St. Erconwald's Parish Newsletter



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OFFICE: By appointment.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A 11TH DECEMBER, 2022

THEME: Joy In the Lord's Coming



Where people hope, there is always a spirit of eager anticipation. The waiting for something great to happen brings with it a lively joy, sometimes greater than the possession of what we had been waiting for. Our joy during this Advent season comes from our awareness that the Lord is already with us and also that, if we let him, he will even become nearer to us, when we let him make us more like him.

MEDITATE: It is fully appropriate that John's question is asked while he is in prison.

ACT: Share some good news with another and be open to receiving the gift of good news from someone.

Pause for Thought: 3rd Candle: Symbolizes **joy,** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too.



CHURCH DECORATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday 17th 10.00am.

Please come along and help decorate the Church and the Hall and setting up the Cribs and the Christmas Tree. More hands make light work!

BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP

are going to have a Christmas day sale at St Joseph in Wembley this coming Thursday 15th December from 9.00am to 9.00pm, all day. Please visit and support their work and consider buying a special Christmas present for yourself or a loved one this Christmas.

FUNERAL

With sadness we announce the death of Sarah Ann O'Brien. Her funeral will take place on Monday 12th December at 10.00am. The Mass will be live-streamed and recorded. We offer our sympathy to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

COMING TO MASS: COVID-19 SAFE ENVIRONMENT

[Please do NOT attend Mass if you are unwell or have any Covid symptoms]

As we have many vulnerable parishioners we ask that you **continue to wear your mask and sanistise your hands** when you come to Church. Doors will remain open for ventilation. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

ADVENT 2022 – JOURNEYING TO THE CRIB



The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the birth of Our Saviour. At the back of the Church there are various resources to help us prepare for the coming feast of Christmas and its true meaning. This Liturgical year we will be recalling the mystery of Jesus our Saviour through the listening to the gospel of Matthew - Year A.

ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR



This Advent Giving Calendar gives suggestions for items to collect each day, reaching out to those going hungry, making a food parcel. Like previous years we will be supporting "The Larder". Please bring the "food parcels" by the weekend of 17th/18th December.

For more Advent resources for all ages please visit: cafod.org.uk/advent

VISITING THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Fr. Anthony is at the moment visiting the sick and housebound. If you know of anyone who is in need of a visit please see Fr. Anthony or contact the Parish Office. [If in hospital, please contact the hospital chaplain].

ADVENT GIVING TREE—"THE PASSAGE"

Andrew Hollingsworth will collect the *Gifts* on Saturday 17th December, after the 5.30pm Mass: 4th Sunday of Advent. The "gifts" need to be brought by Friday 16th December.

NO children's clothes please. As these items will form part of a Christmas Gift please only donate **new items**.



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

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.

REPOSITORY

Now in stock a limited number of Westminster Year Book 2023. Price £5.

Also, available Christmas Cards, Candles, Cribs and 2023 Diaries and Calendars. If you do not see the item you require, please ask a member of our Repository Team. You are welcome to browse. We also reserve items.

CHURCH CLEANING

The Church closes for cleaning after the 9.30am Mass on Tuesdays.
If you have any spare time please come along and join us.

LIGHT OF LIFE - REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



Please collect Memorial Cards from the back of the Church, complete them with the name of deceased loved one and return them not later than **Friday 16th December**. These Cards will then be hung on the Christmas tree. Mass will be offered on the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, the weekend of 31st December/1st January. Please place Memorial Cards and donations in the box available. Donations go towards the decorating of the Church at Christmas.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



The Christmas Celebration will be held on **SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER** following the 5.30pm Mass. Refreshments will be served from the bar – please be aware that if you bring your own, a corkage charge of £5 will apply. We are hoping that Santa will be able to take a break from his busy schedule to visit us. Admission will be by ticket only. Adults £2.00, children free [they need an "Entry Ticket" and must be accompanied by their parents/guardians and book a place]. Your ticket can be exchanged for a glass of mulled wine or fruit punch and a mince pie. There will be a special attendance raffle. In addition to all this, we will hold our **Grand Christmas Draw.** We hope that many of you will come and celebrate this Christmas together. Proceeds will go towards the Church Restoration Fund. Tickets on sale after Mass.

