St Patrick's Catholic Church

Parish of Wapping, Archdiocese of Westminster

The Presbytery, Dundee Street
London E1W 2PH

Tel: (020) 7481 2202
Email: wapping@rcdow.org.uk
Web: parish.rcdow.org.uk/wapping

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)

10th December 2023

SAT 9 Dec	6.30pm			Margie Commons RIP
SUN 10	10.00am	▶	+ 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	People of the Parish
	6.30pm			Alan Jennings RIP (B'day)
MON 11	10.00am	▶	Advent Feria	Kit and Ted Fletcher RIP
TUE 12	10.00am	▶	Advent Feria	Nora McHale Paoletti (Int)
WED 13	*No Mass*		St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	
THU 14	6.30Pm	▶	St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor	Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit
FRI 15	6.30pm	▶	Advent Feria	Mstr Billy McDonald RIP (B'day)
SAT 16	10.00am	▶	Advent Feria	Paris Family (Ints)
	6.30pm			People of the Parish
SUN 17	10.00am	▶	+ 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Gaudete Sunday)	Keeley, Commons & Monehen Families RIP
	6.30pm			Molly Clark RIP

Masses marked ▶ are livestreamed on YouTube: www.youtube.com/rcwapping

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat & Sun 6.00pm, and by appointment.

Church Open for Individual Prayer: Daily 7.00am-8.00pm.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Sunday 5.45-6.15pm. Friday 7.00-8.00pm.

The Rosary: Friday 7.00pm.

Morning Prayer: Monday-Friday 7.15am.

www.youtube.com /rcwapping

www.facebook.com /rcwapping

www.twitter.com @rcwapping

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Connick
andrewconnick@rcdow.org.uk

In Residence: Fr Duaine Devereaux

Seminarian: Farvin Gonsalves

Safeguarding: Adele Schirinzi
wappingsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE: Tue & Fri 10am-2pm

Parish Secretary: Lucy Knights
lucyknights@rcdow.org.uk

Events Coordinator: Joann Condon
joanncondon@rcdow.org.uk

FR ANDREW WRITES:

St John the Baptist in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord!

Each year, the Second Sunday of Advent includes the cry of St John the Baptist in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord! John was cousin to Christ, and six months older than him.

Like the readings last week, John's message in today's Gospel was not about the birth of Christ. They were the same age after all! John heralded the start of the public ministry of Jesus, when they were both thirty years old. It was at that time that Jesus began preaching and working miracles. At that time, events were set in motion that would end with his Death and Resurrection, and the birth of his Church.

So, in this first half of Advent (which simply means "coming"), we are not thinking about Christmas. With John's call to repentance for the forgiveness of sins, we think about the ways in which Christ comes to us now, in our own lives and situations, especially with his grace and forgiveness, while we wait for his Second Coming and the Last Day.

Above all, Christ instituted the Sacraments as the means by which he enters the concrete reality of our lives today. Every time we come to Mass, and receive Holy Communion, he enters our souls and strengthens our union with him and each other in the Church. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Confession) he comes to us to speak his word of forgiveness in response to the humble admission of our sins.

We have to wait for the 17th December before Advent becomes a preparation for Christmas, the First Coming of Christ in Bethlehem. Nonetheless, the tree in church is now up and lit. I am grateful for those who helped to move it, trim it down, erect it, and decorate it… no mean feat with such a big tree. Thank you.

Next weekend, the crib will be here, inside and outside the church. The crib outside, with figures and scene made by the children, and crib by a group of adults, will be unveiled and blessed at the Carol Service on Sunday after the evening Mass.

Blessings on the week ahead, Fr Andrew.

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

December: For people with disabilities. Let us pray that people with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusion programmes that value their active participation.

PARISH NOTICES

Operation Elf Thank you to everyone who purchased a gift for the prisoners' children during the last few weeks. We collected around 100 presents which were picked up by PACT on Tuesday afternoon, these will now be given to all of the children who attend the family day this weekend.

Foodbank – All of the generous foodbank donations received here at St Patrick's are taken to the main foodbank warehouse in Bethnal Green. This Christmas, the Aviva community fund are doubling any financial donations made to Tower Hamlets Foodbank up to a maximum of £250 per donation and £40,000 overall. Please share with family and friends as this is also a great way to support the work of the Foodbank.
https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/communities-together-3

Wapping Posada Mary and Joseph will be on their way around different homes in our parish. Beginning on 17th December and arriving back in the church in time for the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 6.30pm. Can you welcome Mary, Joseph and their donkey on their way to Bethlehem? This is a lovely way to prepare for Christmas, for children and adults alike. For more information and to register:
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/wapping/posada/

Advent Carol Service - Sunday 17th December, 7.30pm. If the weather is fine, we will be singing Christmas carols by firelight in the playground, with hot mulled wine and mince pies. That evening the new outdoor crib, created by the children of the parish, will be blessed and lit. Please save the date.

Christmas Offering – If you are going to be away over Christmas, please consider making your Christmas offering before you go. The offerings at Christmas and Easter make up Fr Andrew's salary for the year. There are Christmas offering envelopes at the back of church, and these can be handed in with the collection or left at the Parish Office.

St Patrick's Honey – There will be an opportunity to buy our hone after the Carol Service on Sunday 17th December. £10 a jar and all proceeds to CAFOD, supporting the poorest.

Pensioners' Christmas Party – Thank you to Fr Andrew and St Patrick's for providing the Christmas Party, to State Street Bank for donating the Christmas gifts and helping on the day. And to Jo and her team for organising a fabulous party on Thursday. A lovely day was had by all.

Certificates of Catholic Practice for primary school admissions in September 2024. If you are at Mass over the weekend, please speak to Fr Andrew afterwards. The local authority deadline for primary school applications is 15th January. To request forms: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/wapping/schools/ccp/

English Martyrs' School Admissions 2024-25 – Small school tours for prospective parents, 9.30-11.00am on Fridays, 17th November to 12th January. No appointment necessary. For queries, please ring the school office: 020 7709 0182.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

The Annual Report and Accounts for the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust for 2022 have now been published. This is the charitable trust to which the majority of parishes in our diocese belong, including our own: https://rcdow.org.uk/about-us

CAFOD Advent Carol Service Wednesday 13th December 7-8pm. St James RC Church, Spanish Place, 22 George St, W1U 3QY. Nearest tube Bond St. Free Admission.

A Christmas Celebration in Westminster Cathedral: Tickets are now on sale for our annual Christmas concerts which celebrate the mystery of Christ's Incarnation in carols and readings performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers, on 19th & 20th December at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or directly from Ticketmaster: https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/westminster-cathedral-tickets-london/venue/254582

REGULAR NOTICES

Please pray for the sick in the parish, including: Ann Sullivan, Beatrice Bourke, Fraser McDonald, Sabrina Pillai, Maureen Franey.

Bingo for the Over 50s – Next bingo Tuesday 19th December, 12.30pm, Parish Centre. This will be the last bingo before Christmas and will return Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Catholicism for the Curious – Next session Thursday 14th Dec, 7.30pm, Presbytery.

Church Cleaning – Saturday 16th December, 8.30am (Michelle and Naomi's team).

Psalms: The School of Prayer – Session 8, Monday 11th December, 7pm, Presbytery.

Sunday Catechesis – Sundays for 30 minutes after 10am Mass. For all children in school years 2 to 6. In the Presbytery meeting room, accessed via the Kitchen Garden.

Sunday Tea and Coffee – Sundays after 10am Mass, in the Parish Centre.

Tuesday Tea and Coffee – Every Tuesday after 10am Mass in the Presbytery.

