



Our Lady of Grace & St Edward's Chiswick & St Dunstan's Gunnersbury with St Joseph's Grove Park

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For even more regular news on parish life and activities, check the Latest News page on the parish website
www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org or follow the parish on Twitter @ourladychiswick or Facebook

at Our Lady of Grace & St Edward, Chiswick, London W4

10th DECEMBER 2023

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Canon Michael Dunne
Fr Daniel Daley
Fr Jude Duruaku CSSp
Sharon Bowden

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Assistant Priest
Administrator



Fr Michael writes:

"Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill laid low, then the glory of the Lord will be revealed and all mankind will see it!" With these glorious lines from today's First Reading, the Prophet Isaiah cries out in joy for the days of the Anointed One: the *longing*, the *expectancy* and then at last, the *advent*, the *arrival* of the Messiah, Emmanuel, God-with-us. And so, six hundred years after the time of the Prophet Isaiah, a Saviour was born for us in Jesus our Lord. Isaiah went to his death without seeing the fulfilment of his longing as did centuries of those who cherished his precious writings but his faith in God's promises was steadfast, as was that of those who followed him. There will have been great rejoicing in heaven when united with the Messiah for Whom they had longed. But what of the mountains laid low and valleys filled in? Did it happen when Christ came? Well yes and no. Christ's Universal Kingship makes all things our servants if we are united to Him and have the eyes of faith to see. Success can serve my growing in Christ just as failure can serve my growing in Christ. Riches and poverty, life's mountains and valleys, celebrity or persecution, desert or fertile plain: "in all these we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us" (*Rom.8:37*) as St Paul teaches us. That's the *yes* but there's also the partial *no* and that's because Christ's work will only be complete at His Second Coming. This is why, in our generation as Isaiah in his, we must be out and about with our bucket and spade as is the man in the picture above. The *Way of the Lord* will not transform itself. We must transform what we can of our lives in Him as well as the world about us in *longing* for the Messiah's *second* advent, the *completion* of His work. *Come Lord Jesus!*

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat 9/12 6.30pm 6.30pm	Vigil Mass <i>Grove Park</i>	Thanksgiving Hayes Family Alexander George	INT RIP
Sun 10/12 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	2 nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Gunnersbury</i>	Patrick Rogers Mary Reynolds People of the Parish Michael & Nora O'Donoghue Corduff Family Christopher Bagenal	RD ANN INT ANN INT ANN
Mon 11/12 10.00am	ADVENT FERIA	Marion Sutton	RD
Tue 12/12 10.00am	ADVENT FERIA	Fred Moses	RIP
Wed 13/12 10.00am 12 Noon 6.00pm	ST LUCY Mortlake Crematorium Comboni Covent	Ann O'Shaughnessy Funeral of Joan Roberts Deceased Comboni Sisters	INT RIP RIP
Thur 14/12 10.00am 5.00pm	ST JOHN OF THE CROSS	Peter Conway St Mary's School Carol Service	SICK
Fri 15/12 10.00am 6.00pm	ADVENT FERIA PIME Convent	Martin, Sarah & Paul Myles Thomas Cook	ANN RIP
Sat 16/12 10.00am 11.00am 5.00pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	ADVENT FERIA <i>Grove Park</i>	Elizabeth Grbesca & Family Confession Confession Margaret Edwards Jack Bracken	INT ANN ANN

For those who are sick: Sandra Bocca, Alex Tuffy, Cecilia Walsgrove, Claudio Bogi, Mary Frain, Celine Duignon, Andy Cronin, Jim Ward, Fr. Eamon Conarty, Tina Byrne, Greta Gribben, Romeo Monthy, Benjamin White, Daniel Monks and those suffering.

For the recently deceased: Margaret Papadakis, Joan Roberts, Maura Theodore and Kathleen Marshall. May they rest in peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Mary Reynolds, Michael & Nora O'Donoghue, Christopher Bagenal, Martin, Sarah & Paul Myles, Margaret Edwards, Jack Bracken. Rest in peace.

THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p. 85

1st Reading: **Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11**

Psalm: **84: 9-14**

2nd Reading: **2 Peter 3:8-14**

Gospel: **Luke 3: 4, 6**

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p. 87

1st Reading: **Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11**

Psalm: **Luke 1:46-50, 53-54**

2nd Reading: **1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24**

Gospel: **John 1:6-8, 19-28**

CATHOLIC UNIVERSE WEEKLY – Five copies a week at the back of church. £3.50 per copy with cash to the the 'Catholic Papers' box.

REPOSITORY – On sale now and **NEWLY STOCKED** with Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars and Year Diaries as well as sympathy cards, candles and rosaries etc. The Repository is open after all Sunday morning Masses. Pop in and see us.

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY (CTS) BOOKLETS/LEAFLETS – are on a stand at the back of the church. Prices are marked on each. Please put the money for these purchases in the brown collection box marked 'CTS' at the back of the church.

THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

23rd Dec. Saturday, Vigil of 4th Sunday of Advent

6.30pm: Mass

6.30pm: [Grove Park] Mass

24th Dec. 4th Sunday of Advent:

8.30am: Mass

9.45am: Family Mass

10.00am: [Gunnorsbury] Mass

11.00am: Sung Mass

12.15pm: Mass

24th Dec. Sunday, Christmas Eve

6.00pm: Carols

6.30pm: Christmas Eve Family Mass

6.30pm: [Grove Park] Christmas Eve Mass

10.30pm: Carols

11.00pm: Christmas Midnight Mass

25th Dec. Monday, Christmas Day

8.30am: Mass

9.45am: Mass

10.00am: [Gunnorsbury] Mass

11.00am: Sung Mass

12.30pm: Mass (NB later start)

There is NO Mass at 6.30pm

26th Dec. Tuesday, St Stephen, Protomartyr

12.00 noon: Mass (with enrolment to the Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers)

27th Dec. Wednesday, St John, Apostle

10.00am: Mass

6.00pm: [Comboni Convent] Mass

28th Dec. Thursday, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

10.00am: Mass

29th Dec. Friday, St Thomas Becket, Martyr

10.00am: Mass

30th Dec. Saturday in Christmas Octave

10.00am: Mass

11.00am: Confessions until 11.45am

5.00pm: Confessions + Exposition concluding with Benediction

6.30pm: Vigil Mass of Feast of the Holy Family

6.30pm: [Grove Park] Vigil Mass of Feast of the Holy Family

31st Dec. Sunday, The Holy Family

8.30am: Mass

9.45am: Mass (Organist on holiday)

10.00am: [Gunnorsbury] Mass

11.00am: Mass (Organist and Choir on holiday)

12.15pm: Mass (Organist and Choir on holiday)

6.30pm: Mass

1st Jan. Monday, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

12.00 noon: Mass

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The Parish office will be closed from 23rd December and re-open on Tuesday 2nd January

PUBLIC CAROL SERVICE – Our annual pre-Christmas treat for neighbours, friends and family: **4.00pm Sunday 17th Dec.**

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS - The offerings on Christmas Day or in envelopes marked 'Christmas Offering' are for the priests of the parish. Priests do not receive a salary and what is donated at Christmas is one of their main sources of their annual income together with the Easter offering, Mass offerings and stole fees such as those for funerals. Envelopes are at the back of the church for your kind contributions. If you are going away over Christmas you may wish to leave your offering at the presbytery.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION – Registration is now online via the parish website <http://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org> for parish children who will be 14 years old at least at the time of their Confirmation in summer 2024. **The closing date to register for Confirmation is Friday 5th Jan 2024** with the Introductory Talk on the 14th Jan 2024.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP – Those aged 18-35 are welcome to join the weekly social gathering of young adults in our parish. Today, Sunday, we have a Q&A session with the priests of the parish after Mass in the St Edward's Room from 7.15 to 8.15pm. See: <https://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org/young-adults> Our last social this term will be on Sun 17th Dec., thereafter Sun 7th Jan '24.