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW 2022



*Takes place at end of the Christmas Celebration. Raffle books are available now for our Christmas Draw. Please return counterfoils and unsold tickets no later than noon on **Saturday 17th December**. There are lots of good prizes: 1st Prize: Christmas Hamper, 2nd Prize: Nativity Crib, 3rd Prize: £50 cash, 4th Prize: Children's Special, and many other fantastic prizes. Please do support the Draw which is in aid of the Church Restoration Fund. Book of 5 tickets cost £5. Individual tickets cost £1.*

CHRISTMAS INTENTIONS

Due to demand there will be no individual Masses. The Christmas Masses celebrated on Saturday 24th at 10.00pm and Sunday 25th at 10.00am will be offered for all intentions. Cards are available from the Repository.
A donation would be appreciated.

CHRISTMAS CRIB APPEAL 2022

The Catholic Children's Society Crib Appeal helps support children and families in need throughout the diocese. There will be a donation box by the crib for you to contribute. Thank you for your support.

POINSETTIA

If you like to contribute a Poinsettia, please bring it to the Church no later than the morning of the 17th December.

SERVICE CARDS

with details of all our Masses etc. are available to take for your family, friends or neighbours who might appreciate an invitation to celebrate Christmas with us.

LITURGY FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

All services can be followed online: **https://www.churchservices.tv/wembley3**
[Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 10.00am / 11.30am Masses are recorded]

Sunday 11th December: Third Sunday of Advent, Year A Readings: 1st Reading: Isaiah 35.1-6,10; Psalm: 145; 2nd Reading: James 5.7-10; Gospel: Matthew 11.2-11. **Intention:** 10.00am: Cyril O'Flaherty [RIP]
11.30am: People of the Parish

Monday 12th December: 10.00am: Funeral Mass for Sarah Ann O'Brien RIP. [The Mass will be live-streamed and recorded]

Tuesday 13th December: St. Lucy [9.30am] **Readings:** 1st Reading: 2Corinthians 10.17-11.2; Psalm: 30; Gospel: Matthew 25.1-13. **Intention:** Monica De Jonk [RIP]

Wednesday 14th December: St. John of the Cross [9.30am] **Readings:** 1st Reading: 1Corinthians 2.1-10; Psalm: 36; Gospel: Luke 14.25-33. **Intention:** Maura Clerkin [RIP]

Thursday 15th December: NO SERVICE

Friday 16th December: Advent Feria [9.30am] **Readings:** 1st Reading: Isaiah 56.1-3,6-8; Psalm: 66; Gospel: John 5.33-36. **Intention:** John Pereira [RIP]

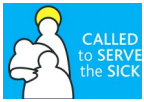
Friday 16th December: 7.00pm: Service of Reconciliation with Absolution

Saturday 17th December: Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A [5.30pm] Readings: 1st Reading: Isaiah 7.10-14; Psalm: 23; 2nd Reading: Romans 1.1-7; Gospel: Matthew 1.18-24. **Intention:** Aileen Bommer [RIP]

Sunday 18th December: Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A Readings: 1st Reading: Isaiah 7.10-14; Psalm: 23; 2nd Reading: Romans 1.1-7; Gospel: Matthew 1.18-24. **Intention:** 10.00am: Judith Jayawardane [RIP]
11.30am: People of the Parish

PARISH MAGAZINE – CHRISTMAS EDITION

Articles need to be in by Friday 16th December.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

We keep in our thoughts and prayers: Margaret Beeby, Yves Remedios, Patrick Carmody and Radwan Naffa. We remember also those in Kenbrook, Birchwood Grange and Brook House.

In case you are admitted to hospital.....

Please indicate *on entering hospital* that your details are to be passed to the RC Chaplain, and that you would like a visit from the RC Chaplain.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

[*based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori]*