



St Lawrence Catholic Church

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Diocese of Westminster Charity No: 233699

Parish Priest: Fr. John Byrne - Mobile: 0787 905 8732 Email: johnbyrne@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Sisters: Sr. Katherine O'Reilly, Sr. Nora Gorman, Sr. Mary O'Malley

Pastoral Assistant: Bridget Brinkley - Email: bridgetbrinkley@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes

Fourth Sunday of Advent

17th/18th December 2016

Readings: Parish Mass Book Year A, Volume 1: (Missal Page: 90): Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 23; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

Next Week: Christmas Vigil – Page 95; Midnight Mass - Page 98, Mass at Dawn - Page 101, Mass during the Day - Page 103



Candle of Love

Our candles for hope, for peace, and for joy are burning brightly. Today we light the fourth candle – the candle of **love**. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, and that we recognise in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death.

(4th candle is lit) We pray:

May each one of us witness to the love of Jesus through prayer and good works and that we may find joy and peace through the Lord's coming.

May God's healing touch reach those who are sick and suffering that they may find comfort and love in their time of trial.

Dear Lord, two thousand years ago you brought your son Jesus into this world to teach us the power of love and sacrifice. As we gaze at this Christmas tree, we remember his birth and the meaning of his life for us. Bless our tree as a symbol of our celebration of Jesus' birth and our gratitude for his sacrifice. May the joy this tree brings and the gifts we place under it remind us of the many gifts of love you have given us. We ask your blessing upon our loved ones, this day and always.

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.

As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination.

Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice.

Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.

Magnify your love with us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,

That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen

Come, Lord Jesus Come!

FR. JOHN

PARISH NOTICES

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next Baptism Preparation Sessions will be on **Saturday 7th and 21st January** at 3.30pm in the Parish Centre

BAPTISMS

We extend a warm welcome to Imogen Macey Vidot, Abigail Opoku Kwakye and Ellie-May Clarke who were baptised this weekend and offer our warmest congratulations to their families.

Sunday Mass: Saturday 6 pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9 am, 11 am, 1pm (Polish) & 6 pm

Weekday Mass: Monday - Friday 9.30am, Saturday 12 noon

Morning Prayer: Monday – Friday - 9.15am, Novena to Our Lady: Tuesdays: 10am

Exposition and Benediction: Saturdays: 11am

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

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SERVICES

Services at St Lawrence's over Christmas will be as follows:

Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December: 10-12 Confessions; 12 noon Mass in Tagalog; 6pm Family Mass; 8.30pm Vigil Mass; 10.30 Carols followed by Mass at 11pm.

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December: 9am, 11am and 1pm (in Polish) No Evening Mass

Feast of St Stephen, Monday 26th December: 9.15 Morning Prayer, 9.30am Mass, 1pm Mass in Polish.

Normal schedule Tuesday 27th December to Friday 30th December

New Year's Eve, Saturday 31st December: 11.00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions; 12 noon Mass; 5.00 Confessions; 6.00 Mass and 11.30pm (led by the African Community)

New Year's Day, Sunday 1st January: 9.00am, 11.00am, 1pm (in Polish) and 6.00pm

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Fr John will be available to hear Confessions before Christmas on:
Tuesday 20th December - Exposition and Confessions 7.00pm-8.00pm; **Friday 23rd December** - Confessions 10.15am-11.15am and **Saturday 24th December** - Confessions 10.00am-12.00noon.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

For the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve all children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity – angel, shepherd, wise man, even an ox, ass or sheep! Please could children also prepare a birthday card for Jesus and bring it with them to the Family Mass. They will be asked to place it by the crib during the Offertory. This Mass is primarily for families and children.

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

If you are planning on attending the vigil Mass and are an Altar Server, Reader or Eucharistic Minister please put your name on the list in the sacristy. We also need Welcomers and Stewards for the Mass, offers to Fr John please.

CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT MASS OR CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

If you would like a lift to and from the Church for the Midnight Mass which will start at 11pm (Carols at 10.30pm) or the 9am, 11am on Christmas Day, please leave your name, address and phone number at the Parish Office. We also need drivers for this. If you could offer a place in your car to someone who would not otherwise be able to get to Church at Christmas please let us have your name and number and an indication of how many places you can offer.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY

There will be Mass on **Christmas Eve** at 12.00noon followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre.

POLISH MASS

There will be Mass in Polish at 1pm on **Christmas Day, on 26th December and 1 January.**

MASS LED BY THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY

The African Community invite you all to join in a special *Vigil Mass* to bring in the New Year on **Thursday 31st December.** The programme starts at **11.30pm** with a Rosary, Devotions to the Divine Mercy, Songs of Praise, Holy Mass and finishes with Benediction.

CHRISTMAS CRIB APPEAL

Our Christmas Crib Appeal is for the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster)

ADVENT PRAYER

The front of the newsletter has the 4th Week of Advent prayer to be said at home. Please take a moment each day this week to quietly say and reflect on the prayer.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

There will be a collection at the end of all Masses this weekend towards flowers for Christmas.

UCM

The UCM will enjoy their Christmas Party on **Monday 19th December** at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Those members who wish to attend but have not yet given in their £5 charge, please phone Kiki by 7pm on Sunday.

CAROL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

This beautiful service organised by Lodge Brothers Funeral Service will be held in Church **this Sunday 18th December at 3.30pm.** All are invited along to remember our departed loved ones at this special time of year and to light a candle for them.

LIFE – MINCE PIE SALE

This Sunday we have the coffee and mince pie and bric a brac sale after the 9am and 11am Masses in the Parish Centre in aid of LIFE Pregnancy Centre.

CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROL SINGING

Churches Together will be Carol Singing at Asda on **Monday 19th December** from 7pm – 8.30pm. Come and join in.

SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY

The Parish's annual Senior Citizen's "Christmas" Party will take place on **Sunday 8th 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.

THE SHELTER PROJECT

The Shelter Project for homeless people in Hounslow Borough provides emergency overnight accommodation with a hot meal in the evening and a cooked breakfast from December to March. Please see notice board for more information and also volunteering opportunities.

Thank you for your generosity in last week's Collections:

10th/11th: Envelopes £900.39 Loose £852.52
 Standing Orders: £785.80 **Total: £2,538.71**

PARISH CENTRE UPDATE:

Parish Bazaar raised £2,061.16

Money banked as at 13/12/2016 - £94,968.31

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 17 th	11.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation
	12.00	Virginia & Benedicto Masulit in
	12.45	Thanksgiving – Wedding Anniversary Baptisms of Imogen Macey Vidot, Abigail Opoku Kwakye and Ellie-Mary Clarke
	18.00	NO CONFESSION Daisy & Bernard O'Neill & Ray Palmer RIP
Sun 18 th	09.00	Mary D'Souza in Thanksgiving
	11.00	Faustina Mendoza in Thanksgiving
	13.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.)
	15.30	Lodge Brothers Carol Service of Remembrance
	18.00	People of the Parish
Mon 19 th	09.30	Antonio Ganaden RIP
Tues 20 th	09.30	Matthew Rodrigues RIP (10 th Anniversary)
	19.00-20.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wed 21 st	09.30	Celebrants Intention
Thurs 22 nd	09.30	Patrick Hanlon & Bernadette Cimpoais RIP
Fri 23 rd	09.30	Eamon O'Brien RIP
	10.15-11.15	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sat 24 th	10.00-12.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	12.00	MASS IN TAGALOG FOR THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY
	18.00	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS
	20.30	VIGIL MASS
	22.30	CAROLS
	23.00	CHRISTMAS MASS OF THE NIGHT
Sun 25 th	09.00	Celebrants Intention
	11.00	Celebrants Intention
	13.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) NO EVENING MASS
Sanctuary Lamp: Harry Haldane RIP		