



Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year A

20th-21st December 2025

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS		
Sat 20 9.30am 6pm	D'csd D'Souza & D'Mello Families Bobby & Rolina Rodrigues	RIP T'GIVING
Sun 21 8am 9.30am 11am 7pm	People of the Parish Eamon O'Brien Mary D'Souza (Birthday) D'csd McGillicuddy Family	INT RIP T'GIVING RIP
Mon 22 9.30am	Katherine Soares	RIP (A)
Tue 23 9.30am 7pm	Edna Mhondoro (Birthday) Mary Magdaleline D'Souza	T'GIVING RIP
Wed 24 9.30am 5.00pm 8.00pm Midnight	Baby Marionne Lou Estrocio Family Mass - Pro Populo Vigil Mass - Pro Populo Mass in the Night - Pro Populo	RIP INT INT INT
Thur 25 8.00am 9.30am 11am	Mass at Dawn - Pro Populo Mass During the Day - Pro Populo Mass During the Day - Pro Populo	INT INT INT
Fri 26 12noon	Brian Calmiano and Family	T'GIVING
Sat 27 9.30am 6pm	Matthew Rodrigues People of the Parish	RIP (A) INT
Sun 28 8am 9.30am 11am 7pm	Cedric Harris Rocha Fernandes (Birthday Rem.) Derrick Juriansz (Birthday Rem.) Derek Spencer	RIP (A) RIP RIP RIP
Sanctuary Lamp is lit for Emmanuella Danladi - Birthday Thanksgiving		

OTHER REGULAR MASSES, LITURGY	
Confessions and Adoration: Saturday 10.15am-11.15am	
Confessions: Saturday 4pm-5pm	
Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday 9.10am	
Rosary: Monday & Friday 10am; St Anthony Devotion: Tues 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 1pm; Malayalam Mass: 3 rd Sun 2.30pm	
Filipino Mass: 4 th Sat 2.30pm; Nigerian Mass: 4 th Sun 2.30pm	



This small, beautiful crib scene at our Westminster Cathedral, with its light dominating the darkness, draws us into these final days leading to Christmas, our parish hearts beating alongside the heartbeat of our Mother Cathedral. The empty manger calls to us to fill it with our prayers, with our hopes, fears, struggles, joys – all that life brings us - ready for our Infant King to absorb them into his transformative Divine presence.

We do so today, against another backdrop of news for the Archdiocese of Westminster. Pope Leo XIV has, on Friday, accepted the resignation of the pastoral care of our diocese presented by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who recently turned 80 years old. At the same time, Pope Leo has given our diocese another Shepherd, Archbishop-elect Richard Moth, now formerly the Bishop of Arundel & Brighton. More details will be communicated over the coming weeks, but, for now, we keep Cardinal Vincent in our prayers at the crib, in thanksgiving for his ministry to us, as we pray also for Archbishop-elect Richard, preparing to soon welcome him to the Archdiocese of Westminster.

To you, my dear brothers and sisters, parishioners and friends of St Lawrence parish, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of Father Andrew, our Deacons, the Parish Team, and myself, to wish you all a joyful, holy and blessed Christmas, when it soon arrives, and may the Joy of the World, Christ Our Light, implant into your hearts the peace, hope and love from His Bethlehem manger, forever.

Thank You & Happy Christmas!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Today: Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A) p. 90
Christmas Vigil p.95; Midnight Mass P.98
Mass at Dawn P. 101, Mass during the day P. 101
Next week: The Holy Family (Year A) p. 106

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Thomas Becket (1118-1170),
Priest and Doctor of the Church.
Feast, 29th December
*"Willingly I die in the name of Jesus and
in defence of the Church"*

PARISH CONTACTS

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NEW ARCHBISHOP-OF WESTMINSTER - As you will read on the newsletter front page, on Friday 19th December, Pope Leo appointed Bishop Richard Moth, former Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, as the new Archbishop of Westminster. We offer him our huge congratulations and assurance of our prayers as he prepares to transition to his new role in our diocese. Archbishop-elect Richard will be installed on Saturday 14th February 2026, with further details to come.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS - Father Mike or Father Andrew will offer confession times this coming week, before Christmas, on the following dates and times: Tuesday 23rd December, 10.00-11.00am & 5.30-6.30pm. These are in addition to the usual Saturday confessions 10.15 – 11.15am & 4.00-5.00pm.

