

ST LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH FELTHAM

The Green, Feltham, TW13 4AF



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[Facebook Group: St Lawrences RC Church, Feltham](#)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

19th/20th December 2020

Readings: Parish Mass Book Year B, Volume 1: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16; Psalm 88; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
Christmas Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Palm 88; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25; **Mass in the Night:** Isaiah 9: 1-7; Psalm 95; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14; **Mass at Dawn:** Isaiah 62:11-12; Psalm 96; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20;
Mass during the Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 97; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18
Next Week, 26/27 December: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 127; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40



Parish Team

Parish Priest:

Fr. John Byrne

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Assistant Priest:

Fr John Louis Tabor

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Deacon:

Rev. Colin Macken

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Parish Secretary:

Florie Fernandes

Office Open: Mon and Thurs - 9am to 1pm

Parish Sisters:

Sr. Mary O'Malley, Sr. Nora Gorman, Sr. Katherine O'Reilly

Protecting your Privacy:

In compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which became effective in May 2018, the Parish requires your permission to hold your data for Parish/Diocesan use. You can read our full privacy policy on www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy

MASS INTENTIONS

If you wish to offer a Mass intention, please call Fr John on 0787 905 8732

Westminster Year Books 2021

Available for sale: £4.50 plain bound, £5.00 ring bound



Traidcraftshop.co.uk

or

Fairtrade.org.uk



Mass and other liturgies live streamed from Westminster Cathedral and other parishes are available at www.churchservices.tv

This Parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (WRCDT) Registered Charity No: 233699

Dear Friends

"O Come thou Key of David come and open wide our heavenly home..."

This line from the Advent Carol "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" is particularly appropriate on this 4th Sunday of Advent and especially on this 20th December where it forms the Magnificat Antiphon at Vespers as one of the "Great O" antiphons which we use each day at Vespers after 17th December. These antiphons are "titles" for the expected Messiah, starting with "O Sapientia" (O Wisdom) and end with "O Rex Gentium" (O King of the Nations) on 23rd December. This is an especially intense period of Advent preparation, sometimes known as the Novena before Christmas. In this year especially we are in a very unusual time, with the re-introduction of Tier 3 and an uncertain Christmas holiday period.... It seems that our waiting for a return to normality is never ending!

It is precisely now that we need to practice even more than before, the art of living in the present moment. This is not easy, especially when many are tired after a long school term and the continuing uncertainty about jobs and livelihoods. We should, in these uncertain moments turn to Our Lady and St Joseph. We hear little of St Joseph in the Gospels – in theatrical terms his is a mute part – he has no lines. Nonetheless, his role was vital – without him, Jesus would have had no foster father and crucially, going back to that line about the "Key of David", the prophecy could not have been fulfilled that Our Lord would have been born of David's House and line. Joseph is not forced to do anything he doesn't want to, he responds to the Angel in the dream freely. It is the same with us, God offers us opportunities to choose the good and so conform ourselves to His will, but He never forces us. The figures of Our Lady and St Joseph speak of a quiet acceptance of God's Will, even in difficult times. There was no room for them at the inn and they were very soon forced to flee for their lives to a foreign country. All this is to say, that we have two very powerful allies in these two whose prayers and assistance we can and should seek, particularly now.

Christmas will be different this year. It is, however, I suggest, a time when we can rediscover a more authentic and radical understanding of the Christmas message in our own lives. The Incarnation isn't just some historical fact, or statement of belief. It is the coming of Jesus Christ into our hearts in a special way; a coming that brings with it renewal, refreshment and a peace which nothing the world offers can match, because it is a peace which has life and love at its core.

Christ is the King of Nations it is true, but He would also love to be King of hearts too. May this Christmas be one of joy in knowing that Christ conquers all in love and may our hearts be moved to love Him all the more and may they be worthy dwelling places for the King of the World.

A very happy and holy Christmas to you all!

Fr John Louis

SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS



AND NEW YEAR



THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

11.00am – Mass

5.00pm, 7.00pm and 9.00pm – Masses in Church and the Parish Centre

FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am and 11.00am – Masses in Church and the Parish Centre, 1.00pm – Mass in Polish, No evening Mass

SATURDAY 26 DECEMBER – ST STEPHEN (BOXING DAY)

11.00am – Mass, 1.00pm - Mass in Polish
No evening Mass

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER – FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

9am and 11.00am – Masses in Church and the Parish Centre,
1.00pm – Mass in Polish

MONDAY 28- THURSDAY 31 DECEMBER

11.00am – Mass

FRIDAY 1 JANUARY 2021 – NEW'S YEAR'S DAY

11.00am Mass, 1.00pm Mass in Polish

SATURDAY 2 JANUARY

11.00pm – Mass,
5.00pm – Vigil Mass for Sunday

SUNDAY 3 JANUARY – 2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

9.00am and 11.00am – Masses in Church and the Parish Centre, 1.00pm – Mass in Polish

Whilst there is no obligation to attend Mass on Christmas Day, many people will want to celebrate the birth of Christ. One way in which more people can participate in the 'days of the Nativity of the Lord' is by attending Mass during the Christmas Octave, from Christmas Day until the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on 1 January. Bishop John Sherrington

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – SUNDAY MEDITATION

Meditate

The angel of the Lord brought Good News to Mary as he does to us "the Lord is with you". As we finish this year, we might think that God has forgotten us or perhaps he has been busy with other things. The God who became man through Mary has committed his life to ours, never to let us go. Now we need to look for him, perhaps in a different Christmas to the ones we are used to.

