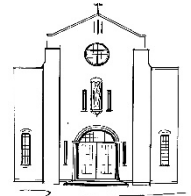


Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 8th January 2023



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

<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/walthamcross>
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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THIS WEEKEND'S LITURGY

Before Jesus began preaching, teaching, and healing throughout Galilee and Judea, he came to John to be baptized. The Spirit of God descended upon him and God's voice called out, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.' As Christians, baptized with the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to carry on Jesus' mission. Let us consider how God calls us to put our faith into action. May God be well pleased.

The Son of God is gradually revealed to the world. Isaiah speaks of the servant of the Lord who brings justice and compassion. Peter preaches to a group of Gentiles, telling them that God was with Jesus as he brought hope and healing to all people. Finally, we hear the Father's voice from the heavens at Jesus' baptism: 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.' May we see him revealed today in the Word, in the Eucharist, and in each other.

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MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 7th January

Sunday 8th January

The Baptism of the Lord

Monday 9th January

Tuesday 10th January

Wednesday 11th January

Thursday 12th January

Friday 13th January

Saturday 14th January

Aelred

Hilary

6.30pm Michael English RIP

8.30am People of the Parish

11.30am Bert Gomez RIP

6.30pm Anthony Burke RIP

10.00am Corrie Hull RIP

10.00am Mary Brodrick RIP

10.00am Anthony Burke RIP

10.00am Ego Ige

10.00am Hope Jayasundera RIP

6.30pm Maureen Maher RIP

TODAY'S READINGS:

Isaiah 42:1-4.6-7

Psalms 28

Acts 10:34-38

Matthew 3:13-17

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 49:3.5-6

Psalms 39

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

John 1:29-34

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

During Ordinary Time, we are asked to pray for: Peace on earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those who Care for Them; victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; Racial Justice; The Unemployed.

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, David Bellgam, Michelle Herity,

For those who have died recently: Lucia Saggese, Mark Cusack, Jim Rooney, Anthony Burke, Pope Benedict, Angela Barrett, Michaela Bonsu,

And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time: Bert Gomez,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Thank you for last week's Offertory collection, which came to £933.39; plus the Regular Standing Orders.

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 Mark Cusack will be celebrated on Thursday 12th January at 12.00 noon.

BAPTISM THIS WEEK

Saturday 14th January at 2.00pm – Priscilla Corcoran

PARISH MASS DIARY

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

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.

RCIA

The RCIA meets on Monday evenings at 7.00pm in the Presbytery.

CHRISTMAS MEAL

The Parish is hosting a Christmas meal for its Senior Citizens and the housebound, next Saturday, 14th 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 this week. If you would like to help on the day with preparing, cooking or serving the meal, please contact the Parish Office.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

The Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday 11th January at 10.30am in the Church.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Confirmation Preparation will continue on Thursday 12th January at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre.

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.

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

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.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION – VOLUNTEERING FOR CAFOD

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to join them in their mission here in the Westminster diocese. Could you volunteer and help them raise awareness in either parishes or schools about their work across the developing world tackling poverty and injustice. Find out more by joining one of their volunteer meetings in Lambeth in London on Saturday 21st January or Oakwood, North London on Wednesday 1st February. Please contact Tony at CAFOD for further details. westminster@cafod.org.uk or 0208 449 6970.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO ASSISTED SUICIDE

Assisted suicide presents profound dangers to public safety and the common good, and so it is crucial that as many people as possible engage with the Parliamentary Inquiry and oppose the introduction of assisted suicide into UK law. It is especially important that those who respond should oppose the idea of a 'Citizens' Assembly' or referendum on this issue, as these are easily abused to try to legalise assisted suicide.

Pope Francis has constantly taught against assisted suicide, euphemistically called, 'assisted dying', as have earlier pontiffs. "All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect." (*Pope Francis, Message to Catholics participating in Day for Life in Britain and Ireland, July 28, 2013*) "Physician-assisted suicide is part of a "throwaway culture" that offers a "false compassion" and treats a human person as a problem... True compassion does not marginalise anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude - much less considers the death of a person as a good thing." (*Pope Francis, Address to Directors of the Orders of Physicians of Spain and Latin America, June 2016*)

"More and more lonely elderly people exist in big cities, even in situations of serious illness and close to death. In such situations, the pressure of euthanasia is felt, especially when a utilitarian vision of the person creeps in. In this regard, I take this opportunity to reaffirm once again the firm and constant ethical condemnation of every form of direct euthanasia, in accordance with the Church's centuries-old teaching." (*Pope Benedict XVI, February 25 2008*)

As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love? And as believers, how can we fail to feel the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and the support that will help them always to embrace life?" (*St. Pope John Paul II*)

The Catholic Church is clear that we can never assist in taking the life of another, even if they request it. All life is sacred from conception until natural death, and we reiterate our call for investment in high quality palliative care. Our call is one for assistance in living and not assistance in committing suicide.

Statements of the Bishops' Conference can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/life-issues/assisted-dying/>

The Anscombe Centre have produced a statement and resources about this Inquiry: <https://bioethics.org.uk/news-events/news-from-the-centre/anscombe-centre-statement-on-commons-hsc-committee-inquiry-into-assisted-suicide/>

The timeframe for answering the consultation is a short one. Submissions must be in by Friday 20 January but happily the format of the Inquiry is simple, and not time-consuming – just six questions.