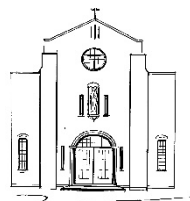


Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 10th December 2023



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THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS WEEKEND'S LITURGY

"Make straight his paths," Isaiah cried out, prophesying that the Lord would come to rescue and comfort the people of God. Centuries later Mark quotes this call at the very beginning of his Gospel, presenting John the Baptist as the prophet who took this to heart, preparing the way for the Lord. Now, two millennia later, during this season when we prepare for the Lord's coming into our lives and into our hearts how can we "make straight his paths"?

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MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 9th December		6.30pm O & A Teoli & G & G D'Ettore RIP
Sunday 10th December	The Second Sunday Of Advent	8.30am Con & Shelia O'Sullivan RIP
		11.30am Elizabeth Simpson RIP
Monday 11 th December	Damasus	6.30pm People of the Parish
Tuesday 12 th December	Our Lady of Guadalupe	10.00am Tom Milne RIP
Wednesday 13 th December	Lucy	10.00am Christy O'Leary RIP
Thursday 14 th December	John of the Cross	10.00am Lumina Orji RIP
Friday 15th December		10.00am Felicio Mendes RIP
Saturday 16th December		10.00am Eni Ige
		6.30pm Rose Slattery RIP

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

The Christmas Hamper Raffle from the Christmas Cavern has not yet been drawn. Tickets, priced £1.00, are still available. The Hamper and the Tickets will be by the Lady Altar after all the Masses.

TODAY'S READINGS:

Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11
Psalm 84
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11
Luke 1:46-50
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8.19-28

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 Advent, we are asked to pray for: Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.

For those who are ill: Nicola Harker, Linda Tank, Lily Barber, Natasha Papet, Rodney Imbert, Lisa Thorogood, Tina Figueria, Iris Waters, Pat Deaney, Vera Argue, Lesley Cartwright, Patsy Joseph, Val McGuinness, Michael Verbruggen, Mary Fitzgerald, Alf Ward, Betty Bambury,

For those who have died recently: Gerard Flynn, Bridget Dolan, Josefine Roberts, Rosalinda Zanre, Filomena Sorce, Giuseppe Nicastro, Salvatore Bellini, Anthony Cornwell, Pasquale Montuori, Carol Borgia, Americo Sanniti, Margaret Reynolds,

And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time: Felicio Mendes, Elizabeth Simpson, Loretta Kenny,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for your last week's Offertory Collection which came to £916.84 plus the Regular Standing Orders.

CHRISTMAS CAVERN 2023

We would like to say Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Cavern. The Raffle raised £1,330.00 for Isabel Hospice. The rest of the activities raised £329.00 for the Building Fund. The Winners for the Raffle are on the Notice Boards, please come and collect them from the Office. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

There will be a Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 5.00pm Mass on Christmas Eve. If any young person wishes to take a more active role in this celebration, please add your name and age to the list in the Sacristy. There will be a practise on Friday 22nd December at 10.30am in the Parish Centre.

Help is needed with the preparation for our Christmas celebrations.

On Friday 22nd December from 7.00pm and Saturday 23rd from 1.30pm **onwards** we will need help to clean, prepare and decorate the Church. We will be preparing the Cribs on Friday evening. Help is then needed **on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm** to light the candles around the Church (ladder-climbers needed please Gents!). As always, your help is greatly appreciated.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

FUNERALS THIS WEEK

The Funeral for the late Carol Borgia will be celebrated on Monday 11th December at 12 noon.

The Funeral Mass for the late Pasquale Montuori will be celebrated on Friday 15th December at 11.30am.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEK

Saturday 16th December at 1.30pm – Paul, Olivia & Stephen Byrne

RCIA

The RCIA Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

COME TO TEA!

The Parish Centre is open every Monday afternoon for Afternoon Tea and Biscuits and a chat from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome. We even have Orange Squash for those who are too young for tea or coffee!

It is also open on a Wednesday from 1.30pm -3.00pm for Soup and Toast as well as tea, coffee or orange squash. Again, everyone is welcome. There is no need to book, just turn up and enjoy the company.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

The Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday 13th December at 10.30am in the Church.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Confirmation Preparation will continue on Thursday 14th December at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre.

CELEBRATION OF FIRST CONFESSION

The young children who are being prepared for First Communion this year are celebrating their First Confession on Saturday, 9th December. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

THE PARISH MASS INTENTION DIARY

The Mass Intention Diary for Masses to be celebrated here is now full and will be closed until further notice. In the meantime Mass Intentions will be celebrated by the Retired Priests in the Diocese.

200 CLUB 2023



Thank you to all those who supported the 200 Club during this past year. £877.00 was given out in prizes and £877.00 was given to the Parish Building Fund. The Application Forms for 2024 are available as you exit the Church. The more people who join, the more is given in prizes.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

It has always been the case that people's Offering on Christmas Day and on Easter Sunday are your gift to the Clergy, and not a donation to the Parish as such. For those people who normally donate by Standing Order, there are Christmas Envelopes available at the entrances to the Church.

CHRISTMAS MEAL

The Parish is hosting a Christmas meal for its Senior Citizens and the housebound on Saturday 6th January 2024 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. If you would like to help on the day with preparing, cooking or serving the meal, please contact the Parish Office.

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 – thrum55@googlemail.com.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL – RECEPTION AND NURSERY ADMISSIONS – SEPTEMBER 2024

Reception – September 2024: The online application process for Under 11s (Reception) commenced on Wednesday 1st November 2023 and will close on Sunday 14th January 2024 on the following website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions. As well as applying for a place online you will need to complete and submit a Supplementary Information Form to the school office.

Reception 2024 applies to children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020.

Nursery – September 2024

Nursery applications should be made via the school only and commenced on Wednesday 8th November 2023 and will close on Sunday 14th January 2024. **Nursery 2024 applies to children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021.** Please Note: We are a 30 hours childcare provider, and welcome applications from children of all faiths to our Nursery.

ST IGNATIUS COLLEGE

St Ignatius College are holding their annual Carol Service on Tuesday 12th December at 6.00pm. There will be refreshments of Mulled wine and mince pies. All are welcome.

SVP VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of thermal socks, face flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please sponsor a pack 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.

ADVENT GIVING CALENDER

Advent is a special season in the Church's year when we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ. However, with the cost of living crisis, many in our communities are facing difficulties. This Advent Giving Calendar is designed for you to use this season as a time to think about those who might need some extra support this Christmas. You can follow along each day and you can leave your donations for the Broxbourne Foodbank in the Red Box by the Lady Altar. To download the Advent Giving Calendar go to <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/food-security-918.php#AGC>.

There are copies of the Advent Calenders available at both entrances to the Church.