

ST LAWRENCE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



9 THE GREEN, FELTHAM, TW13 4AF

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Second Sunday of Advent – Year C

7th - 8th December 2024

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 7	11am	Keith & Rose-Marie Calmiano, 50 th Wedding Anniversary
	5pm	Grace Dias, Birthday Thanksgiving
Sun 8	8am	Oceana Pires, Thanksgiving
	9.30am	Valerio Immanuel Gomes, Birthday Thanksgiving
	11am	Philip & Anne Sheridan RIP
	7pm	Dominic Dieseru, Special Intention
Mon 9	9.30am	Ivy Adams, Birthday Thanksgiving
Tues 10	9.30am	Johnson Fernandes RIP
Wed 11	9.30am	Intentions of the Gorman & Reidy Families
	12.00pm	Requiem Funeral: John O'Connell (RIP)
Thur 12	9.30am	Joana Bragança, Birthday Thanksgiving
Fri 13	9.30am	Francis Vella RIP, Anniversary
Sat 14	11am	Dec'sd members of the O'Hanlon Fly RIP
	5pm	Rosa Da Silva Alves RIP (Birthday Rem.)
Sun 15	8am	Patricia Jayawardena RIP, Anniversary
	9.30am	Mary D'Souza, Birthday Thanksgiving
	11am	Felicio Mendes RIP, 2 nd Anniversary
	7pm	Judith Yvonne Bolou Dandjinou RIP

Sanctuary Lamp is lit for the soul of Marie Booth RIP

OTHER REGULAR MASSES, LITURGY

Confessions and Adoration: Saturdays 9.30am to 10.45am

Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday 9.15am

Rosary: Monday & Friday 10am

St Anthony Devotion: Tuesday 10am

Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help: Wednesday 10am

Polish Mass: Sundays 1.00pm

Ukrainian Mass: 2nd Sunday 2.30pm & 4th Saturday 7.00pm

Malayalam Mass: 3rd Sunday 2.30pm

Filipino Mass: 4th Saturday 3pm

Nigerian Mass: 4th Sunday 2.30pm

PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 8.30am – 4pm

Wednesday & Friday: 8.30am – 1pm

Grace to you, peace from God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ.

In Luke 3:1-6, John the Baptist's public ministry begins with a call to prepare the way for Jesus. Luke grounds this moment in history by naming leaders like Tiberius Caesar and Pontius Pilate, showing that John's message would challenge both individuals and societal powers. John's mission fulfils Isaiah's prophecy: *"Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."* This imagery speaks of justice and inclusion, where obstacles to God are levelled, and all people can experience His grace equally. John preaches repentance and forgiveness, urging people to turn from sin and align with God's will. This transformation is both personal and collective—calling for societal change as much as individual renewal. *"Prepare the way of the Lord"* means more than belief; it demands active participation in making God's grace accessible. We are challenged to examine our hearts and lives, to remove obstacles in ourselves and our communities, to welcome God's salvation fully. This passage reminds us that God's path is open to all. John's call to *"prepare"* invites us to be active participants, to clear away what blocks us from God, so that His grace and salvation can reach everyone.

Have a blessed week

Deacon Rolly

DID YOU KNOW... There are usually three main elements to the Advent wreath – holly, red berries, and evergreens. The evergreen represents the eternal life promised to us all in the coming of Christ. The most common of the evergreens is ivy, others include laurel which often signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly and yew, which signify immortality; and cedar, which denotes strength and healing. But, holly, with its prickly leaves and red berries, is also a reminder to us of Jesus's crown of thorns, the red berries representing the drops of His blood. As we contemplate Jesus's infancy we are also conscious of the shadow of the Cross. Finally, the circular wreath symbolises eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ, and, like a wedding ring, it has neither a beginning nor an end.

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the soul of John O'Connell who died recently, and for those who anniversaries occur at this time, may they rest in peace. Amen.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint John of the Cross

Priest and Doctor of the Church (1542-1591)

Memorial, 14th December

"The endurance of darkness is the preparation for great light."

PARISH CONTACTS

Father Mike Maguire

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Rev Colin Macken

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Rev Rolly Leon

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Sr Nora & Sr Monica

Parish Sisters

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

Today, Year C Vol 1, p.84

1st Reading Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126;

2nd Reading Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11; Gospel Luke 3:1-6

Third Sunday of Advent (C), p.87

1st Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Psalm 12;

2nd Reading Philippians 4:4-7; Gospel Luke 3:10-18

PARISH MEETING Fr Mike invites you to a whole Parish Meeting on Sunday 15th December from 12.30pm-1.30pm (after the 11.00am Mass) in the Parish Centre. The aim of the meeting is to receive your feedback about our parish now and to know your thoughts and hopes for the future.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Please keep in your prayers our second group of children as they make their First Confession on 14th December at 1.30pm.

WALK WITH JESUS The next session is this Sunday after the 9.30am Mass. The last session for this term will be on Sunday 22nd December after the 9.30am Mass

CONFIRMATION, YOUNG ADULTS The next Confirmation meeting for Group 2 is on Thursday 12th December at 6.30pm.

