

This week at St Lawrence's



13th/14th December 2014

Third Sunday of Advent
(Missal Page 87 – YEAR B Vol. 1)



Isaiah 61:1-2; 10-11; Psalm: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 16-8, 19-28
Fourth Sunday of Advent (Missal Page 90): 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16; Psalm 88:
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When Jesus enters our world at Christmas, what does he come to do? He tells us in the Gospel of Luke: *“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!”*

Jesus' statement is frightening. Jesus is not gently lighting a warm, cozy fire in the fireplace. He's throwing fire down, much like the God who destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, or who threw fire to consume the enemies of Elijah.

How do we make sense of this? How do we link together this harsh and dreadful mission with the meek and gentle Jesus, born a baby in Bethlehem? Or: the angels on Christmas morning who announce Jesus as the *Prince of Peace*?

Jesus wants to cast a consuming fire on the earth. Not because he delights in seeing us suffer; rather, he wants to burn away all that is opposed to God's desire for us. He has to clear the ground before something new can be built. Is this utterly painful? Yes! But only when we cooperate with God's grace, letting it burn away every burden of sin that clings to us, are we ready to advance in the spiritual life. This is why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is of paramount importance during Advent, so that we can clear the ground and receive Jesus' healing touch.

Therefore, before the Lord comes, let us to make a simple and sincere confession of our sins, without fear, without anxiety. *How long since your last confession? Weeks? Months? Years? It does not matter.* What does matter is that you take this opportunity now.

Saturday 20th December, perhaps, could be the favorable time for you to reconcile with God and with yourself. Courage, is a very great gift of God, do not let this opportunity pass you by. May God Bless you all!

Fr. Fortunato

SACRAMENTS

CONFIRMATION

Could all those who have registered for the January Confirmation Course please collect a letter from Bridget. These are at the back of the Church and contain important information regarding the course.

FIRST CONFESSION

Please keep in your prayers our children who made their First Confession this Saturday.

PARISH NOTICES

LIFE COFFEE MORNING AND MINCE PIE SALE

There will be a Coffee Morning this Sunday after the morning Masses in the Parish Centre. Mince pies, cakes, Christmas Fayre to include toys and bric-a-brac will be on sale. Do come in for a cuppa and cake and great bargain too. All proceeds to the local LIFE Pregnancy Care Centre.

CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

On **Saturday 20th December** there will be visiting Confessors from 10.30am to 12.00noon and 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

AFRICAN COMMUNITY

The next Mass led by the African Community will take place on **Sunday 28th December** at 2.30pm.

There will also be a Special Vigil Mass led by the African Community on **Wednesday 31st December** starting at 10.30pm. All welcome.

ST LAWRENCE'S FILIPINO COMMUNITY

The Filipino Community cordially invite you to attend the Simbang Gabi Mass on **Monday 22nd December** at 6pm, the main celebrant will be Fr Cirino Potrido.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

All children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity – angel, shepherd, wise man, even an ox, ass or sheep!, for the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Please could children also prepare a birthday card for Jesus and bring it with them to the Family Mass.

SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY

The Parish's annual Senior Citizen's "Christmas" Party will take place on **Sunday 11th January** from 12noon to 4pm. Please put your name down on the lists in the porch if you would like to come or if you can help. Details from Philomena Franklin.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Thank you for your generosity towards Christmas Flowers which amounted to £246.73

PRIEST REFERENCE FORMS FOR ADMISSION TO RECEPTION 2015

Fr Chris will be available to sign the Priest Reference forms for admission to St Lawrence's Reception on Tuesday **December 16th** and **January 13th**, between 3.45pm and 5.00pm. Please come with your child and wait in church.

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the souls of **Edwin John (Ted) Chapple RIP, Doris McEvoy RIP and Nora Sermon RIP** who have died recently. Please also keep in your prayers their families and all who mourn them.

The Funeral of **Doris McEvoy RIP** will take place here on **Monday 15th December** at 1.00pm.

The Funeral of **Nora Sermon RIP** will take place here on **Thursday 18th December** at 10.30am.

The Funeral of **Edwin (Ted) Chapple RIP** will take place at Hanworth Crematorium on **Tuesday 23rd December** at 12noon.

OTHER

CAROL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

This beautiful service organised by Lodge Brothers Funeral Service will be held in Church this Sunday at 3pm. All are invited along to remember our departed loved ones at this special time of year and to light a candle for them, as well as joining in our favourite carols. Seasonal refreshments will be served afterwards.

CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROL SINGING

Churches Together will be Carol Singing at Asda on **Monday 15th December** at 7pm. Come and join in.

THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (WESTMINSTER)

are collaborating with the Brandenburg Choral Festival to raise money for the work of CCS. Three a cappella acts are lined up to entertain you while you enjoy a beverage from the very reasonably priced bar (the cheapest in Central London!). The concert will take place at 8pm on **Wednesday 28th of January** and Tickets are £12. To book, please call 0208 969 5305. The concert is being held in a TOP SECRET LOCATION in Central London that will be revealed to you when you buy your ticket(s).

CATENIAN ASSOCIATION

Osterley Circle's Christmas Party is **Wednesday 19th December, 7pm** at Hounslow Conservative Club, Gresham Rd, Hounslow. Three course Christmas dinner & disco at £20/head. All welcome to come. For more information & bookings please contact Peter Oliver on 07905657285 by Sunday evening.

CALLED TO TEACH?

The West London Teaching Schools' Alliance (WLTA) has a Catholic Division which is seeking to encourage recent Catholic graduates (or career changers) into the teaching profession for both primary and secondary schools. In partnership with several universities, the WLTA is currently recruiting for PGCE (and QTS) teacher training programmes for 26 schools in West London (79 vacancies). 17 of the programmes are hosted in Catholic Schools. Some of the programmes are salaried and offer up to £25k with training costs paid for by the schools. Further information: wltsa.org.uk We encourage you to apply!

PILGRIMAGES 2015

LANCIANO, LORETO AND SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

A, six day, pilgrimage from the **8th to 13th September**. The cost will be £735 on a half board basis plus insurance. If you are interested please enter your name on the sheet at the back of the church to reserve your place. A tour itinerary can also be found here. Any queries please contact Fr Chris/Florie.

LOURDES 2015

Once again we will be travelling by coach to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, **25th July to 2nd August**. On the way to Lourdes we will be visiting the shrine of St Martin of Tours and on the return journey we will be stopping in Rocamadour and St Bernardette's shrine in Nevers. Price £699 per person plus insurance. Price includes full board whilst in Lourdes and half board at stops on route.

PARISH CENTRE BUILDING FUND UPDATE

Our Target £250,000.00

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|---|------------|
| Number Pledges received as of 11 th December | 102 |
| Total amount pledged as of 11 th December | £43,313.39 |
| Total amount banked as at 9 th December | £17,732.59 |

Mass intentions and other services this week:

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| Saturday 13th St Lucy | 9.30 - 11.45 12.00 17.00 18.00 | <i>First Confession for First Holy Communion Children</i> Jessie Selvam Chelliah RIP <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> Michael & Nora Ussher RIP |
| + Sunday 14th THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 09.00 11.00 13.00 15.00 18.00 | People of the Parish Bridie Rainsford RIP Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) <i>Carol Service of Remembrance (Lodge Brothers)</i> Emelia Potts RIP |
| Monday 15th Advent FERIA | 09.15 09.30 13.00 | <i>Morning Prayer</i> Gil Dacasin RIP FUNERAL MASS – DORIS MCEVOY RIP |
| Tuesday 16th Advent FERIA | 09.15 09.30 10.00 | <i>Morning Prayer</i> Mizbon Jaques in Thanksgiving <i>Novena to Our Lady</i> |
| Wednesday 17th Advent FERIA | 09.15 09.30 | <i>Morning Prayer</i> Celebrant's Intention |
| Thursday 18th Advent FERIA | 09.15 09.30 10.30 | <i>Morning Prayer</i> Mary D'Souza in Thanksgiving FUNERAL MASS – NORA SERMON RIP |
| Friday 19th Advent FERIA | 09.15 09.30 | <i>Morning Prayer</i> Christina Power RIP |
| Saturday 20th Advent FERIA | 11.00 11.45 12.30-13.30 17.00 18.00 | <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> <i>Benediction</i> Matthew Rodrigues RIP (Anniversary) <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> Deceased members of the Hanlon Family RIP |
| + Sunday 21st FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00 | Keith & Rose-Marie Calmiano (Intentions) People of the Parish Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Intentions of the Canha Family |

Sanctuary Lamp: Emmanuella Danladi (Intentions)

Thank you for your generosity in last week's Offertory Collection:

6th/7th December: Envelopes £1086.08, Loose £694.93, Standing Orders £420.00 Total: £2,201.01
Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity No. 233699

Sunday Mass Times: Saturday 6 pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9 am, 11 am,

1pm (Polish) & 6 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - Saturday 11am & 5pm

Contact us:

9 The Green, Feltham, TW13 4AF

www.saintlawrences.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Chris Vipers

Parish Sisters: Sr. Katherine O'Reilly, Sr. Monica Killeen, Sr. Nora Gorman

Pastoral Assistant: Bridget Brinkley

020 8890 2367

feltham@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr Fortunato Pantisano

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes