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 (Year C)

15th December 2024

SAT 14 Dec	6.30pm	+ 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT *(Gaudete Sunday)*	Carol Tan (B'day Ints)
SUN 15	10.00am		Billy MacDonald RIP (B'day)
	6.30pm		People of the Parish
MON 16	10.00am	Advent Feria	Kit and Ted Fletcher RIP
TUE 17	10.00am	Advent Feria	Paris Family (Ints)
WED 18	*No Mass*		
THU 19	6.30pm	Advent Feria	James Aspell RIP
FRI 20	6.30pm	Advent Feria	Bianca & Matas (Ints)
SAT 21	10.00am	Advent Feria	Chriss Kumar RIP (B'day)
	6.30pm		Dora Israel RIP
SUN 22	10.00am	+ 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Molly Clark RIP
	6.30pm		Commons & Keeley Families RIP

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday & Sunday 6.00pm.

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Sun 5.45-6.15pm. Fri 7.00-8.00pm.

The Rosary: Thursday 7.00pm. **Praise and Worship:** Friday 7.00-8.00pm.

youtube.com /rcwapping | facebook.com /rcwapping | x.com @rcwapping

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Connick
andrewconnick@rcdow.org.uk
(Day Off: Wednesday)

In Residence: Fr Daniele Falcomer

Safeguarding: Adele Schirinzi
wappingsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE: Mon, Tue & Fri 10am-2pm

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

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

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

December: For Pilgrims of Hope. Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

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), and 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 Tuesday, 17th December, marks a change in the Advent season. In the first half of Advent, the focus has been on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ on the Last Day, at the end of the world. From Tuesday, 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.

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. Thank you for your cards, gifts, and Christmas offerings. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Fr Andrew.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

6.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (for families)

10.00pm Christmas Mass in the Holy Night

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

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

PARISH NOTICES

Honey for Sale! All proceeds to CAFOD – There will be a sale of St Patrick's honey after the Sunday 10am and 6.30pm Masses in the playground. We have a limited number of jars this year, so sales are limited to a maximum of two per household. We are also looking urgently for a new beekeeper for next year. If you know someone who can help, please speak to Fr Andrew or contact the Parish Office.

Vigil Mass Christmas Eve – Special call for our younger parishioners – 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 19th December, from 7pm, in the sacristy. You can also ask Fr Andrew or Fr Daniele 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.

Shadow Puppet Nativity, This Sunday 15th December, 5.30pm – The Sunday Catechesis children will present the nativity story told through shadow puppets. We will bless the outdoor crib and turn on the Christmas lights at 6.30pm Mass, followed by a bonfire in the playground with hot chocolate, mulled wine, and mince pies.

Meals for the Isolated and Vulnerable, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day – Neighbours in Poplar provide hot meals for free on these special days. If you know someone who will be alone and isolated at Christmas, please ask for their consent and

give their details. Drivers are desperately needed to deliver these meals, from St Matthias Community Centre (113 Poplar High Street, E14 0AE), 11.30am-1.00pm, on those days. More information on the poster in the porch, or email: nip65@msn.com

Pensioners' Christmas Party – Thank you to Jo for organising another fabulous party this year, despite the hall being unavailable, and to Angie and Alex for offering to host the party at Raine House. Thank you also to the parish volunteers who help every year, to the SVP who brought some of the guests, and to State Street Bank for kindly donating table decorations and gifts, and to the employees who helped on the day.

Parish Movie Night, This Saturday 14th December, 8pm, Upper Room – 'Breakthrough' (2019). When Joyce's adopted son John falls through an icy Missouri lake, all hope seems lost as John lies lifeless. In the face of every bleak medical case history and dire scientific prediction, Joyce's unwavering faith inspires her community to pray for John's recovery. Based on an incredible true story, 'Breakthrough' is an enthralling reminder that faith and love can create a mountain of hope and sometimes even a miracle. Film rating: 12.

"Operation Elf" – It is not too late to donate a present for a child with a parent at HMP Belmarsh. Please leave any presents in the sacristy or bring to the Parish Office. If you have any questions, please contact Lucy.

