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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Gaudete Sunday (Year B)

17th December 2023

SAT 16 Dec	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
MON 18	10.00am	Advent Feria	Dr Ravindra Kumar (RIP)
TUE 19	10.00am	Advent Feria	Nora McHale-Paoletti
WED 20	*No Mass*	Advent Feria	
THU 21	6.30pm	Advent Feria	Private Intention
FRI 22	6.30pm	Advent Feria	Kath, Tom & Michael Leek RIP
SAT 23	10.00am	Advent Feria	Mary Christina Kumar RIP B'day
	6.30pm		Dora Israel RIP
SUN 24	10.00am	+ 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	People of the Parish
	6.30pm		Private Christmas Blessing's
	10.00pm	**+ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**	Ada Rita Brassett RIP (Anni)
MON 25	10.00am		Ravi & Chriss Kumar 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.

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:

Gaudete Sunday

This third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday". Gaudete is Latin for "rejoice", the first word of the entrance antiphon for this Sunday's Mass:

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near."

(Philippians 4:4-5)

You will notice the rose pink vestments and veils, meant to symbolise the white light of Christmas brightening the usual Advent purple.

Advent originated in the fifth century as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, to mirror the forty-day fast of Lent in preparation for Easter. It began after the feast of St Martin (13th November), hence it was called "St Martin's Lent". We use penitential purple for both Advent and Lent. In the ninth century, Advent was reduced to four weeks, and by the twelfth century the fast was replaced with abstinence.

Gaudete Sunday in Advent mirrors Laetare Sunday in Lent. At the mid-point of the season, signs of gladness are permitted, such as flowers and the playing of the organ. The fast was lessened on this Sunday, though we do not fast in Advent now.

This Sunday, 17th December, also marks a change in the Advent season. In the first half of Advent, until now, the focus has been on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ on the Last Day, at the end of the world. Now, from today, our focus is on preparation for Christmas and our celebration of the First Coming of Jesus Christ as the babe of Bethlehem. For that reason, you'll see that the crib is now in the church, though we must wait still for Christmas for the baby Jesus to appear.

Sunday Obligation Next Week

As Christmas Day falls on a Monday this year, the liturgical celebration of Christmas begins next Sunday evening. However, that is separate to your usual obligation to attend Sunday Mass. If you want to meet your obligation, you need to attend Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent on Saturday evening, 6.30pm, or Sunday morning, 10am. Sadly, the vigil Masses of Christmas does not count for both!

Going Away for Christmas

To the many parishioners going away for the Christmas holidays, I wish you a happy and holy celebration of the Lord's birth, safe journeys and peace in your families. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year. 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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

6.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (for families)

10.00pm Christmas Mass in the Holy Night

Monday 25th December (Christmas Day)

10.00am Christmas Mass (there will be no evening Mass)

PARISH NOTICES

Advent Carol Service – This Sunday 17th December, 7.30pm. 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. There will be an opportunity to buy our honey after the Carol Service. £10 a jar and all proceeds to CAFOD, supporting the poorest.

Vigil Mass Christmas Eve – Special call for our younger parishioners – why not dress up as your favourite figure from the Nativity: Mary, Joseph, an angel, shepherd, king, even the donkey or any of the animals in the stable. At the beginning of the Mass the children accompanied by Angie will follow Baby Jesus as he makes His way to our crib. All those wishing to take part, please arrive by 6.20pm.

Advent Confessions – There will be the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd December, 7-8pm, during the Holy Hour, in the sacristy. You can also ask Fr Andrew after Mass on any day.

Bring your baby Jesus to Christmas Eve Mass! – If you have a nativity scene or crib at home, the tradition is only to place the baby Jesus on Christmas Eve (usually after you have been to Christmas Mass). If you are attending Mass on Christmas Eve (6.30pm or 10pm), you are invited to bring baby Jesus from your crib to Mass to be blessed.

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, or you can use the card machines.

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

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/

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

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 11th January, 7.30pm, Presbytery.

Church Cleaning – Saturday 23rd December, 10.30am (Beryl's team).

Psalms: The School of Prayer – Session 9, Monday 8th January, 7pm, Presbytery.

Sunday Catechesis – Will resume on Sunday 14th January.

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.