



Second Sunday of Advent - Year A

6th-7th December 2025

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS		
Sat 6 9.30am 6pm	Ivanya Rodrigues (Birthday) Bridget Ward	T’GIVING RIP (A)
Sun 7 8am 9.30am 11am 7pm	Grace Dias (Birthday) Jessica Anto (Birthday) Timothy Cahalane People of the Parish	T’GIVING T’GIVING RIP (A) INT
Mon 8 9.30am	Valerio Gomes - 16th Birthday	T’GIVING
Tue 9 9.30am 7pm	Constancio Menezes Valanka Saldanha	RIP (A) INT
Wed 10 9.30am	Friends & Relatives of Sr Nora	INT
Thur 11 9.30am	Barbara Ann & Ivy Adams (B’day)	T’GIVING
Fri 12 9.30am 7pm	Bishut Themudo Maria Margaret D’Souza	RIP RIP
Sat 13 9.30am 6pm	Antoinette Duus, Biji Olukoya & Dupe Olukoya RIP People of the Parish	RIP (A) INT
Sun 14 8am 9.30am 11am 7pm	Catherine Ojideh (Birthday) Xavier Cruz & Family Mary Rose Boyle Felicio Mendes	T’GIVING T’GIVING RIP (1st A) RIP (A)

Sanctuary Lamp is lit for the souls of Genovieve, Angela & Leo
OTHER REGULAR MASSES, LITURGY Confessions and Adoration: Saturdays 10.15am-11.15am Confessions: Saturday 4pm-5pm Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday 9.10am Rosary: Monday & Friday 10am St Anthony Devotion: Tuesday 10am Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help: Wednesday 10am Sacred Heart Devotion & Adoration: First Friday (10am-3pm) Prayer & Intercessory Group: 3 rd & 4 th Saturday 7pm Polish Mass: Every Sunday 1.00pm Malayalam Mass: 3 rd Sunday 2.30pm Filipino Mass: 4 th Saturday 2.30pm Nigerian Mass: 4 th Sunday 2.30pm

Dear Friends,

On the second Sunday of Advent, we are presented with a very important figure in the life of Jesus, John the Baptist. The life of John the Baptist is intertwined with that of Jesus. From the very beginning, when the angel Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus to Mary, he also announces the birth of John by Elizabeth (Luke 1:26-38). As John grows up, he lives a very spartan life: in the desert, humble, simple, solitary, prayerful and mystical. (Matt. 3:4). John is presented to us in Advent to teach us how to prepare the way of the Lord (Matt. 3:3). He teaches us to create moments of desert, of silence, of prayer, of meditation to give more space to God and his word in our lives. John dresses simply and eats little. This time of preparation calls us to a simpler life. John speaks only the truth and challenges us to be more truthful people. St. John does not draw attention to himself but to Jesus. In doing something for Jesus and for the Church, do I place myself at the center of attention or point to Jesus? Ultimately, John proclaims Jesus not only with words but also with his whole life, to the point of giving his life for Jesus. Is there always coherence between my words and my actions? How much of myself am I willing to give for and to Jesus this Advent?

Have a blessed week
Fr Andrew

PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES
Mon, Wed: 10.00am–12noon & Fri: 12.30-2.30pm
Tues, Sat & Sun: Office Closed

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Today: Second Sunday of Advent (Year A) p. 85
Next week: Third Sunday of Advent (Year A) p. 88

REST IN PEACE
We pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently, especially Winnie Lawrence, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, may they rest in peace.

SAINT OF THE WEEK
St Lucy (283-304 AD), Virgin & Martyr
Memorial, 13th December
“Those whose hearts are pure, are temples of the Holy Spirit”

PARISH CONTACTS

Father Mike Maguire Parish Priest michaelmaguire@rcdow.org.uk	Father Andrew Batare Assistant Priest andrewbatare@rcdow.org.uk	Rev Colin Macken Deacon colinmacken@rcdow.org.uk
Florie Fernandes Parish Administrator feltham@rcdow.org.uk	Cathy Early Catechetical Coordinator cathythecatechist@outlook.com	Sr Nora & Sr Monica Parish Sisters monicamkillen@gmail.com
Victor Fernandes Parish Safeguarding Rep felthamsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk		Marinha Bragança Parish Safeguarding Rep felthamsg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

CATECHESIS CORNER

Today we begin our catechesis journey on The Eucharist, which will bring to a conclusion our presentations on the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. These sacraments ‘lay the foundations of every Christian life...the faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life’ (CCC1212). In our Gospel this weekend, John the Baptist points us to the Lord Jesus; he encourages us to keep our eyes always on Christ, to orientate our lives to God. We do so, reminded that ‘the whole liturgical life of the Church revolves around the Eucharistic sacrifice and the sacraments’ (CCC1113). Our focus therefore, takes us to section 1324 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church which underlines that ‘the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life...and the other sacraments are bound up with the Eucharist and orientated towards it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch.’ So, in the gift of Holy Mass – our Eucharistic celebration – ‘we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life, when God will be all in all’ (CCC1326). In the Mass, we meet Christ and present ourselves authentically as we are, and we receive His Eucharistic presence into our very selves, that Christ will become part of us, central to our living.

