

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

BAPTISMS: Our next Baptism course will be announced in January 2024. Please contact the Parish Office to book a place.

2022-2023 CONFIRMATION, RCIA & RCIC CERTIFICATES: Please collect your certificate from the Parish Office Mon. – Fri. 9am – 1pm.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES 2023-2024:

FHC Parents meeting: Parents meeting on Tuesday 9th January at 6pm to 7pm in church.

Children's Meetings:

GROUP 1: Friday 12th January 2024 at 5.30pm-6.30pm; in the Parish Hall.

GROUP 2: Saturday 13th January 2024 at 12noon-1pm; in the Parish Hall.

Confirmation – Next session is on Monday 8th January 2024 at 6pm prompt – 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. All Candidates to bring their Bibles.

RCIA - Friday 12th January 2024 with Mass at 7pm, followed by a session in the Presbytery.

RCIC – This Sunday 10th December 2023 with Mass at 11am, followed by a session upstairs in the Parish Hall on Brereton Road.

FUNERALS

For funeral arrangements, please contact the parish office and let us know the name of your loved one so that we can pray for his/her soul.

WEDDINGS

If you are planning to get married, please call or send an email to the parish office. Couples wishing to marry here or in any Catholic Church need to give at least six months' notice of their intentions.

MASS TIMES

Monday 10am
Tuesday 10am
Wednesday NO MASS
Thursday 10am
Friday 7pm
Saturday 10am
Saturday (Vigil) 7pm
Sunday 9am and 11am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 10.30am to 11.15am

Confessions
Saturday 10.30am to 11.15am
Saturday 6pm to 6.45pm

Please pray for those who has recently fallen asleep in peace with the Lord:

Lodovina Pereira, Margaret Carr, Mary Derham, Juliana Asare, Anne Williams, Catherine Everette, Aliyah Cardoso, Scarlette Yeboah, Luis Blanco, Seamus Cronin, Jason Kyriakides, Desiree Ann Seechan, Lyra Richards, Patricia Dilaver, Victoria Nma Odilli, Valentina Cuenco, Rene Petrouse, Bernard (Bernie) Meaney, Ernest William, Melford Weekes, Gabrielle Doocey, Gadje Sabine Ouan, Marjorine Nunoo, Benedict D'Silva, Timothy O'Connor, Anne Elizabeth Beguin (*nee* Corrigan), Pauline Ilogebe Udenze, Mercedes Torres Arroyo, Fr Dominic McKenna, Lawrence Henry, Helena Duckett, Agnes Otuo Achampong, Lucas DaSivla, Jean Mae Marlow, Francis Onyearuqbulem Lucy Dawson and all our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in peace with our Lord.

Let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Amen



ST FRANCIS DE SALESCHURCH

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Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/tottenham/>

Parish Priest: Fr David Lucuy Claros

Parish Administrator: Mrs. Elisabete Veselovska.

Catechetical Coordinator: Mrs Marcelle Jemide

Safeguarding Representative: Ms Vicky Gowdie

Email: tottenhams2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk



Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11; Luke 1:46-50,53-54;
1Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR B- 17/12/2023

Humility and Joy

On the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as 'Gaudete Sunday', we light the rose candle on our wreath. The word *Gaudete* comes from the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass: *Gaudete in Domino semper* (Rejoice in the Lord always). The Church invites us to rejoice at the coming of the Lord, through the exhortation of the prophet Zephaniah, John the Baptist and Mary. These three biblical persons are at the centre of our reflections at this time of Advent. What can we learn from them? I think what stands out of the three is the joy they experience and convey to the people who are in deep distress. Isaiah brings good news (Gospel) to the poor, those whose hearts are broken. Good news for those in prison who will be set free. Those who are listening to Isaiah, after 2600 years to date are you and I, who might be trapped in the prison of our sins, perhaps your heart has been broken by betrayal, anger, frustration, sickness, poverty, unemployment, or broken relationships. John the Baptist experienced the joy of encountering the Lord early in the womb of his mother Elizabeth, when Mary visited her on her six months of pregnancy! The Gospel says that the child leapt for joy at her greeting. Now John announces the coming of the Christ for whom he is preparing the way by calling people to conversion. Mary exults of joy after receiving the annunciation of the angel Gabriel, that from her the Son of the Most High will be born. This is the Gospel for you and me, now in 2023. The joy this three biblical persons experience is preceded by an attitude. This attitude is called "*Humilitas*" that is humility. Isaiah has humbly accepted to become the prophet of the Lord, in spite that he considered himself to be inadequate and impure. John the Baptist's humility is so evident in the Gospel that says of himself that he is not the light, meaning, he is not the Christ, but just the voice that goes before the Christ. He accepts his condition as servant that point out the way to the Lord. He will say to his disciples, 'look, he is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.' John recognises his lowliness as he says 'I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap. Mary declares herself as the "handmaid of the Lord" and her "nothingness." These three persons, teaches us that the ones who can rejoice in the Lord are the poor ones, the so called "*Anawin*" who are the little ones who wait for the Lord in their poverty and their precariousness of spirit. They wait on the Lord expectantly and full of hope that the Lord will set them free from all kinds of sufferings.

