



## SHRINE & PARISH OF OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN,

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Rector and Parish Priest: Fr Stephen Willis.

Assistant Priest: Fr William Johnstone.

Parish Secretary: Karen Toole: Safeguarding: Sylvia Vernon.

**PARISH  
NEWSLETTER  
December 10<sup>th</sup>  
2023  
SECOND  
SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT**

### Lamp intentions this week:

**Sacred Heart Lamp-** Pro Populo

**Blessed Sacrament Lamp 1** - Theresa Walls – RIP

**Blessed Sacrament 2** –Esmeralda

**Shrine Lamp 1**-Pat Willis - Sick

### Mass intentions from Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Sat 6pm:** Mick Lyons - Anniversary

**Sunday 9am:** Matt Carr -

Anniversary

**11am:** Pro

Populo

**5.30pm:** Conversion of wife & blessings of mother

**Mon:** 10am: **NO MASS**

**7pm:** John & Bridget Doyle & family -Int.

**Tues 10am:** John Feeney – Lately Dead

**7pm:** John Harkin – RIP

**Wed: 10am:** Patricia Lambert – Sick Int.

**7pm:** Catherine Hickey – Sick Int.

**Thurs:10am:**Frank Tomany - Anniversary

**7pm:** Michael Harkin - Anniversary

**Fri:10am:** Shaun Lambert – Lately Dead

**7.30pm:** Kathy McGloin

**Saturday 10am:**Michael McHugh - Anniversary

**6pm:** Maria Del Carmen Panameno - Anniversary

**Sunday 9am:** Pro Populo

**11am:** John McEntaggart

**5.30pm:** For the Priests, strength, conversion of faith, esp

Fr Stephen & Fr Paul

**Masses & Sanctuary Lamp intentions** can be booked online:

[willesden@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:willesden@rcdow.org.uk) or by phone 02089654935 MASS

### ***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.*



Who doesn't want a life of good health, peace, and well-being? Isaiah foretold that God's kingdom would overcome sorrow and adversity and bring true peace and prosperity to God's people. Jesus understood his mission to bring the kingdom in all its fullness to us. The core of the Gospel message is quite simple: the kingdom or reign of God is imminent! What is the kingdom of God? It's the power of God at work in that society of men and women who trust in God and who honour him as their King and Lord. In the Lord's prayer we dare to ask God to reign fully in our lives and in our world: "*May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*" (Matthew 5:10). Jesus' preaching of God's kingdom was accompanied by signs and wonders. People were healed not only spiritually, but physically as well. Do you believe in the power of God's kingdom for your life? Let his word transform your mind and heart that he may reign supreme in every area of your life.

Jesus commissioned his disciples to carry on the works which he did - to speak God's word and to bring his healing power to the weary and oppressed. Jesus said to his disciples: *Freely you have received, freely give* (Matthew 10:8). What they had received from Jesus (all free of charge) they must now pass on to others without expecting any kind of payment or reward. They must show by their attitude that their first interest is God, not material gain.

Our Lord's words are just as relevant today. The kingdom of heaven is available to those who are ready to receive it. We cannot *buy* heaven; but if we accept the love and mercy of Jesus we already possess heaven in our hearts! The Lord brings his kingdom or heavenly reign to those who receive him with faith and obedience. When the Lord returns in his glory he will fully restore his kingdom of everlasting peace and justice. Do you pray and watch with confident hope for God's kingdom to come in all its fullness?

***Lord Jesus, rouse my spirit from complacency and stir my faith to see you act today. Give me boldness to live and proclaim the message of the kingdom of heaven and to be a prophetic sign of that kingdom to this generation.***

***Refreshments after the 9am Mass on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

**WINTER MARKET: GRAND TOTAL FOR THE ORGAN FUND £1,728.28. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED.**

**Sponsor an Organ Pipe as a gift.** Beautiful Cards available that pay for a pipe to be restored in the Organ. £25 per Pipe, with a card you can give as a token. Available from the Repository or Parish Office.

***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 2nd & 3rd December: £1,1487.60; Shrine Restoration £51.56. Winter Market: £2,028.78 (towards the Organ Fund ) ***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.

**Warm Welcome Space.** We have all experienced the bitterly cold weather at the end of November, and we should soon be opening the Warm Welcome space which we offered last year. Westminster Caritas have doubled the grant they gave the parish last year to assist with heating the Marian Hall, but we need the resource of people to help host the Space. As last year we propose to offer two 3 hour sessions a week, on Thursdays and Saturdays, and at least to offer a warm space, companionship, and refreshment. There may be some other resources to offer too.... But in the first place we need volunteers (it doesn't have to be every week). If you would be willing to help, please sign up on the sheets available today, and the coordinating group will soon contact you. ***"Whatever you do to one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you do for me"***.



**Blessing of the Bambinelli.** Next weekend at all masses we will offer the Blessing of the Bambinelli: the figure of the Christ Child that you place in your Cribs at home. Please bring your Bambinelli to one of the masses for this Blessing.

**First Holy Communion Children:** Rehearsal for the Christmas Eve Nativity; Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am.

**Preparation of the church for Christmas:** dressing the Trees, erecting the Crib, cleaning the candlestick etc. Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December after the 10am Mass.

**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](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/14days) to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds.