



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

17th DECEMBER 2023

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Gaudete Sunday)

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

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Assistant Priest
Administrator

Fr Michael writes:

It's easy to be dismissive of agendas. So-and-so didn't take a straightforward part in the discussion because *he had his own agenda*, for instance. But our own agendas in fact should reflect the priority we're giving to subjects which are important in themselves and which manifest hopefully the wise and good criteria we are applying to our view of the world and our activities within it. The danger of 'our own agenda' is that it can be ordered around our own self-interest and if it is, we will not know Who it is Who stands among us this *Gaudete* or *Rejoice* Sunday, as we hear in today's scriptures. The conflicting agendas of the makers and shakers of society in first century Palestine were dangerously absorbing for them. The Zealots, expectant of the Messiah and inspired by the Qumran community based very close to where John is baptising in the River Jordan in today's Gospel, wanted to assert Israel's independence from Roman occupation by any means even including political assassination. Other factions, with different agendas, were more moderate in their resistance whereas the Herodians, under King Herod, were positively in favour of the Romans by whose wealth they could supply themselves with a dissolute life-style. Buffeted around by their conflicting agendas they were all irked that John the Baptist was preaching repentance to them and still more seriously peeved when he said that the Messiah, the One Whose agenda really actually mattered, was amongst them and they couldn't see Him. In the immensely busy run-up to Christmas, let us not make the same mistake! The Messiah's 'agenda' is to be Emmanuel, to be *God-with-us* because He has such plans for each of us, all of us, for the world. What a tragedy it would be if we, like our ancestors of first century Palestine, couldn't see Him in our midst, or, worse again, *wouldn't* encounter Him because of our own agendas. Besides which, it is *because* of His presence among us that we can rejoice on this *Rejoice* Sunday at all.

A Year of Prayer in 2024

With a provenance dating from the year 1300, the church now declares a 'Jubilee Year' every twenty-five years with our last Jubilee Year being the 'Great Jubilee of 2000'. We are thus rapidly approaching our next in 2025. Pope Francis has declared the theme of Jubilee 2025 to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Before then, however, we are to have a preparatory Year of Prayer focussed simply on the Lord's Prayer, the words the Lord Himself gave us as the model of all prayer and which we pray in every Mass. We will have particular focus on this in Lent but by all means read about it at the Bishops' Conference: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/>

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Gaudete Sunday)

Sat 16/12 6.30pm 6.30pm	Vigil Mass <i>Grove Park</i>	Margaret Edwards Jack Bracken	ANN ANN
Sun 17/12 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	3 rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Gunnersbury</i>	Mary Callaghan Eleanor O'Brien People of the Parish Mr & Mrs Gordon Fry Eamonn King Vincent Almeida	RD ANN INT RIP RIP 1 st ANN
Mon 18/12 10.00am 12.30pm	ADVENT FERIA <i>Grove Park</i>	Maurice Noonan Funeral of Margaret Papadakis	ANN RIP
Tue 19/12 10.00am	ADVENT FERIA	Maria & Andrea Beschizza	ANN
Wed 20/12 10.00am 12 Noon 6.00pm	ADVENT FERIA Comboni Covent	Patsy & Marie Sweeney Funeral of Katherine Marshall Brian Smith	ANN RIP RD
Thur 21/12 10.00am 12 Noon	ADVENT FERIA	Elizabeth Cooleen Funeral of Maura Theodore	ANN RIP
Fri 22/12 10.00am 6.00pm	ADVENT FERIA in church, not PIME convent	Andrew Neary Jnr. Melissa Hughes	RIP ANN
Sat 23/12 10.00am 11.00am 5.00pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	ADVENT FERIA <i>Grove Park</i>	Carmel Houlihan Confession Confession Tom Carney Jim Sheridan	ANN ANN RD

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

For the recently deceased: Margaret Papadakis, Joan Roberts, Maura Theodore, Katherine Marshall, Jackie Dunn, Billy O'Connor and Pat Harte, Theresa Carroll. May they rest in peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Margaret Edwards, Jack Bracken, Eleanor O'Brien, Vincent Almeida, Maurice Noonan, Maria & Andrea Beschizza, Patsy & Marie Sweeney, Elizabeth Cooleen, Melissa Hughes, Carmel Houlihan, Tom Carney, Bennett Zoysa, Bal Kudhail-Hudson, Catherine Cahill, Thomas A.T. Rest in peace.

THIS 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**

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p. 90

1st Reading: **2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16**

Psalm: **88:2-5, 27, 29**

2nd Reading: **Romans 16: 25-27**

Gospel: **Luke 1:26-38**

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK – The new WYB is on sale from the Repository on Sunday mornings at £5.00.

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

CATHOLIC HERALD MAGAZINE CHRISTMAS ISSUE – available at the back of the Church, price £5.00. Please put the money for these purchases in the brown collection box marked 'Papers'.

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.

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

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.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE - You are invited to place the names of your deceased relatives and friends whom you would like to remember during these days of Advent and Christmas, or any other prayer intention, on the Christmas tree at St Edward's Chapel.

CRIB OFFERINGS - The Crib Offerings by custom will go to the Westminster Catholic Children's Society to help disadvantaged children and families locally. This will help provide mental health services, family support and emergency grants for vulnerable children in our Diocese. Offerings can be made in the Crib Offering marked candle safe beside the crib. Offerings for the candles at the crib should also be placed in the Crib Offerings boxes.

FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS REHEARSAL - If you plan to attend the First Christmas Mass on Sunday 24th December at 6:30pm and your children would like to take part in the acting of the Gospel, or if in Year 6-7 and a confident reader would like to read, please join us on Friday 22nd December at 3.30pm in St Edward's Room for rehearsal.

PUBLIC CAROL SERVICE TODAY – Our annual pre-Christmas treat for neighbours, friends and family at **4.00pm TODAY** followed by a **Reception in the Parish Centre**. All very welcome.

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.

NEW CURTAINS IN THE PARISH ROOM – *Thank you* to the parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous who has not only donated the new curtains for the Parish Room but who made them to measure and fitted them! *Thank you.*

TOUR OF THE NEW PRESBYTERY – If any parishioner would like to see the refurbished presbytery please come early at 6.00pm next Saturday before the 6.30pm Mass to have a look around. Any keys Fr John might have given out must now please be returned.

SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY – THANK YOU! - The priests and people of the parish would like to express their thanks to Jackie Knight and the many amazing volunteers who worked so hard to create a marvellous Christmas afternoon for our local Senior Citizens. Many of the guests also have written to say: *THANK YOU!*

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. Meet outside church after the 6.30pm Sunday Mass. See: <https://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org/young-adults> Our last social this term is this evening, 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

CENTERING PRAYER (CP) – The group is now convening weekly via Zoom at 7.00pm, the next session Tues 19th 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.

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'.

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 programme. Persever Productions CIO is a registered charity supporting actors at all stages of their careers.

WATCH THE SURPRISE, a wonderful play by Catholic author GK Chesterton this Christmas. Sunday 24th December 3.30pm online www.ewtn.co.uk or on sky 586. For GK Chesterton Prayers see: www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk

TEA & COFFEE AFTER 9.45am MASS TODAY! Coffee morning will take place after Mass today in the Parish Centre before breaking for Christmas. **Families, children, visitors all welcome.** Sunday 14th January will be the first session of the New Year.

TEA AND COFFEE MORNINGS –The Tues and Fri post Mass coffee mornings have finished for this year. They will both resume in January:- Tues 16th Jan and Fri 19th Jan. Happy New Year!

Collections for last weekend:

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

10/12/23 - £4228.88

Grove Park

10/12/23 - £188.35

Thank you for your generosity.