Act

Prompted by the angel's words, Mary went to visit her cousin; perhaps at this Christmas time you might contact some relation, neighbour or friend, or even visit them, if it is safe to do so.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DAY

On this 4th Sunday of Advent, we light the 4th Candle of Love. God is always with us, always showing us how much He loves us. May we show our love for God in the way we live by being kind to each other, being patient and understanding and forgiving.

At Christmas we can light the Christmas candle and pray:

Lord Jesus, I want to know you personally.

I open the door of my life to you, and ask you to come in as my Saviour and Lord.

Take control of my life. Thank you for forgiving me and giving me eternal life.

Bring peace to my world this Christmas and make me the kind of person you want me to be. Amen

Our Father..... Hail Mary..... Glory Be

Bidding Prayers for the week

We pray for the wisdom to be good builders of the house of God and to recognise the gifts we have been given for this task:

- For all bishops, priests and leaders of the church: that they seek the discernment they need to exercise leadership with humility and respect for those entrusted to their care.

- For all who are with families and loved ones, and all who are alone: may they be blessed by the presence of the Christ child.

- For the isolated, depressed, or forgotten: that the Lord may comfort them in their time of need.

- For all expectant mothers who are awaiting the arrival of their babies: may they joyfully welcome these very precious gifts this Christmas.

- For those for whom the hardship of life makes it difficult to engage with the joy of Christmas: may they find in their brothers and sisters the loving concern for them that is a sign that Christ is truly among us.

- For people who are sick and feel they are a burden, for all who are in hospital and residential care, for those suffering with Covid-19, and for all those who love and care for them.

- For all the faithful departed: that they may find rest for their souls and be led rejoicing through the gates of paradise.

God our Father, may we be a sign of welcome to your Son this Christmas and acknowledge you in those who are most in need of your compassion and love, through Christ our Lord. Amen

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS STEWARDS/VOLUNTEERS

If you can volunteer as a steward or help clean the church after Mass during the Christmas period please call Fr John Byrne on 0787 905 8732.

CHRISTMAS CRIB APPEAL

Our Christmas Crib Appeal is for the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster). The money is to be put in the slot in the wall by the baptistry.

CRIB

Please **do not touch** baby Jesus or any of the statues in the crib. You can pray quietly and blow a kiss to baby Jesus.

EVERY DAY IS CHRISTMAS DAY - A journey through the Christmas Octave -25thDecember – 1st January

This booklet and additional materials are also available online at: <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/news/every-day-is-christmas---a-journey-through-the-christmas-octave-2020/>

SACRAMENTS

UPDATE ON COVID RESTRICTIONS FROM BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON

Funerals: Funerals can be attended by a maximum of 30 people, and it is advised that only close friends and family attend. Linked ceremonial events such as stone settings and ash scatterings can also continue with up to 15 people in attendance. Anyone working i.e. the priest, cantor, organist, pallbearers, stewards, etc. is not included in the 30.

Baptisms: Maximum of 6 including the child to be baptised. The priest and stewards are not included in this number.

Weddings: From 2nd December weddings can take place in Church with a maximum of 15 people in attendance including the bride and groom. The priest and stewards, Authorised Person are not included in this number. Wedding Receptions not permitted whilst in Tier 3.

Government Guidelines

As of 16th December we are now in Tier 3 - Very High Alert. No mixing of households indoors. Although places of worship are open, one cannot interact with anyone outside of their household or support bubble.

As Boris Johnson has said, "A **limit of three households** has been agreed across the UK for the five-day Christmas period, **"a smaller Christmas is going to be a safer Christmas"**, adding that the three household concessions were "maximums, not targets to aim for".

NHS COVID-19 Test and Trace App: On 24th September the NHS launched its Covid-19 Test and Trace App. This app has been developed to assist the Government with its test and trace policy and uses a smartphone. The app works by using the 'Bluetooth' system, which all smartphones have. It registers any other phones within a certain distance, which also has the app installed. This takes place between the phones themselves and its entirely anonymous. Please try and use this if you can.

