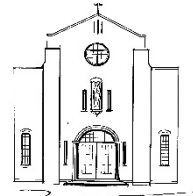


Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 17th December 2023



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

<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/walthamcross>
walthamcross@rcdow.org.uk

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Through this season of Advent, we are called to prepare for the Lord's coming by repenting of our sins, removing the obstacles that make it difficult for us to recognize his approach, and remaining ever watchful for his arrival. But today we rejoice because we focus on the knowledge that the One whom we await comes to embrace us, transform us, and redeem us. Gathered together in joy, we look forward, as always, to his coming.

On Gaudete Sunday a theme of joy runs through our readings. Isaiah, returning to the promised land after years of exile, describes the wonders God will accomplish. In the psalm we sing that our souls rejoice in our God. Paul closes his letter to the Thessalonians by reminding them to rejoice always. Finally, we hear John the Baptist testify that he is not worthy to even untie the sandal strap of the One who is coming, the light, the Christ. May the joy we hear in God's word rub off on us.

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 16th December

Sunday 17th December

**The Third Sunday
Of Advent**

Monday 18th December

Tuesday 19th December

Wednesday 20th December

Thursday 21st December

Friday 22nd December

Saturday 23rd December

Sunday 24th December

Peter Canisius

**The Fourth Sunday
Of Advent**

Christmas Eve

6.30pm Rose Slattery RIP
8.30am Siobhan Treacey RIP
11.30am Rosario & Carmela Tona RIP
6.30pm People of the Parish
10.00am Salva Jean Grech RIP
10.00am Paul Azzopardi & Sauveur Debono RIP
10.00am Jackie Debono RIP
10.00am Funeral Margaret Reynolds RIP
10.00am Christiane Fremy RIP
6.30pm Gabriel Diniz – Birthday
8.30am Thea Curson RIP
11.30am The MacNamara Family
5.00pm The People of the Parish
7.00pm The People of the Parish
10.00pm The People of the Parish

**Christmas
Posters are
available at
both entrances
to the Church,
please take
one home.**

**The New Readers
Rota is now available.
There are copies in
the Sacristy and also
on our Website.**

TODAY'S READINGS:

Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11

Luke 1:46-50

1 Thessalonians 5:16

John 1:6-8.19-28

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12

Psalms 88

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

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: Pasquale Montuori, Carol Borgia, Americo Sanniti, Margaret Reynolds, Vincenza Alaimo, Gerrard Rice,

And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for your last week's Offertory Collection which came to £946.08 plus the Regular Standing Orders.

The Winner for the Hamper was Frank, Ticket no. 50. The Hamper raised £222.01 for the Building Fund.

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 Mass for the late Americo Sanniti will be celebrated on Tuesday 19th December at 11.30am.

The Funeral Mass for the late Margaret Reynolds will be celebrated on Thursday 21st December at 10.00am.

This Parish is part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee Charity No. 233699

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.

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.

200 CLUB WINNERS – DECEMBER 2023

1st No. 87 Eve McKay; 2nd No. 81 Bernadette Duane; 3rd No. 76 Susan Durkan; 4th No. 64 Beatrice Nowak;
5th No. 146 Lena Batchelor; 6th No. 39 John Reynolds; 7th No. 132 Maria Garofalo

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.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

Darren Sylvester, a Solicitor from DJS Law, will be offering free legal advice surgery. The surgery sessions are 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, wills & probate, lasting powers of attorney (the list is not exhaustive) then come along on the last Wednesday of every month between 7.30pm – 9.00pm. The next session is Wednesday, 27th December 2023.

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.

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. The Foodbank are asking for donations of Mince Pies, Chocolates, Christmas Cake and anything else nice you can think of. To download the Advent Giving Calendar go to <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/food-security-918.php#AGC>. There are copies of the Advent Calendars available at both entrances to the Church.

There is a separate sheet for all the Christmas and New Year Mass times, they are available at both entrances to the Church.