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 the priests' annual stipend. There are Christmas offering envelopes at the back of church: put them in the collection or leave at the Parish Office.

Caritas Giving Calendar – Please leave any donations for the foodbank in the Back Chapel or the Parish Office. We will arrange for all donations to be taken to the foodbank in time for Christmas. Thank you for your help so far.

St Vincent de Paul Society - **Old Mobile Phones for Calais Refugees** - Local charity Neighbours in Poplar (NiP), run by Sr Christine fcJ, regularly visits Calais to support refugees living in camps there. The Wapping SVP is collecting old mobile phones: often the only way the refugees can remain in contact with their families. Please leave any old mobile phones in the sacristy, to be included in the next Calais trip in January. Mobile phones must be in working order, SIM unlocked, and clear of personal data.

REGULAR NOTICES

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

Bingo for the Over 50s – Bingo will resume in The Turner's Old Star in the New Year.

Catholicism for the Curious – Thursday 16th January, 7.30pm, Presbytery.

Church Cleaning – Saturday 21st December, Naomi's team, 8.30am.

Foreign/Old Currency Collection for the SVP – Please leave in an envelope or bag marked "SVP" in the sacristy after Mass, or in the Presbytery letterbox.

Praise and Worship Group – Will resume in the New Year.

Prophets (Bible Timeline) – Next session Monday 16th December, 7pm, Presbytery.

Parish Movie Nights – Saturday 14th December, 8pm, 'Breakthrough' (2019) in the Upper Room. Bring your own snacks and drinks. Programme on notice board.

Rosary Group – Thursdays in church at 7pm. Also, daily Rosary at home via WhatsApp. Prayer for the intentions of the Church, parish and all parishioners.

St Vincent de Paul Society - Provides practical support to members of our community asking for help. For more information: PresidentA220816@svp.org.uk
For assistance or support from the SVP Society: request@svp.org.uk | 020 7703 3030

Shared Christian Bookshelf – In the Upper Room, to share books about our faith. All welcome to borrow and contribute books.

Sunday Catechesis – For children in school years 2-6. Will resume Sunday 12th January.

Youth Catechesis – Sundays 5pm, for years 7-13. Starting in January.

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



DIOCESAN NOTICES

Westminster Cathedral Christmas Celebration, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th December, 7.30pm – The annual 'Christmas Celebration' concerts at Westminster Cathedral with the usual blend of festive music and readings pondering the Incarnation of Christ, with celebrity readers and the Cathedral Choir and Orchestra, under the direction of Simon Johnson.

https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/westminster-cathedral-choir-tickets/artist/1693906

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025 – The annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by the Cardinal, will take place next year from 25th July to 1st August. The booking platform will soon be open for Volunteer Helpers, Medics, Assisted Pilgrims, Clergy and others who wish to take part. Parish and school groups are also encouraged to join. For more information: https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/

Elizabeth Uwalaka elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk | 020 7798 9173

REGULAR NOTICES

English Martyrs Primary School Foundation Governor Vacancy – English Martyrs have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. Foundation Governors are appointed in the name of the Archbishop and form the majority of the governing body of a Catholic school. They do not need to be parents, but must be practicing Catholics, and are responsible for developing the Catholic character of the school. Please speak to Fr Andrew or contact the school directly. More information about the role:

https://education.rcdow.org.uk/governance-admissions/foundation-governors/

Interested in Catholic Faith or Adult Confirmation – This is for anyone who wants to know about Catholic faith, and for adult Catholics who missed out on the Sacrament of Confirmation for any reason. Meeting on Thursdays at 7.30pm. Please register:

https://rcwapping.typeform.com/wrcia

Sunday Catechesis, 11am-12noon – Sunday catechesis for children every Sunday in term-time after 10am Mass, for children in years 2-6, led by Joan and Angie, in the Presbytery meeting room, accessed via the kitchen garden. If your child is new to catechesis, please introduce yourselves to the catechists at the session.

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

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

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.