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING A TEACHER? We are blessed to have so many wonderful Catholic schools in the local area, with St Lawrence, our parish Primary School, forming the intellect, hearts and lives of so many parishioners over the 90 years of its existence. Our Diocesan Education Service are offering a unique opportunity to experience teaching in a Catholic School, in the hope of encouraging more Catholic students to consider teaching as a career and vocation. The experience offers an exciting three-week placement (Internship) in a Catholic school, with successful candidates receiving £300 per week to support them through this placement. For more information please contact <https://education.rcdow.org.uk/working-in-catholic-education/leadership/>

JUSTICE & PEACE REP The West London Justice and Peace network meet 3 times a year online and one face to face. They discuss all issues relating to CAFOD (overseas), local social action and Justice and Peace. Issues range from Food Banks, winter night shelters, creation and climate change, the Church's call for nuclear disarmament, Fairtrade etc. If you are interested in becoming a representative, working alongside Miriam, our current parish rep, please leave your contact details in the parish office, marked Justice and Peace Rep, and Miriam will be in touch with you.

CARITAS REP Do you have a heart for service, and living your Faith and love in action? If you would like to connect your parish with Caritas, and play your part in making a difference in the community, why not become a parish Representative for Caritas Westminster? If you are interested, or would like to know more, please get in touch with Sr Silvana on 07921471506 or via email on silvanadallanegra@rcdow.org.uk

MASS INTENTION BOOKINGS FOR 2025 Florie will be available in the porch on Monday 16th December from 10am-11am to take Mass Intention bookings for 2025. PLEASE NOTE WE CANNOT ACCEPT MORE THAN THREE (3) MASS INTENTIONS PER FAMILY. This will allow everyone in Church to have a Mass said for their intention. Any extra masses will be sent to retired priests, the seminary or missions. Please consider grouping your intentions e.g. in *Thanksgiving Fernandes family or Deceased Souls of the Fernandes & Vaz families or for the intentions of the Smith Family*. Forms will be available to write your intentions (one per family), please complete both sides of the form. Please do not post your intentions through the door or hand them to any clergy or Pastoral Team as they will not be given any priority. The Diocese of Westminster suggest a Mass offering of £10.00 per Mass and £5.00 for a Sanctuary Lamp, which can be paid in cash or using the Contactless machine at the time of booking.

ST LAWRENCE PRAYER GROUP The Prayer Group will meet for Praise and Worship in the Parish Centre after the 5.00pm Mass on Saturday 21st December.

FRIENDS CIRCLE will meet on Monday 9th December in the Presbytery at 12.30pm

CAROL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE This service is organised by Lodge Brothers Funeral Service and will be held in Church on Monday 9th December at 6.30pm. Please do come and pray for your loved ones, light a candle for them. Know that we stand by you during these difficult times.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

Family Mass – 5.00pm

Vigil Mass – 7.00pm

Mass in Ukrainian – 9.15pm

Carol Service – 11.30pm

Midnight Mass – 12.00am

Wednesday 25th December -Christmas Day

Mass – 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, Polish Mass – 1.00pm

Thursday 26th December, St Stephen

Mass – 12 noon, Polish Mass 2.00pm

Friday 27th – Monday 30th December

Mass as usual

Tuesday 31st December – New Year's Eve

Morning Mass – 9.30am

Parish Midnight Mass – 12.00am

Wednesday 1st January 2025 – Solemnity of the Mother of God

Mass – 9.30am, 11.30am, Polish Mass – 1.30pm

Thursday 2nd – Saturday 4th January

Mass as usual

Sunday 5th January - The Epiphany of the Lord

Vigil Mass 5pm (Saturday)

Mass 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 7.00pm

Polish Mass 1.00pm, Ukrainian Mass 2.30pm

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS A collection will be taken on the weekend of 15th /16th December at all Masses. This will be used to decorate the Church with flowers over Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS Children are invited to come to 5pm Mass on Christmas Eve dressed as a character from the Nativity (not Mary or Joseph). If you would like to make a birthday card for Jesus, please bring it to this Mass.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS Fr Mike and Fr Peter will be available to hear Confessions before Christmas on Friday 20th December 7.00pm-8.00pm, and Sunday 22nd December 4.30pm – 5.30pm. The usual Saturday confessional time also applies.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING envelopes are available from the porch, should you wish to make a Christmas offering. Please return the envelopes either into the collection or into the parish office. The Christmas offering, along with Easter and other offerings, largely make up the annual stipend that the priests of the parish receive to support them in the year ahead. Thank you, as always, for your kindness and support.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Figures not available this week

HSBC BANK ACCOUNT NAME: **WRC DT Feltham**

Account No: **71095528** Sort Code: **40-05-20**

Please add your Surname and First Name as a reference, to help our bookkeeper, and indicate if it is for a Donation, Baptism, etc.