ST LAWRENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL - 'THE HUB'

As a school we have successfully launched 'The Hub' this week. This is a resource for our community to access support during these difficult times. We currently are able to offer food parcels including toiletries and cleaning products. If you require any of the above or know someone who does please contact us on Thehub@st-lawrence.hounslow.sch.uk. Your request will be handled confidentially and we will organise collection at a time which suits. You can also contact Fr John on his mobile 0787 905 8732.

NEED HELP OR EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY?

Once again as we enter lockdown Caritas Westminster are able to offer some help with food vouchers. If you or anyone you know is experiencing financial difficulty at this time please contact Bridget Brinkley on 07805 299 941 or e-mail mbridgetb@yahoo.co.uk. I will help you complete a short application form so you can get the necessary help you need. Please text, WhatsApp or leave a voice mail and I will return any call I miss ASAP. Please continue to pray for each other at this difficult time for so many and please keep in contact with others, no one should be alone during this time. *Bridget*

Please see Advent giving poster from Caritas on the website.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2020/2021

If your child is in year 2 or above in September 2020 and is not attending a Catholic School please email theresafernandes@aol.com for a registration form. This year classes will be by zoom. We require your child to take part in classes for one year prior to being prepared to receive First Holy Communion. Further details will be on the application form.

RCIA COURSE 2020-21

If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic Church, either as an enquirer or a "returner", then the "RCIA" (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Course is for you!! It's an opportunity to ask all those questions you thought up, but never quite got round to asking!! There is no commitment at the early stage – you may have a taster and decide you want to continue, or perhaps come back later on. This year, as with other Sacramental Classes, the course will be delivered via Zoom, at a time to be agreed with the participants. For more information please contact me by email johntabor@rcdow.org.uk. *Fr John Louis*

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FOR GROUP 2

Registration for Confirmation classes beginning on **Thursday 14th January 2021** are now open. As for the first group, there will be five weekly sessions delivered over Zoom. For a Registration Form and further information, please contact Theresa Fernandes: theresafernandes@aol.com

SCHOOLS

Reception Form signing - Please phone Fr John on 0787 905 8732

OTHER

UCM DIARIES

If any UCM ladies would like a diary, please ring Maureen on 020 8890 2365

MISSIO

Would Missio Reps please collect your calendars or contact Arlene

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the soul of **Michael David Yaralli** and all those who have passed away recently. His funeral will take place on **Monday, 21st December** at Hanworth Crematorium. We also keep in our prayers his daughters Lisa, Michelle and all the family.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine on them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

MASSES TIMES (outside of Christmas)

- Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass for Sunday in Church only.
- Sunday 9am and 11am Church and the Parish Centre
- On Saturdays there will be Confessions at 10.30am and during Confessions there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and at 5.30pm.
- Weekday Masses Monday to Saturday will be celebrated in church at 11.00am with limited numbers

Dear Friends

Our parishioner's response to our appeal to help with our parish funds by paying through standing order, cash or cheque has been tremendous – **THANK YOU!** For those who would like to take advantage of the standing order facility we have in place, our parish bank details are:

HSBC Bank: WRCDT Feltham

Sort code: **40-05-20** – Account No: **71095528**

Thank you for your continued generosity.

FR. JOHN AND FR. JOHN LOUIS

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 19	11am 6pm	Ray Palmer, Daisy & Bernard O'Neill RIP Deceased members of the McGillicuddy and Crawley Families RIP
Sunday 20	9am 9am 11am 11am 1pm	Mary D'Souza in Thanksgiving [C] People of the Parish [PC] Matthew Rodrigues RIP (Anniversary) [C] Mary D'Souza RIP [PC] Mass in Polish
Monday 21	11am	Lancelot Fernandes RIP
Tuesday 22	11am	Katherine Soares RIP (1 st First Anniversary)
Wednesday 23	11am	Anna Edviges Godinho RIP
Thursday 24 Christmas Eve	11am 5pm 5pm 7pm 7pm 9pm 9pm	Patrick Hanlon and Bernadette Cimpoais nee Hanlon RIP People of the Parish [C] People of the Parish [PC] People of the Parish [C] People of the Parish [PC] People of the Parish [C] People of the Parish [PC]
Friday 25 Christmas Day	9am 9am 11am 11am 1pm	People of the Parish [C] People of the Parish [PC] People of the Parish [C] People of the Parish [PC] Mass in Polish No Evening Mass
Saturday 26	11am 1pm	Brian Calmiano in Thanksgiving and Living & Deceased members of the Guild of St Stephen Mass in Polish NO EVENING MASS
Sunday 27 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	9am 9am 11am 11am 1pm	The Gorman Family [C] People of the Parish [PC] Vera Lobo RIP (Anniversary) [C] People of the Parish [PC] Mass in Polish
Sanctuary Lamp: Gabriel D'Souza RIP		



*On behalf of the Parish Team we wish you peace and joy at Christmas
and the New Year*