SUPPORTING THE PARISH

Bank Transfer/Standing Order (One-off donations or regular standing order):
Account Name: **WRCDT Wapping Sort** Code: **40-05-20 Account** Number: **21255339**
Reference: **Surname and First Initial** (optionally the purpose of the donation)

Online (Credit/Debit Card or PayPal): parish.rcdow.org.uk/wapping/donate/

Gift Aid – If you are a UK taxpayer, please register for Gift Aid. The parish can claim an additional 25p for every £1 given, at no cost to you. Register by emailing giftaid@rcdow.org.uk



REGULAR NOTICES

Volunteers for Church Cleaning – We are in desperate need of volunteers to bolster the numbers in our church cleaning teams. There are three teams at present, so the commitment is an hour once every three weeks on a Saturday morning. The teams meet at 8.30am, 10.30am and 11.00am, so there is some flexibility. Cleaning involves light duties: hoovering and sweeping mainly. It is also a good chance to socialise with other parishioners. Please speak to one of the stewards after Mass or email Beryl: beryl.israel@hotmail.com

Getting Married? – Six months' notice is required for marriage. If you live in Wapping but are planning to marry elsewhere, even in your home country, you need to see Fr Andrew at least six months beforehand. This is very important!

Foodbank – At the back of church is a box for donations to Bow Foodbank. Foodbanks provide boxes of food to people who would otherwise go hungry for a range of reasons, from benefit delays to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. We collect donations for Bow Foodbank (non-perishable items only): cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned food, lentils, beans, tea/coffee, biscuits, UHT milk, fruit juice, toiletries and hygiene products. Why not pick up something extra each week in your shopping and leave it in the box at the back of church when you come to Mass? Thank you!
https://www.bowfoodbank.org/give-food/

Catholic Listeners Telephone Helpline – Catholic Listeners is a new confidential listening helpline, set up for those who are returning to the faith. Although not a counselling service, they have a professional team trained on signposting to other services and agencies. They aim to help those in need of a safe space to talk:
0800 448 0704

Financial Resilience and Cost of Living – Some resources to support those struggling with the increased cost of living:

1. **Cost of Living Hub** (Mayor of London): https://www.london.gov.uk/cost-living-hub
2. **Energy debts:** https://fuelpovertyresource.org.uk/focus-on/fuel-debt-and-trust-funds/
3. **National Energy Action:** Warm and Safe Homes helpline 0800 304 7159
4. **Green Doctors London:** Energy advice https://london.greendoctors.org.uk

Interested in Working for the Church? – The Diocese of Westminster advertises job vacancies for parishes and central services online: rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/

St Joseph's Hospice is the only Catholic hospice in Greater London, available to this parish and everyone across East and North London regardless of background. It serves

our community through in-patient care of the terminally ill, Day Hospice for out-patient care and home visits. It is an independent charity run by the Religious Sisters of Charity. For more information: 020 8525 6035 www.stjh.org.uk

Interested in Catholic Faith – If you not a Catholic but interested in finding out more about Catholic faith, please get in touch with Fr Andrew directly.

Caritas Kingsland Saturday Club, for people with learning difficulties and additional needs, and their families. Third Sunday of each month at the church hall of Our Lady and St Joseph, 100a Balls Pond Road, London N1 4AG. For more information contact Gerald McEnery 07989 895257.

Calix Society for Recovering Alcoholics – The Calix Society offers a Catholic ministry to alcoholics in recovery by deepening or rediscovering their faith and sharing the healing mercy of God. Meetings are held every Thursday at the Calix Centre, Church of Our Lady, 54 Lodge Road, NW8 8LA. For details:

www.calixsociety.org.uk | 07762 570361 | calixsjw@btinternet.com

The St Katharine and Wapping Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel has a website: www.skw-wardpanel.org. It contains information and links for reporting anti-social behaviour to Tower Hamlets and the Police, information about Streetlink for reporting rough sleepers, and local news and upcoming events. We also recommend that Wapping residents register for OWL ('Online Watch Link'), to stay updated with local security advice and information and incident reports: www.owl.co.uk. As a local community, it is good for us to be connected together and to look out for each other.