



SHRINE & PARISH OF OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN,

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Website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesden>

Rector and Parish Priest: Fr Stephen Willis.

Assistant Priest: Fr William Johnstone.

Parish Secretary: Karen Toole: Safeguarding: Sylvia Vernon.

**PARISH
NEWSLETTER
December 3rd
2023
FIRST
SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

Lamp intentions this week:

Sacred Heart Lamp- Ann O'Neill -

Blessed Sacrament Lamp 1 - Theresa Walls – RIP

Blessed Sacrament 2 –Veronica Williams - RIP

Shrine Lamp 1-Pat Willis - Sick

Mass intentions from Saturday 2nd December 2023

Sat 6pm: Teadh Lyons-Anniversary

Sunday 9am: McLaughlin family - Anniversary

11am: Pro Populo

5.30pm: Blessings for sister and child

Mon: 10am:Noella Doozie – Birthday Int.

7pm: **NO MASS**

Tues 10am: **NO MASS**

7pm: November Dead List 2024

Wed: 10am: John & Mary Riordan - Anniversary

7pm: Holy Souls OLM

Thurs:10am:Holy Souls OLM

7pm: **NO MASS**

Fri:10am: November Dead List 2024

7.30pm: Holy Souls OLM

Saturday 10am:Holy Souls OLM

6pm: Mick Lyons – Anniversary

Sunday 9am: Matt Carr– Anniversary

11am: Pro Populo

5.30pm: Conversion of wife & blessings of mother

Masses& Sanctuary Lamp intentions can be booked online:

willesden@rcdow.org.uk or by phone 02089654935 MASS

INTENTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM 22ndJAN and

SANCTUARY LAMPS *from next weekend!*

USUAL MASS TIMES:

Saturday 6pm (Anticipated said Mass for Sunday)

SUNDAY 9am (simple said: Livestreamed)

11am (Solemn Mass with Choir)

5.30pm – (Traditional Latin)

Monday to Saturday 10am, & Monday-Friday 7pm

(No evening Mass on Bank Holidays)

Confessions: Tue 6.15-6.45pm & Sat.10.30-11.30am & 5-5.45pm.



The people of Israel waited for generations for the promised Messiah to arrive. Their poetry, their songs and stories, and their religious worship focused on an awaited saviour who would come to them to set them free from captivity and to lead them to the fulfilment of all that God had promised. Israel longed for a Messiah, and John the Baptist, who came before Jesus, promised that the Messiah was coming and could be found in Jesus Christ, God's Son, the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Advent is a season in the Church's life intended to renew the experience of waiting and longing for the Messiah. Though Christ has already come into the world, the Church invites us to renew our desire for the Lord more deeply in our lives and to renew our desire for Christ's triumphant second coming into the world.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says the goal of Advent is to make present for ourselves and our families the "ancient expectancy of the Messiah ... by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming."

Advent comes from the Latin "ad + venire," which means, essentially, "to come" to" or "to come toward." "Ad + venire" is the root of the Latin "adventus," which means "arrival." So Advent is the season of arrival: the arrival of Christ in our hearts, in the world, and into God's extraordinary plan for our salvation. Advent is a slightly different length each year. It starts four Sundays before Christmas. But because Christmas is on a fixed date, and could fall on different days of the week, Advent can be as short as three weeks and a day (like it is this year), or as long as four weeks.

The Church's feasts and celebrations run on a yearlong cycle, which we call the "liturgical year." The "liturgical year" starts on the first Sunday of Advent. So it's a new liturgical year when Advent starts.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. AMEN.

*Refreshments after the 9am Mass on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.
Come, and join us!*

LOOK UP INTO THE GALLERY! Works to the organ will continue this week. Whilst it is not expected that the church will need to be closed, please understand that there will be some noise involved!

THIS WEEK: IN CHURCH:

Weekday Rosary: in the Shrine at 10.30am.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Tuesdays & Saturdays between the masses.

Shrine Prayers: Tuesdays after the 7pm Mass

Coffee and Bible Study: Thursday after 10am Mass

Legion of Mary: Sundays, 12.30pm – 2pm in the Presbytery

Church Cleaning: Wed 8.30am-10am.

Ghanaian Catholic Association: First Sunday of the Month after the 11am Mass, in the Marian Hall.

Nigerian Catholic Association: Third Sunday of the Month after the 11am Mass, in the Marian Hall.

1,000 Hail Mary's: First Saturdays, after 10am Mass, in the Shrine Chapel

ONLINE:

Children's Liturgy: <https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/>

*Livestream Mass: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesden> or the **Willesden Shrine** Facebook Page. 9am Sunday.*

***Sign up to e-alerts from the Parish** to receive news, updates and the weekly Newsletter directly to your email!*

Go to the parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesden>

Parish Offerings: Weekend of 25th & 26th November: £1,280.04; Shrine Restoration £67.09. Organ Fund; £47.11 *Many thanks to all who support the ministry and mission of our Parish.*

It's been a very busy time during the last few weeks. The Heating engineers have been in 3 times, and at least the main church heating is working, and we do have heat in the Presbytery (and 38 new radiator thermostats!)... though both systems still need completion. 2 ceilings of the Presbytery that were falling down have been replaced, and, in addition to those rooms the main hall of the house and the Catechists Office have also been redecorated and updated, and a bathroom has had a lick of paint... but there is more to be done. Faulty light fittings have been replaced, and some brickwork replaced in the Sacristy where a redundant boiler had been removed. Much of this work has been funded by the Gift Aid returns of the past 3 years which the Parish Finance Committee recently allocated for works to the Presbytery, on which no major works done for 15 years, and now needs some attention. Also the last fortnight has seen important steps in forwarding the Organ Project, just look up into the Gallery(!) but again, there is still much to be achieved. Thank you for your patience during these works, and for your support for the Parish which enables us to maintain and improve our facilities. As one of our organ builders said, "this place must be like maintaining the Forth Bridge; as soon as one job is completed, you have to move on the next". These past weeks it's been a bit like having 3 Forth Bridges... and there are continuing works in the coming weeks.

MASSES THIS COMING WEEK. Fr Stephen is taking his last week of Annual Leave this coming week. Please note that there will be no 7pm mass on Monday and Thursday evening, or on Tuesday morning.

Looking Forward. December 2nd/3rd. The SVP (Society of St Vincent De Paul) will be speaking at all masses on the Launch of a new SVP Group in NW10. We will also be seeking volunteers to assist with the opening of a **Warm Welcome Space** again this Winter.

The SVP are distributing **over 10,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code **60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237**. Thank you so much for your support.

🎄🎄 **CHRISTMAS FAIR** 🎄🎄 16 December - 1 - 4 pm at Harlesden Town Garden, Challenge Close, off St Mary's Road. A date for your diary! Should be good fun and will raise some much needed funds. The event is open to the public: entry is free and all are very welcome

Stop the 14-day limit on experimenting on embryos being removed The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) is pushing to remove the 14-day limit for experimenting on embryos, despite 97% of submissions from the general public to their consultation objecting to these plans. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website that makes it easy for you to email your MP asking them to oppose a change to legislation that, if passed, would pave the way for the removal of the 14-day limit. Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/14days to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds.

**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE & BENEDICTION, THIS SUNDAY,
3RD DECEMBER, 4.30PM, followed by Mulled Wine in the Marian Hall.**