

18-DEC – 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

The prophecy about “Emmanuel-God with us” invites king Ahaz to trust

Responsorial: Psalm 23:1-6

R. /: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

This introduction to Paul’s major epistle gives the earliest Christian beliefs about Jesus

Gospel: Mathew 1:18-24

The virginal conception of Jesus is revealed to the just man, Joseph

Let’s Reflect...

I have a plan. Do you trust me? - God

Two aspects of Joseph’s character are revealed to us. *Firstly*, Joseph was a man of deep faith. He trusted God and, discerning God’s will, took the great leap of faith into the unknown in a difficult and confusing situation. God moved him in strange ways and he was responsive to this. *Secondly*, Joseph was selfless. He did not alienate Mary but, instead, accepted her and remained loyal. His selflessness enabled him to act without fear of ridicule and scorn. Doing God’s will was all-important for Joseph.

We can learn from these two aspects of Joseph’s character. For example, how do we respond to God who often communicates with us in strange ways? Are we able to make the leap of faith when we are unsure about the future? Can we acknowledge and embrace those people and life situations which least suit us? Advent is about cultivating our ability to focus beyond our own concerns and respond to the needs of other people so that Christ can come into our lives through them.

*Lord, you are the word of God, who is made flesh,
have mercy on us.*

ST JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Email: wembley1@rcdow.org.uk, Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/wembley

Parish Clergy: Fr. Joseph Kaduthanam, Fr Joseph Chacko CMI,
Fr. Tebin Francis CMI

SUNDAY, 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
18-Dec Mass: 9.00am, 10.45am, 12.30pm & 7.30pm

MONDAY,
19-Dec Mass: 9.30am

TUESDAY,
20-Dec Mass: 9.30am & 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY,
21-Dec Mass: 9.30am

THURSDAY,
22-Dec Mass: 9.30am & 6.30pm

FRIDAY,
23-Dec Mass: 12.00noon
Church will be closed for cleaning after the Mass.

SATURDAY,
24-Dec There will be no 9.30am Mass.
5.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass of Sunday
11.30pm Carol & 12 Midnight Christmas Mass

SUNDAY, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)
25-Dec Mass: 9.00am, 10.45am, 12.30pm
4.00pm – Syro-Malabar Mass

POPE'S INTENTION - DECEMBER 2022

For voluntary not-for-profit organisations: We pray that volunteers and not-for-profit organisations committed to human development may find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international co-operation.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Domingo Fernandes and Catherine Stock that the Lord may lay His healing hands on them and bring them His peace.

FOCUS PARISH MAGAZINE The Christmas Focus Magazine is available which contains the Christmas and New Year programme. Please pick up a copy at the end of the Mass. The Christmas and New Year programme is also available on the parish website.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION - Christmas Services

25th of December, the Nativity of the Lord is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will a vigil Mass on 24th Saturday 2022 at 5.30pm and Christmas Carol singing at 11.30pm followed by the Christmas Mass at midnight. On Christmas day, there will be Masses at 9.00am, 10.45am and 12.30pm. There will be no 7.30pm Mass.

THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE Thank you for your Christmas gifts handed in so far. The Justice and Peace group decided to leave The Christmas Giving Tree in the church porch until **2nd January 2023**. Please use the labels on the tree to bring the gifts for the poor and needy. Do not wrap your presents with gift paper, as it will help the volunteers to distribute efficiently. You may put them in carrier bags and place them into the box by the sanctuary. The poor and needy greatly appreciate your gifts.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Grand Christmas Raffle tickets are available at all the weekend Masses.

DONATIONS AT CHRISTMAS Special white Gift Aid envelopes are available in the church porch for those who donate by standing order or do not have planned giving envelopes and who wish to gift aid their Christmas contribution. Please fill in your details as required, insert your donation, and place your sealed envelope in the normal collection bag.

CONTACTLESS DONATION: We now have two contactless payments digital plates available at the church porch. You can pay for regular offerings and as well as Christmas offerings.

NEW YEAR MASSES

On 31st December, the Sunday vigil Mas will be at 6.30pm. The Thanksgiving Holy Hour will be at 11.00pm followed by the 12 Midnight New Year Mass. On the 1st January, there will be Masses at 9.00am, 10.45am and 12.30pm. There will be no 7.30pm Mass. Mass in Konkani will be at 4.00pm.

CAR PARKING FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES: Parking will be available free of charge at the car park at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Empire Way for parishioners attending services on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Masses.

THE CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME FOR 2022-2023 will be commencing with a Parent's meeting on **Wednesday, 11th January 2023 at 7.15pm** held inside the church. At least one parent should attend (no requirement for the candidate to attend). Catechism sessions for all candidates will commence on **Saturday, 14th January 2023 at 5pm** in the Pastoral Centre.

GETTING MARRIED

- **In the Catholic Church in this Country:** You need to contact one of your priests at least 6 months **before** the proposed date of the marriage- and provide a recent copy of your Baptism Certificate (dated within 6 months of the proposed marriage), and a copy of your Confirmation Certificate.
- **In the Catholic Church Abroad:** In addition to the information requested above, you will also need a letter of freedom from this Diocese, which may be obtained through your Priest.

ADDRESS CHANGES

It is important that parishioners inform us of their address change if we are to maintain correct records. This can only be done by filling in the Registration form ticking the address change box. Forms can be printed online and must be handed in or dropped in the presbytery letter box.