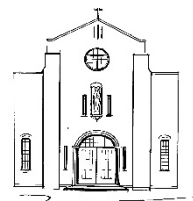
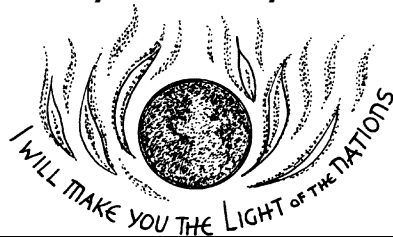


# Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023



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## THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### THIS WEEKEND'S LITURGY

We call this period of the liturgical year Ordinary Time, but this time after Christmas is not ordinary at all, for it is now that we learn about the first days of Jesus' public life. In today's Gospel, John testifies that the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus when John baptized him, meaning that the Holy Spirit joined in Christ's entire mission. The Holy Spirit descended upon us in our own baptism as well. May we be conscious of that divine presence as we join in Christ's mission during our own ordinary time.

Before we receive the Lord in the Eucharist, we hear the words, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." We will hear these words in today's Gospel, for they were first proclaimed by John the Baptist. John, Isaiah, and Paul all testify to how the Lord has called them and changed their lives. May we be inspired by them and take to heart what we sing in the responsorial psalm: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

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

### MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Anthony  
Wulstan  
Fabian

6.30pm Maureen Maher RIP  
8.30am Mary Ann Ekeoma  
11.30am People of the Parish  
6.30pm Loretta Kenny RIP  
10.00am Rose Slattery RIP  
10.00am Lodovina Pereira RIP  
10.00am Noel Feeney – Int.  
10.00am Prendavile & P. Trainor RIP  
10.00am Ida Sirti RIP  
6.30pm Michael Delaney RIP

### TODAY'S READINGS:

Isaiah 49:3.5-6  
Psalm 39  
1 Corinthians 1:1-3  
John 1:29-34

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 8:23-9:3  
Psalm 26  
1 Corinthians 1:10-13.17  
Matthew 4:12-23

### 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, Michelle Herity,

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

**And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time:** Maureen Maher, Hope Jayasundera, Ida Sirti, Loretta Kenny,

### THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Thank you for last week's Offertory collection, which came to £1,053.25; 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 Liturgy for the late Ihor Kozak will be celebrated on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 12.00 noon.

### WARM SPACES PROJECT 2023

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.

### 200 CLUB 2022

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. **Please pick up your application form so you don't miss the First Draw.**



### RCIA

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

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

There will be a meeting for the Finance Committee on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

### **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION**

Confirmation Preparation will continue on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre.

### **FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION**

The First Communion Children will meet on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 10.00am in the Parish Centre.

### **FREE LEGAL ADVICE**

Darren Sylvester, a Solicitor from DJS Law, will be offering free legal advice surgeries. The Surgery Sessions will now be back in the Parish Office, just ring the doorbell at the Presbytery. If you would like free, independent, impartial and confidential advice, (for example) debt, employment, housing, consumer rights (the list is not exhaustive) then come along on the last Wednesday of every month between 7.30pm – 9.00pm. Next session is Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> January or Oakwood, North London on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Please contact Tony at CAFOD for further details. westminster@cafod.org.uk or 0208 449 6970.

### **CARITAS - - LATEST UPDATES - GRANTS TO HELP PAY OFF ENERGY DEBTS**

People who are in debt to their energy supplier might be able to get a grant from a charitable trust to help pay it off. More details on this link – plus links to several advice providers <https://fuelpovertyresource.org.uk/focus-on/fuel-debt-and-trust-funds/>

### **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.