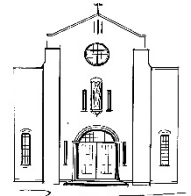


# Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023

204, High Street  
Waltham Cross  
Herts EN8 7DP  
01992 623156



<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/walthamcross>  
[walthamcross@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:walthamcross@rcdow.org.uk)

## MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



### NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

God be with you at the turning of the year, that you may know the Lord is ever near.  
In days of struggle may his Spirit be your strength, and as the times and seasons run their length,  
may Jesus Christ your rock and fortress be, renewed in faith, in hope and charity.  
So praise our God whose great and mighty hand supports all humankind in every land.  
The opening year his faithfulness he shows; his mercy be among us till its close.

### THIS WEEKEND'S LITURGY

Today is the first day of the New Year. It is also the final day of the octave of Christmas. On this special day, we honour Mary in her role as the Mother of God. She made possible Jesus' coming into the world, fully human as well as fully divine. As we celebrate the Eucharist today, let us consider the ways we can bring Christ into our world and look to Mary as a model of selfless obedience to God.

As the new year dawns, we realize the blessings that we have been given. God blesses the Chosen People as they invoke God's name. We are blessed as daughters and sons of God, able to call God, "Abba, Father!" Like the shepherds, who heard the message of the angels and went to find the word made flesh, let us listen to the word of God, then go forth praising and glorifying God.

*From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2022 World Library Publications*

**FRIDAY IS THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY, IT IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. THERE WILL BE AN EXTRA MASS IN THE CHURCH ON FRIDAY AT 8.00PM, THERE WILL ALSO BE MASS IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 9.10AM**

### MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> December		6.30pm Graeme O'Flaherty RIP 10.00pm People of the Parish
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Mary, Mother of God</b>	8.30am Mr & Mrs Duley RIP 11.30am Tina Bolland RIP 6.30pm People of the Parish
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Basil	10.00am John Harrington RIP
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	The Holy name of Jesus	10.00am Mary Maher Harrington RIP
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January		10.00am Joe Gallagher – Int.
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January		10.00am Rita Debono – Int.
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	The Epiphany of the Lord	10.00am Ngozika Antonia MBA RIP 8.00pm People of the Parish
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> January		6.30pm Michael English RIP

### TODAY'S READINGS:

Numbers 6:22-27  
Psalm 66  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:16-21

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 42:1-4.6-7  
Psalm 28  
Acts 10:34-38  
Matthew 3:13-17

### LIVE STREAMING FROM THE CHURCH

The live stream runs twenty-four hours a day, so you can 'visit' the Church whenever you wish. There is a link on the Parish Website and it is also accessible at <http://www.churchservices.tv/walthamcross>.

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS

At this time of the year, we are asked to pray for: Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.

**For those who are ill:** Nicola Harker, Ann Shipwright, Laurel Reeve, Julia Barrett, John Fleming, Annie Lutwack, Richard O'Reilly, Rosalie Olayokun, Barbara Alexander, Emily West, Linda Tank, Lily Barber, Anthony Burke, David Bellgam, Michelle Herity,

**For those who have died recently:** Violet Bidmead, Lucia Saggese, Mark Cusack, Jim Rooney,

**And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time:**

#### THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

**Thank you for last week's Offertory collection, which came to £205.00; Christmas Offering £3,274.00; plus the December Standing Orders £4,748.00; Online Donations £655.00; Contactless £210.99.**

*Thank you very much for your very generous Christmas offerings and your many cards and gifts. I am now feeling much better than I was on Christmas morning! Happy New Year,  
Fr John*

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

On Saturdays from 10.30 – 11.00am and from 5.45pm – 6.15pm.

#### FUNERAL THIS WEEK

The Funeral Mass for the late Lucia Saggese will be celebrated on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 12.00 noon.

#### PARISH MASS DIARY

The Mass Diary for Masses to be celebrated here in the Parish is now open.

#### AFTERNOON TEAS

The Afternoon Teas will be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 2.00pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.

#### WARM SPACES PROJECT 2022

We are providing a warm space here in the Meeting Room in the Parish Centre each Monday. It's open from 10.00am – 3.30pm. We are offering hot drinks as well as a soup and sandwich lunch. **We still need volunteers** to help prepare the refreshments and to chat with the people who come along. There are three volunteer sessions each day. 9.30am – 12.00 noon; 11.30am – 2.00pm; 1.30pm – 4.00pm. If you are able to help please let the Parish Office know. Thank you.

#### CHRISTMAS MEAL

The Parish is hosting a Christmas meal for its Senior Citizens and the housebound on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 1.00pm. If you would like to attend or know of anyone who would like to come along, please give names and details to the Parish Office before Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023. If you would like to help on the day with preparing, cooking or serving the meal, please contact the Parish Office.

#### 200 CLUB 2022

Thank you to all those who supported the 200 Club during this past year. £805.00 was given out in prizes and £806.00 was given to the Parish Building Fund. The Application Forms for 2023 are available as you exit the Church, they are also available on our Website. The more people who join, the more is given in prizes. The First Draw will be at the end of January.



#### FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting for the First Communion Parents on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023, at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre. The First Communion children will meet on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00am in the Parish Centre.

#### JOINING THE CHOIR GROUP

The Choir for both Saturday evening at 6.30pm & Sunday, 11.30am Mass are looking for some singers, if you would like to join the Choir, please speak to the Musicians before or after Mass. Thank you.

#### CALLING APF RED BOX HOLDERS

As we move into Advent and the Christmas season it is time for the end of year collection for the APF. At the back of the church you will find a box containing envelopes with the names of all the APF box holders in the parish. Please take home the APF envelope with your name, fill it with the contents of your APF box, and return the envelope to the parish office next Sunday. The APF is the charity that helps Catholic missionaries to continue to work in countries across the world. We thank you for all the money you give to this important work. If you have any questions, please contact Terry O'Sullivan – thrums55@googlemail.com.

#### COUNTING THE PARISH'S MONEY

We have a very loyal group of people who open the offertory envelopes and count the money and prepare it for the bank each week. The group has become smaller and we need some new people to help. If you are able to help please let the Parish Office know.

#### AA MEETINGS

The AA Meetings have restarted in the Parish Centre in the Meeting Room on Sunday evenings at 8.00pm. Please feel free to come along.

**The New Readers Rota and Missal Guide is now available from the Sacristy, and also available on the Website.**

#### MASK WEARING IN CHURCH

**You will no longer be asked to wear a mask in the Church or the Parish Centre. The Eucharist Ministers will continue to wear a mask while distributing Communion and we suggest that the Ushers and Offertory Collectors should wear one too. We will continue to keep the socially distanced benches at the front right-hand side of the Church.**