THANK YOU I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) for the conception and implementation of the parish Christmas Market, last weekend, which I hope you all enjoyed and found an uplifting experience. I know that many of us simply enjoyed being together, with an Advent spirit. For many others, lots of gifts were purchased in preparation for Christmas and, for others still, the hopes of winning a raffle prize were heightened, and remain so! Tickets for the raffle can be bought this weekend also. It takes much planning for an event such as this and our PPC did it in a matter of months. So, for all your hard work, your sterling efforts, and for giving us a wonderful day we enjoyed, dear PPC – *Thank You!*

COMMUNION ROUTES Following a period of observation and feedback, new routes for us to receive Holy Communion will soon be implemented. This is to help mitigate against any collision with another communicant, whilst offering and receiving the Blessed Sacrament in a more reverent way. **From the beginning of Advent**, Holy Communion will be distributed to the congregation sitting at the front of church, working backwards, and we encourage all those sick members of the parish who cannot process to receive Holy Communion to sit at the front of the church, so that they can receive more easily. Also, the congregation seated in the pews on the right-hand side of the church, as you face the Sanctuary, will come to receive Holy Communion from a minister who is positioned at that side, again, from the front to the back of the church. The congregation in the two main blocks of pews will continue to come down the middle aisle to receive Holy Communion, returning via the side aisles. I hear this was once a familiar practice in the parish and we hope the fruits of this ‘renewed’ system will be positive.

END OF YEAR REVIEWS We have been involved in a number of Diocesan Assessments lately and the parish Team and I thought it would be helpful to share the feedback with you. So, from our Health & Safety Risk Assessment Report we scored 98.1%, which is (necessarily) fantastic; only a couple of tweaks should bring us to 100%. Our Financial Resilience score last year was 76% compare to 134% currently. This means the greater the ratio is above 100 the greater the financial resilience of a parish, and it is this financial resilience which helps us to complete the necessary site works and keep the parish going. We will need to use a large part of our parish funds soon for our capital projects – for example the new lighting system – and it will be the fruits of the Planned Giving Drive that helps to absorb this and to maintain our parish financial resilience for the years to come. Thank you to all involved!

ST LAWRENCE SCHOOL – ADMISSIONS POLICY CONSULTATION The Foundation Governing Body of St Lawrence School are proposing a change to the Admission Policy for 2027-2028. The change is to remove the need for a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) in the oversubscription application criteria. The Foundation Governing Body are seeking the views of the local community via a consultation running between 1st December 2025 and 9th January 2026. You can read the documents on the school website at <https://www.st-lawrencesprimary.co.uk/admissions/>, titled Consultation on Proposal to Change Admission Arrangements 2025. Should you wish to engage with this consultation, send your feedback to the Foundation Governing Body via e-mail on office@st-lawrence.hounslow.sch.uk or via post to St Lawrence Catholic Primary School, High Street, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 4FH.

SENIOR CITIZENS ‘GOLDEN YEARS’ CHRISTMAS PARTY This will take place on Sunday 14th December, 1-4pm, in the Parish Centre. Places are now all gone. Please note there will be no parking in the church parking bays that afternoon, to assist with our Health and Safety measures. If you would like to volunteer to help on the day, please also email **Kieran** on the email above.

MASS INTENTIONS 2026 - Florie will be available in the Church porch on **Wednesday 10th December from 2pm-3pm** to take Mass Bookings for 2026.

SR KATHLEEN wishes to pass on her thanks, also, for the warm welcome she received and for the many purchases of her book *The Splendour of Caring*. She raised c. £1,200 for the homeless charity The Passage, for which she and I thank you very much.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026 If you are interested in going to Lourdes on the Diocesan Pilgrimage between 17-24th July 2026, please give your contact details to the Parish Office. Costs are still waiting to be confirmed, however, I am told that our parish will more than likely be offered flights from Heathrow to Toulouse, with a coach connection to Lourdes. The same route will apply for the return. If you are also interested in volunteering for the pilgrimage, in any of the following capacities, please also let the Parish Office know: Volunteer Adult helper, Volunteer Medical of Nursing helper, Volunteer Youth helper (16-years and older), Volunteer Musicians.

JOURNEYING WITH HOPE - *The Tour of the Jubilee Icon* - The Jubilee Icon will visit the Diocese of Westminster from 9-26 December. The dates and times where you can visit for private prayer are on the noticeboard. Visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/jubilee-2025/jubilee-icon-tour/>

ALMS GROUP CONCERT - The “Appreciate and Learn Music through Singing” group are laying on a concert on Monday 15th December at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Entrance is free but donations would be welcome. Do come along and enjoy their music.

9th DECEMBER 7PM MASS - Due to a deanery commitment, the 7pm Mass on this day ONLY will be moved to the earlier time of 4.30pm. the Mass intention will also move to this new time. We are sorry for this inconvenience.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

29-30 November: Loose £1,605.38 & Envelopes £374.50
Total: 1,979.88

HSBC BANK ACCOUNT NAME: WRCDT 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.