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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

22nd December 2024

SAT 21 Dec	6.30pm		Dora Israel RIP
SUN 22	10.00am	+ 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Molly Clark RIP
	6.30pm		Commons & Keeley Families RIP
MON 23	10.00am	Advent Feria	Chriss Kumar RIP B'day
TUE 24	10.00am	Advent Feria	Christmas Blessings
	6.30pm		Holy Souls
	10.00pm	**+ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**	Ada Rita Brassett RIP Anni.
WED 25	**10.00am**		People of the Parish
THU 26	**11.00am**	ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr	Joan Mary Hodgkinson RIP
FRI 27	**11.00am**	ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist	Bill Keily RIP
SAT 28	10.00am	THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs	Fr Edward OSB RIP
	6.30pm		People of the Parish
SUN 29	10.00am	+ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH	John Stone RIP
	6.30pm		Marie Davis (nee Jones) 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: Resumes 10th January.

The Rosary: Resumes 2nd January

Praise and Worship: Resumes 10th January

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:

The nativity crib is a peaceful scene, with the Holy Family, the shepherds, the kings approaching in the distance. The peace in the world at the birth of the Christ Child, if it can be called peace, was the *Pax Romana*, enforced by the Roman legions. Conquest, subjugation, exploitation, slavery: those were the realities of the day. The Lord Jesus entered a broken and suffering world, precisely to bring healing, hope, and true peace. We are painfully conscious at this time of the brokenness and suffering of our world. In the crib, in a new way, I see the peace brought by the Christ Child, peace that the world cannot give. We look to him, pray to him, adore him, for that peace.

The crib, too, is a family scene. Thanks be to God that so many families come together at Christmas, and many of our parishioners are able to travel home for the holiday. For some, especially for those on their own, Christmas can be lonely; there are also those, too, who have lost loved ones recently, or at this time of year, tinging Christmas with the pain of loss. Please reach out to those around you this Christmas, especially here in the family of our parish. The Lord Jesus reaches out to those who are alone through each of us.

However you will celebrate this Christmas, I pray for that peace and grace of Christ for you and your families. God bless you all, Fr Andrew.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR 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)

Wednesday 1st January

11.00am Mass of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

PARISH NOTICES

St Patrick's Honey for Sale, Supporting 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.

Mistletoe for Sale, Supporting the Jesuit Refugee Service – This weekend after the Masses there will be an opportunity to purchase mistletoe bunches, kindly given to us by a parishioner from their garden. All proceeds will be given to JRS.

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.

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 – 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; or you can use the card machines.

Shadow Puppet Nativity – Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event so special, and to the children who participated on the day. It was a truly memorable occasion. Thanks, too, to Jo and her team, and to Lance, for the refreshments and bonfire with which we were able to spend some time together after Mass last Sunday.

Christmas Trees and Cribs – Thank you to Alan, Jez, Paul, Igor, Seb, and Naomi, for the hard work putting up and decorating our trees and cribs. They bring joy to so many.

English Martyrs Primary School Foundation Governor Vacancy – Foundation Governors are appointed in the name of the Archbishop. 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/

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

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 23rd January, 7.30pm, Presbytery.

Church Cleaning – Saturday 28th December, Beryl's team, 10.30am.

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 13th January, 7pm, Presbytery.

Parish Movie Nights – Resume in the New Year. 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. Resumes 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

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

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.