CHRISTMAS MASSES - Children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity at whatever Mass you attend. If you would like to make a card for Baby Jesus to put in the crib, bring it to Mass.

FEAST OF ST STEPHEN - 26th December. Mass today is at 12noon and all Altar Servers are invited to attend this Mass. Following the Mass there will be a get-together for servers in the Parish Centre.

CATECHISTS WANTED!! - Do you have a passion to teach and hand-on the faith, to accompany those seeking a closer relationship with the Lord Jesus, those seeking the sacraments? If so, we are looking to grow our parish catechist team for our sacramental programmes. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer catechist, for either First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Baptism Preparation, Marriage Preparation, Walk With Jesus (Sunday School), please contact our Catechetical Coordinator, Cathy Early, at felthamcatechist@rcdow.org.uk, for more details. Volunteer catechists must be at least 18 years old to apply. Have courage! Do not be afraid to put yourself forward in serving the Lord and the parish this way.

BELLS AT MASS – DID YOU KNOW? - The main reason for bells to be rung at Mass is to draw ones attention that something sacred is happening. The first bell tells us that the sacredness of Mass has begun, we all stand. The second set of bells is at the point called the Epiclesis, when the priest calls down the power of the Holy Spirit, beginning the sacred period of consecration; here we are kneeling in reverence to this Holy and miraculous moment. The third and fourth set of bells are rung at the moment of transubstantiation, when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus, the real presence of Jesus amongst us; we remain kneeling. The fifth bell is when the priest consumes the precious Body and Blood of Jesus. Many people think this bell is an indication that they should sit in their seat. Rather, given that this is a continuity of this sacred moment in the Mass, we would remain kneeling, with the bell alerting us to the fact that soon each of us will come forward to receive the Body of Christ.

CHRISTMAS CRIB APPEAL will be for the Catholic Children's Society and the "Wall box" by the crib will be used for this appeal.

COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - There will be a collection at the end of all Masses this weekend 20th/21st December for Christmas Flowers.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - Please check the newsletter, notice boards or the website for Mass Times.

'GOLDEN YEARS' CHRISTMAS DINNER - On behalf of the guests who enjoyed the Christmas Dinner last Sunday, I wish to thank all the members of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), and their extended helpers, for making the day so enjoyable and memorable. Incredible amounts of hard work from the PPC meant that parishioners who, ordinarily, are not able to travel to Mass, gathered once again in their home parish for this celebration. Thank you all!

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.

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/>, where you will also find contact details for responses.

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE, SUNBURY – ADMISSIONS POLICY CONSULTATION - The school is proposing various changes to the Years 7-11 Admissions Policy and to the 6th Form Admissions Policy. The consultation period is from 11th December 2025 – 29th January 2026. If you would like to engage with this consultation, please find the consultation documents on the school website at <https://www.st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk/Admissions/Admissions-Policy-Consultation/>, where you will also find contact details for responses.

CHILDREN AT MASS We are blessed to see so many of our parish children attending Mass, not only at weekends, but weekdays also. Parents and Guardians thank you for bringing your children to Mass, for bringing them to the Lord. It is important that we all help in the formation of each other, helping children to understand that they have an important place and role in the Church and in the parish. If you have a baby that needs to be fed during Mass, please do not hesitate to feed them, even if this means in your seat. Toddlers and older children are at the age of being taught more and more about Mass, as best we can, encouraging them not to eat during Mass so that they can transition to the 'fast' later on in their lives. If your child cries, please do not worry; it is their contribution to the Mass and, perhaps, even telling us priests and deacons to shorten our homilies! If you feel your child is getting irritable or distracted, again, do not worry, and feel free to take them to the porch or outside to settle them down, but remember to come back in, come back to your church home. We have often found that having the children close to the front of the church not only helps them to focus on everything that is happening on the Sanctuary, it also keeps them interested, distraction-free. So, again, we welcome you and your families to the front of church for as full a participation at Mass as possible. Parents and Guardians, you are the first and best teachers of the faith, and we encourage you and support you in your vocation.

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Stephen Early** and **Maria Holledge**. Maria lived at No. 5 The Green (house with the telephone box) and her Funeral Service will take place here on **Tuesday 30th December** at 11am. We keep their families and loved ones in our prayers. We also pray for the souls of those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, may they rest in peace.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

13th-14th December: Loose £1,336.66 & Envelopes £179.50
Total: £1,516.16

HSBC BANK ACCOUNT NAME: WRCDDT 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.