

ST LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH FELTHAM

The Green, Feltham, TW13 4AF



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Facebook Group: [St Lawrences RC Church, Feltham](https://www.facebook.com/StLawrencesRCChurchFeltham)

First Sunday of Advent

28th/29th November 2020

Readings: Parish Mass Book Year B, Volume 1: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8; Psalm 79; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

Readings Next Week - Second Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 84; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8



Parish Team

Parish Priest:

Fr. John Byrne

Mobile: 0787 905 8732

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Assistant Priest:

Fr John Louis Tabor

Email: johntabor@rcdow.org.uk

Deacon:

Rev. Colin Macken

Email: colinmacken@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Secretary:

Florie Fernandes

(Office Open: Mon and Thurs - 9am to 1pm - working from home)

Parish Sisters:

Sr. Mary O'Malley, Sr. Nora

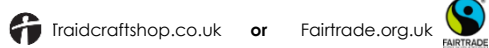
Gorman, Sr. Katherine O'Reilly

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



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

Happy New Year! This weekend we begin the Season of Advent and with that, a new liturgical year. In previous years, Advent has been rather obscured in the headlong rush to Christmas, with office parties, Christmas shopping and such busyness that by the time we arrive at 24th December, we are often unable to focus on the joyful reality of the Incarnation and with it the greatest love story the world has known. However, this is to anticipate... we must as the old saying goes "fast before we feast".

It may seem that we have been in a state of expectant waiting – which is a good description of Advent and indeed these past months of living under the restrictions caused by the pandemic have been at times penitential... The imminent arrival of the vaccines is a very hopeful sign and we can take encouragement from that. However, and this is hard, we cannot let up our guard just yet!! With the easing of lockdown restrictions later this week, there will be a natural desire to go out, see people and re-engage. We can do this, but in a controlled and measured way, that looks to each other's safety. When we think of it as a deeply charitable act then, I think, this will help us to do so in a spirit of love and charity. More than this, we can really begin to engage with Advent. There is a quieter spirit this year, a chance to let the readings and liturgy speak to us of the longing for the Messiah, of whom the prophets spoke.

The Advent liturgy is more solemn than usual. The purple vestments and the Advent hymns and themes of preparing for Our Lord's Coming betoken an opportunity to get things ready, to have a spiritual "tidy up". In order to engage with the season, we might like to consider taking up some new spiritual reading, or spiritual practice, such as an extra decade of the Rosary, either daily or weekly. Importantly, I suggest, it should be something realistic or manageable and one that draws us up from the everyday into something more.

Traditionally Advent is split into two parts: the first part focuses on the Second Coming of Our Lord when everything will be completed. It's an opportunity to ground ourselves in the present moment and to make the most of the opportunities offered each day. It's a time of "already but not yet" – we are heralds of our faith by our way of living. The Advent hymn gives us a clue to this:

"On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's cry, announces that the Lord is nigh. Come then and hearken, for He brings, glad tidings from the King of Kings".

May we all have a blessed and peaceful Advent as we wait "in joyful hope" for Our Saviour's Coming!

Let's pray for each other!

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

STATEMENTS FROM BISHOPS RE SAFEGUARDING

Following the Autumn Plenary meeting, the Bishops have issued a statement on safeguarding and Cardinal has also made a personal statement. Links to both statements are available at <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/bishops-statement-on-safeguarding/> and <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/cardinals-personal-statement-on-safeguarding/>

Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent:

The first candle we light on the Advent wreath is the candle of HOPE. We light this candle to remind us that Jesus is our hope and the hope of the world. We thank God for the promises He has made to us and for the light He has brought into the world:

Lord, God of Hope only you can see into our hearts
and know that in the busyness of our lives
there is a deep longing to make this Advent season
one that welcomes you more deeply into our lives. Amen.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – SUNDAY MEDITATION

Meditate

God's interventions always happen under cover of darkness: creation happens in the darkness, the exit from Egypt in the middle of the night as the liberation of Peter and Paul from the dungeon. Night is God's favourite time, because when we are at our weakest he shows his might. Stay awake to see him acting!

Act

God of all times who come to visit us when we least expect you, open our eyes to your arrival so that we may experience the liberating power of your presence.

Bidding Prayers for the week:

We turn to God our Father and put our needs before him:

We pray for the Church, that she may bear witness to God's presence in Advent so that we may be ready to greet Jesus at Christmas.

For our families and communities: that we may find space in our lives to watch and pray for Christ's coming.

For all those suffering through poverty and injustice: may the Lord give them healing and courage.

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.

Loving Father, hear all these our prayers and what we ask in faith may you grant through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ Amen

The Church will re-open on Wednesday 2nd December for Mass with 2metre social distancing.:

Face coverings are mandatory in Church and all those attending must wear a face covering which should be kept on during the whole service - mouth and nose covered.

- If someone comes to church and is then tested positive for the virus, the church must be closed for 72 hours
- Confessions on Saturdays at 10.30am with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and at 5.30pm.

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.

Weddings: From 2nd December weddings can take place in Church with a maximum of 15 people in attendance including the bride and groom.

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.

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

SACRAMENTS

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 johnhntabor@rcdow.org.uk. Fr John Louis

SCHOOLS

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

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the soul of **Thomas Christopher Cleckner (known as Chris), Florin Gheorghe Cimisiu and Pat Byrne RIP** and all those who have passed away recently.

Chris Cleckners funeral will take place at Hanworth Crematorium on **Friday 4th December.**

Florin Cimisiu's funeral will take place at Hanworth Crematorium on **Friday 11th December.**

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

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 28		Michael Omoniyodo & Matthias Williams in Birthday Thanksgiving For the intentions of the Crawley Family
Sun 29		Lourdino Soares RIP (1 st Anniversary) In Thanksgiving Tino Godinho Sebastian Joseph Koilparampil RIP For the intention of the Surenthiran Family
Mon 30		Lourdino Soares RIP (1 st Anniversary)
Tues 1		For the intentions of Barbara-Ann Adams
Wed 2	11am	For the intentions of the Lourenco Family
Thurs 3	11am	Carmina Costa – Birthday Intentions
Fri 4	11am	Deceased members of the O'Hanlon Family
Sat 5	11am 6pm	Pat Frost RIP Peter Coutinho RIP
Sun 6	9am 9am 11am 11am	Vensisos Pakkiam Thiru (RIP) [C] People of the Parish [PC] Timothy Cahalane RIP (Anniversary) [C] Michael D'Silva RIP and Helen Henriques RIP [PC]
Sanctuary Lamp: Michael Omoniyodo and Matthias Williams		