

This week at St Lawrence's



17th/18th December 2011 Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Missal Page 90

Eucharistic Prayer III (Page 28)

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14-16; Psalm 88:2-5, 27,29; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
Christmas Mass of the Night (Missal Page 97): Isaiah 9:1-7; Psalm 95:1-3,11-13; Titus 2:11-14;
Luke 2:10-11

Christmas Mass during the Day (Missal Page 102): Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 97:1-6; Hebrews 1:1-6;
John 1:1-18



Dear Friends

One more week to go! This last week of Advent, at the heart of all the last minute preparations, shopping and the panic of receiving a Christmas Card for someone we left off our list, at the heart of it all stands Mary.

She is the one who nine months before simply said "yes" to God's plan for her life, the one who is about to bring to birth the Saviour of the World, the Prince of Peace, Emmanuel – God with us. Her time has almost come. Wait with her this week in joyful hope and expectant faith. As you do so ask the Lord to open your heart, your mind, your life ever-wider to Him. Then, like Mary at that First Christmas in Bethlehem, be ready to be surprised by joy.

With my love and prayers for you this week.

Fr Chris

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Fr Chris Vipers

Sister Mary O'Malley, Sister Katherine O'Reilly

Catechetical Co-ordinator: Bridget Brinkley

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes (Office hours: Mon-Fri: 9.00 to 1.00)

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES

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

Normal Weekday schedule Monday 19th - Saturday 24th December (morning)

Christmas Eve Saturday 24 December: 6pm (Children's Mass) & 11pm

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December: 9 am & 11am (No Evening Mass)

Normal Weekday schedule Monday 26th - Saturday 31st December (morning)

New Year's Eve Saturday 31st December: 6pm, 10pm (African Community)

New Year's Day Sunday 1st January 2012: 9am, 11am & 6pm

Christmas Eve Family Mass

For the 6pm Family 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.

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 or 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.

COMING UP IN THE NEW YEAR

BAPTISM CELEBRATION

We would like to invite all the families who have had their babies baptised at St Lawrence's during 2011 to a special celebration on Saturday 7th January at 12 noon. A short Mass will include a renewal of Baptismal promises and will be followed by light refreshments. More details nearer the time.

SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY

The parish's annual Senior Citizens "Christmas" Party will take place on Sunday 8th January 2012 from 12 noon to 4 pm. 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.

CATECHISTS MEETING – DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

As part of our on-going training and support for our catechists, we will be holding a meeting on Saturday 21st January at 4pm in the Parish Centre. All catechists and anyone interested in exploring this important ministry are invited to attend.

Catechists Rotas

The rotas for next term can be collected from the table in the porch.

OTHER

MASS FOR THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY

Fr Richard Offong, for the Nigerian Chaplaincy for London, will be celebrating a Special Mass here with song, dance, healing, praise and worship led by the African community on Saturday 31st December at 10pm. If anyone would like to help with organising this celebration please drop your name and contact details in at the Presbytery, for the attention of Alice Danladi. All parishioners welcome.

CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROL SINGING

Churches Together will be Carol Singing at Asda this Monday 19th December from 7pm to 8.00pm. Come and join In.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF APOSTLES, HESTON - CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THE HOUSEBOUND AND LONELY

Our Annual dinner will take place after the 11.30 Mass on Christmas Day at 1pm, and will be held in the Small Downstairs Hall of the Pope John Centre Do you live alone, or are you a couple who will have difficulty cooking, or are you single with no adult company on Christmas Day, or do you know someone like this? If so or if you or someone you know would normally be housebound at Christmas and would like to join us for this wonderful occasion then please contact us by telephone on 020 8570 1818 or email heston@rcdow.org.uk with your details. Free transport can be provided. This is a lovely event with good food, friendly company and happy cheer.

SCHOOL NEWS

RECEPTION SIGNING

Fr Chris will be available on the following days to sign Reception Entry forms. Please come with your child and wait in the Church.

THURSDAY 3.45-4.45 pm: January 12th SATURDAYS 9.30-10.30 am: January 7th, 14th

VISIT BETHLEHEM IN 2012

There are a handful of places left for our 10 day pilgrimage to the Holy Land, led by Fr Chris, visiting Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee and much more. The dates are 14th-23rd May, price £1,149. Please speak to Fr Chris or ask at the parish office as soon as possible.

THANKS.....

...to Katie Taylor and her team (especially her team of young helpers) for such an enjoyable and energetic afternoon at the Advent workshop last Sunday. All the children who came seemed to have had a fantastic time. Thanks to everyone who made it possible.

...from Fr David Smith, Chaplain of his regiment in Afghanistan, for all the gifts we sent for Christmas. They arrived within a week of being posted! Special thanks to those who came to help pack the parcels, and to Andy Hudson for co-ordinating our effort.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

We extend a warm welcome to Aden Pfumbi Smart and Sonia Omone Okwelegbe as they are baptised this weekend and offer our congratulations to their families.

CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS

If you missed out on the Sacrament of Confirmation when you were younger and would like to explore the possibility of getting Confirmed now, please have a word with Bridget Brinkley either after Mass, by phone to the parish office or by email bridgetbrinkley@rcdow.org.uk. A short preparation course of about 6 weeks will be starting in the New Year.

CRIB APPEAL

As usual, donations made to our Crib Appeal will go towards the work of the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster)

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

There will be a retiring collection after all Masses this weekend for Christmas Flowers

Mass intentions and other services this week:

Saturday 17th Advent Feria	10.30 10.30 11.45 12.00 17.00 18.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Benediction Galligan Family INT Sacrament of Reconciliation Amanda Roberts INT
+ Sunday 18th 4 th Sunday of Advent	09.00 11.00 12.45 18.00	Andrzej Daniluk RIP Isabel Figueiredo RIP Baptisms of Aden Pfumbi Smart and Sonia Omone Onyebuchi Okwelegbe People of the Parish
Monday 19th Advent Feria	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Emmanuella Danladi (in Thanksgiving)
Tuesday 20th Advent Feria	09.15 09.30 10.00	Morning Prayer Finola Kynes INT Novena to Our Lady
Wednesday 21st Advent Feria	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Ray Palmer RIP
Thursday 22nd Advent Feria	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Wendy Ann Hill (sick)
Friday 23rd Advent Feria	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Matthew Rodrigues RIP (A)
Saturday 24th Advent Feria	10.30 10.30 11.45 12.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Benediction People of the Parish
Christmas Eve Children's Christmas Mass	18.00 22.30 23.00	Celebrant's Intention Carols Celebrant's Intention
Christmas Mass of the Night		
+ Sunday 25th Christmas Day	09.00 11.00	Celebrant's Intention Celebrant's Intention No Evening Mass

Sanctuary Lamp: Zenia Curl (INT)

Sunday Mass Times

Saturday 6 pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - Saturday 11am & 5pm

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

Envelopes £1229.13, Loose £633.74, Standing Orders £265 Total: £2127.87
Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity No. 233699