Fr David

Sunday at St Francis De Sales Church

This week's Sanctuary lamp burning in honour of the Blessed Sacrament (Red) is offered for the intentions of **Hannah Shine**.

This week's Sanctuary lamp burning in honour of Our Lady (blue) is offered for the repose soul of **James Shine**.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 9am Lucy Toussaint ANNIV, The Departed Families **11am** Mary Obeng Thanksgiving, Afrifa, Bossman, Maame Thanksgiving **Monday 10am** Edmund Fitzgerald ANNIV, Fr David Lucuy Claros Thanksgiving **Tuesday 10am** Jeanette Travis ANNIV, Elisabete Veselovska Thanksgiving **Wednesday No Mass Thursday 10am** Eugene Killeen ANNIV, Charlotte Cassar RIP **Friday 7pm** Mary Ryan ANNIV, Anne Gallagher RIP **Saturday 10am** Charlotte Baxter RIP, Arturo Linares ANNIV **7pm** Lilian Obiike RIP, Mary Donnelly RIP

PARISH NEWS

ST FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH CHRISTMAS HARDSHIP FUND 2023

As we get ready to celebrate Christmas, we are aware that millions are facing a cost of living crisis. People are being hit by increased energy costs and rising inflation. Last year we asked parishioners to help out with our Christmas Parish Hardship Fund from which many of our families most in need have profited and this gave them the chance to celebrate Christmas in a dignified way. Please consider donating to this fund. It will be used to give grants to those in need, so that they may have the dignity of being able to use it for their urgent needs or be able to briefly enjoy the choices in the supermarket that so many of us take for granted. You can donate in cash by putting it in an envelope with the name of the appeal or if you do it online, please write "Christmas Hardship Fund". (*Our website details are on the next page*)

Thank you very much for your generous donations!

ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR 2023

In addition to our Christmas Parish Hardship Fund, you can also help by donating some food to be distributed to families in need who turn to Food Banks. Caritas Food Collective encourage us to use the Advent Calendar to bring items that will be sent to Food Banks in our area or be given to our families in need from our parish community. Please take with you one of the calendars or check the items you would be able to bring in the coming weeks and drop it at the entrance of the church or hand it to one of our volunteers and SVP members or you can drop it at the Parish Office, preferably at office times 9am to 1pm.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN

We will soon have our Christmas trees set in the church after 20th December. This year we would like to appeal to your generosity to donate presents for children, as too many families cannot afford to buy food and let alone Christmas presents. Please bring your presents labelled by age range and whether is for a boy or girl. Thank you very much for your support.

THE CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ARE PRINTED AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. PLEASE TAKE ONE HOME AND PLAN YOUR JOURNEY AND TIME COMING TO CHURCH FOR THE FESTIVITIES.

SCHEDULED MATCHES AND EVENTS AT THE STADIUM FOR DECEMBER 2023

Saturday 23rd TOT-EVE at 15.00; Sunday 31st TOT-BOU at 14.00.

Road restrictions will be in place. Please have a look on the link

<https://www.tottenhamhotspur.com/the-stadium/local/>

PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND PRAYER SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER

A big thank you to our choirs and to Charles our Parish Organist who delighted us with the beautiful Christmas Carols and prayer this Saturday. A big thanks to the Parish Hospitality team who had prepared and served the light refreshments in the Parish Hall.

Thank you to all parishioners for your active support and generosity!

PARISH FINANCES

PARISH PLANNED GIVING DONATIONS

At this trying time, we are receiving less donations due to the consequences of the global crisis. These are some ways you can support us and help us to grow more.

1. We kindly would like to invite you to consider registering to any of our Planned Giving Schemes. If you have not registered yet, please let us know by calling on 02088083554 or send an email tottenham@rcdow.org.uk and contact our Parish Administrator Elisabete Veselovska.
2. At present the best way to help us is by setting up a Bank Standing Order, see details below.
3. If you are a taxpayer, please consider making a GIFT AID declaration for your donations, to enable the parish to claim back 25p for every £1 you donate.
4. We would ideally like to reduce the use of cash due to further costs incurred and would request that instead, if you can donate by card at church by tapping on the contactless machines as you go out of church or consider donating online through our website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/tottenham/donate>. Our bank details are as below:

Account Name: WRC DT Tottenham

Sort Code: 40-05-20

Account Number: 71264397

Thank you very much for your continued support and generosity.

DONATIONS: We received the previous week in Loose £419.44 Envelopes £393.10 Standing Orders (November) £3,723 Contactless (November) £217 Christmas Hardship Fund £500

GIFT AID DONORS: Thank you for adding gift aid to your donations. We have now made a claim on donations for 2022-23 and received a total of £10,356 at no extra cost to you.

GASDS – We have also made a claim for this extra benefit of claiming £2,000 on the loose plate donations for which we are extremely grateful.

ST FRANCIS DE SALES BUILDING FUND

To-date we have raised a total of £33,682.58. Thank you very much for your generosity.