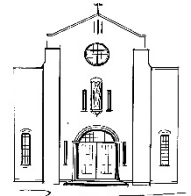


Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 24th December 2023

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



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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Every so often the fourth week of Advent consists only of the fourth Sunday of Advent. This is one of those years. For three weeks we have been encouraged to use this season to prepare for the Jesus' coming. Now it's time for the procrastinators to begin! But seriously, the fact that this Sunday falls on Christmas Eve is a wonderful opportunity for us all. On this day, may the word of God we hear and the Eucharist we share inspire us to prepare a home in our hearts for the Lord.

From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2022 World Library Publications

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 23rd December
Sunday 24th December

The Fourth Sunday Of Advent

Christmas Eve

Monday 25th December

Christmas Day

Tuesday 26th December
Wednesday 27th December
Thursday 28th December
Friday 29th December
Saturday 30th December
Sunday 31st December

Stephen
John
The Holy Innocents
Thomas Becket

The Holy Family

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
8.30am Emmanuel Ekeoma
11.30am N. Sembatya Thanksgiving
10.00am The Chukwuma Family
10.00am Andrew Maher RIP
10.00am Joe & Ann Griffin RIP
10.00am Gerard Flynn RIP
6.30pm Anthony Burke RIP
8.30am Keith Breathwick Int.
11.30am Fintin Bergin RIP
6.30pm Robin Holmes Int.
10.00pm People of the Parish



TODAY'S READINGS:

2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12
Psalm 88
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Genesis 15:1-6.21:1-3
Psalm 104
Hebrews 11:8.11-12
1 Samuel 1:20-22.24-28

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, Jean Pearce,

For those who have died recently: Pasquale Montuori, Americo Sanniti, Margaret Reynolds, Vincenza Alaimo, Gerard Rice,

And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time: Thea Curson,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for your last week's Offertory Collection which came to £1,144.05 plus the Regular Standing Orders.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

FUNERAL THIS WEEK

The Funeral Mass for the late Vincenza Alaimo will be celebrated on Friday 29th December at 11.30am.

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 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 – thrums55@googlemail.com.

AA MEETINGS

We are a fellowship of men and women, who share our experience strength and hope with each other, that we may solve our common problem, and help others to recover from alcoholism. At our meeting, you will find a variety of people with many different experiences of what their drinking was like and what made them stop. At the heart of it all is the same thing: we didn't want to drink anymore and we realised we couldn't stop on our own many of us had tried that and it didn't work. AA started in 1935 when one sober Alcoholic on a business trip, worried he might start drinking again, called a church to know if they knew of any drunks that might need help getting sober, there he met another man who had been trying to stay sober but couldn't. From that small beginning, AA has become a fellowship of 120.000 groups around the world. Here at St Joseph's, we are one of that number. Normally around 12 people come each week for an hour and a quarter, meeting goes have a varying length of Sobriety, some a few days or months while others have many years, but regardless of our differences we are bound together in our primary purpose of getting sober and helping others do the same. We are grateful for Fr John's support and encouragement of our efforts, as well as allowing us to use the hall at a reasonable rate, it would have been really difficult to hold the meeting otherwise. We are an open meeting, which means anyone interested in finding out more about what Alcoholics Anonymous does is welcome to attend. If you or someone you love is affected by alcoholism, or just beginning to wonder if that's a possibility, you are most welcome to join us Sunday evenings 8pm- 9:15 in the small hall.

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

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

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

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

