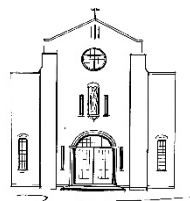


Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 3rd December 2023

STAY
AWAKE



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

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

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS WEEKEND'S LITURGY

Bombarded with Christmas decorations and music for weeks now, we are undoubtedly already anticipating the celebration of our Saviour's birth. But today we are reminded that Christ's coming was not a single, onetime only event. In the Gospel Jesus warns us that he will come again when we least expect. He is referring to the end of the world but in truth he can also come to us in our hearts at any time: during traumatic event, in a chance encounter with a stranger, or even through someone who's prematurely spreading the Christmas spirit. May we remain vigilant for our Lord's coming in whatever way or whatever time it may happen.

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Saturday 2nd December
Sunday 3rd December

The First Sunday Of Advent

Monday 4th December
Tuesday 5th December
Wednesday 6th December
Thursday 7th December
Friday 8th December
Saturday 9th December

John
Nicholas
Ambrose
The Immaculate Conception

TODAY'S READINGS:

Isaiah 63:16-17
Psalm 79
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

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

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

6.30pm Vincenzo Lobosco RIP
8.30am Joe & Ann Griffin RIP
11.30am Cindy Pereira RIP
6.30pm People of the Parish
10.00am Andrew Maher RIP
10.00am Sandra Dickinson RIP
10.00am Michael Darling RIP
10.00am Emmanuel Ekeoma
10.00am Jane Milne Int.
6.30pm O & A Teoli & G & G D'Ettore RIP



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, Margaret Reynolds, Michael Verbruggen, Mary Fitzgerald, Alf Ward,

For those who have died recently: Simone Harper, Gerard Flynn, Bridget Dolan, Josefine Roberts, Rosalinda Zanre, Giuseppe Nicastro, Salvatore Bellini, Anthony Cornwell, Pasquale Montuori, Carol Borgia,

And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time: Vincenzo Lobosco, Michael Darling,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for your last week's Offertory Collection which came to £940.22 plus the November Standing Orders £4,780.00; Online Donations £225.00; Contactless £110.00

CHRISTMAS CAVERN 2023

The Christmas Cavern and Raffle is today, 3rd December 9.00am – 1.00pm. The Draw will take place today. **Please come in after Mass for a browse and a cup of tea/coffee and cake.** The proceeds of the Christmas Raffle this year will be donated to Isabel Hospice. 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 Salvatore Bellini will be celebrated on Wednesday 6th December at 11.30am.
The Funeral Service for the late Anthony Cornwell will be celebrated on Thursday 7th December at 11.30am.
The Funeral Mass for the late Filomena Sorce will be celebrated on Friday 8th December at 11.30am.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEK

Sunday 3rd December, at 11.30am – Ademide & Demilade Oyefeso & Ebubechi Chika,

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.

RCIA

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

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Confirmation Preparation will continue on Thursday 7th 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, 2nd & 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 WINNERS – NOVEMBER 2023

1st No. 71 Mae Farley;

2nd No. 134 Josephine Gomez;

3rd No. 24 Mike Priddle

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 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. 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 – thrums55@googlemail.com.

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 could you consider sponsoring packs 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 a copy of 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.

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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JRS UK'S ADVENT SERVICE

You are warmly invited to join JRS UK for this year's Advent Service at Farm St Church in London on Friday 15th December at 7.00pm. This year's service will include carols, readings, and performances by our refugee friends, and be followed by a reception of mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. You and your loved ones are all very welcome to join us in person or via livestream. Find out more at <https://www.jrsuk.net/news/advent-service-2023/>.

Have you returned your Raffle Ticket Stubs and the Money?