BAPTISM – The next Baptism Preparation Course for those seeking their first baptism for a baby or infant is on 9th Jan and 16th Jan. Apply via Parish Office or online: www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org

ST. DUNSTAN'S GUNNORSBURY

CHRISTMAS MASS: 10.00am Christmas Day, Monday 25th Dec.

Fr Janos is booked to return as Celebrant.

ST. JOSEPH'S GROVE PARK

CHRISTMAS MASS: 6.30pm Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th Dec.

The offerings of Christmas will be banked for the parish, not the priests, whose income is from Chiswick parish.

COMBONI CENTRE – Auction in support of the apostolate TODAY at the Comboni Centre, 2 Chiswick Lane, 3.00 to 5.00pm. Details: 020 8994 1220 or combonicentre16@gmail.com

CENTERING PRAYER (CP) – The group is now convening weekly via Zoom at 7.00pm, the next session Tues 12th Dec. Please feel free to contact John O'Brien: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS 2023. To obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) please contact the Parish Office for assistance and an appointment if appropriate.

ETHICS CONFERENCE – Patient Advocacy in Palliative Care – Legal/professional issues & conscientious objection. 11th Dec, 10am to 4.00pm at 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PB. Cost £40 (concessions available) lunch etc provided. Contact Teresa Lynch, Pro Life Nurse teresalynch1@hotmail.co.uk or 07721372788.

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT RELIEVING HOLY LAND SUFFERING At 7.30pm Thursday 14th December in Our Lady of Victories Church, Kensington High Street, there's the annual CHRISTMAS CONCERT of **FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND** featuring The London Welsh Male Voice Choir and guest soloists. Tickets to include a Holy Land themed Reception at 6.00pm are £50; tickets for the *Concert only* at 7.30pm are £30. See poster at back of church for QR code or search Eventbrite 'FHL Christmas Concert' or visit: www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Event/christmas-concert-2023

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL - Tickets are now on sale for the Christmas concerts which celebrate the mystery of Christ's Incarnation in carols and readings performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers on **19th and 20th December at 7.30pm**. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or Ticketmaster: go to <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/> & type 'Westminster Cathedral'.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION 2025-2026 – Please see the parish website <https://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org/> home page for this statutory consultation for admission arrangements for 2025/6. **NB:** for *current* admissions arrangements for 2024/5 go to the St Mary's website <https://www.stmaryschiswick.org.uk/> and look up 'Admissions'. The above *consultation* is for 2025/6.

ST MARY'S NURSERY? - At St Mary's we are constantly striving to ensure that we are meeting the ever changing needs of children and families within our community. We are keen to learn your views and invite you to complete the one page form at the back of church (pls hand in to the Parish Office) or on the parish website. The answers provided will help us to make any changes that may be useful in meeting parents' needs. Thanks!

CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRE EVENT - "FESTIVE FRIVOLITY" by Persever Productions - A selection of sweet and silly readings, poems & songs celebrating the festive season, with special audio contributions by Dame Judi Dench and Sir David Jason. Weds 21st December 7.30pm, Chiswick Catholic Centre, 2 Dukes Avenue. Part of Persever's monthly program. Persever Productions CIO is a registered charity supporting actors at all stages of their careers.

TEA & COFFEE AFTER 9.45am MASS TODAY! Coffee morning will take place after Mass today in the Parish Centre. Families, children, visitors all welcome. Also next weekend 17th Dec., before breaking for Christmas. Sunday 14th Jan will be the first session of the New Year. To volunteer email: monicaolim@hotmail.com

TEA AND COFFEE MORNINGS – The Tuesday post-Mass coffee morning is at 10.30am in the St. Edward's Room and on Friday at 10.30am in the Parish Centre. Please note the dates of the last coffee mornings for this year are Tues 12th Dec and Fri 22nd Dec.

Collections for last weekend:

OLOG & St Edward's and St Dunstan's Chiswick

03/12/23 - £4167.93

Grove Park

03/12/23 - £203.36

Thank you for your generosity.