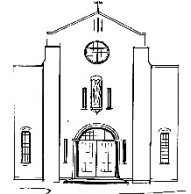


Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 7th January 2024

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



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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Today we recall the magi, who, drawn by the star, journeyed from distant lands to find the newborn king of the Jews and present him with their finest gifts. We each make our own journey to the Lord, and when we come to celebrate the Eucharist we offer our finest gifts our prayers, our lives, our future to him whose birth we have just marked. Let us in turn welcome all those who are making their journeys from near and far to worship the Lord.

When Isaiah wrote the poem that we hear today, the Israelites had just returned from decades of exile in Babylon. Judah was devastated and left desolate, but Isaiah saw it through eyes of faith. The magi must have seen with eyes of faith as well in order to present a newborn in a feeding trough with expensive gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. As members of the one body of Christ, let us listen to God's word with ears of faith, recognizing ourselves in those who come to praise and worship the Lord.

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Saturday 6th January

Sunday 7th January **The Epiphany of the Lord**

Monday 8th January **The Baptism of the Lord**

Tuesday 9th January

Wednesday 10th January

Thursday 11th January

Friday 12th January

Saturday 13th January

Aelred

TODAY'S READINGS:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

1 Samuel 3:3-10.19

Psalm 39

1 Corinthians 6:13-15.

John 1:35-42

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

6.30pm People of the Parish

8.30am Maryann Ekeoma

11.30am Tina Hession

6.30pm Darren Lane

10.00am Liz & John Griffin

10.00am Martin Ward & the Ward Family

10.00am Cindy Pereira RIP

10.00am Margaret Holleran RIP

10.00am Marie Tracey RIP

6.30pm Michael Delaney 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 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; The Unemployed.

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, Betty Bambury, Jean Pearce,

For those who have died recently, Grace Muscat, Alf Ward, Roger Holmes, Salvatore Puntrello, Ann Marie Ames,

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 £815.71; plus the December Standing Orders £4,560.00; Online Donations £1,445.00; Contactless £20

COLLECTION TO SUPPORT THE LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

There will be a second collection after all the Masses this weekend to support the charities in the West Bank and Gaza who are seeking to support the victims of the violence that is occurring during the conflict. The Patriarch, Cardinal Pizzaballa, is deeply concerned about the impact that the war is having on the Palestinian population in the West Bank, for many of whom sources of income have effectively been ended by the restrictions imposed on them. Copies of a recent Newsletter from the Patriarch are available at the entrances to the Church, and on the Website, in the Newsletter Section.

CRIB OFFERINGS

Our Crib Offerings will be donated, as usual, to The Catholic Children's Society (CCS). They will be used to support local children and families in need. The Society is helping families in crisis who are struggling to put food on the table, keep warm and provide a safe home for their children. You can donate at the Crib, or via the CCS website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

THE PARISH MASS INTENTION DIARY

The Mass Intention Diary for Masses to be celebrated here in the Parish is now open for the year.

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 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. The First Draw will be at the end of January.

RCIA

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

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

The Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday 10th January at 10.30am in the Church.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting for the First Communion Parents on Thursday 11th January at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre.

The First Communion children will meet on Saturday 13th January at 10.00am in the Parish Centre.

CALLING APF RED BOX HOLDERS

If you have not yet collected your envelope from the box at the Main Entrance to the Church, would you please do so. Please empty the contents of your Red Box into the envelope and return it to the Parish Office. 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 8.00 - 9:15pm 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 bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support.

CAFOD

The Church relies on people getting involved. Our parish, our community, our world needs you. Could your New Year's resolution be getting more involved in the life of our church? Which aspects of church brings you life or joy? Could you give a bit of time to help those parts flourish?

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help in our parish, inspiring our church to help build a better world or by visiting our local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the area? Could you support local volunteers or share your admin or people skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with brozycka@cafod.org.uk Or could you take part in The Big Lent Walk? cafod.org.uk/walk