First Holy Communion children is the Christmas workshop on December

16<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that parents should sign the Mass attendance register which is at the back of church on Sundays.

**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."

## Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School & Nursery - Open Morning for 2024-2025 Intake – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk)



# AROUND THE PARISH

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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Brentfield Road, London, NW10 8ER  
**Telephone:**  
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**Parish priest:**  
Fr Tony Thomas  
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**Primary School**  
Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School  
[www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk](http://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.

# Carol Concert

This year's Carol Concert will take place on  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm, followed by  
refreshments in the hall. All are welcome.



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**Our Lady of Guadalupe, is a Catholic title of Mary, mother of Jesus associated with a series of five Marian apparitions to a Mexican peasant named Juan Diego and his uncle, Juan Bernardino, which are believed to have occurred in December 1531, when the Mexican territories were under the Spanish Empire.**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Memorial day falls this Tuesday**

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

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



RIVER  
ISAIAH  
MESSENGER  
WILDERNESS  
BAPTISM  
REPENTANCE  
CAMELSKIN  
LOCUSTS  
HONEY  
STRAP  
SANDALS  
SPIRIT

## 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.*