



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

020 8994 2877

www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org

chiswick@rcdow.org.uk

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

18th DECEMBER 2022

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Canon Michael Dunne
Fr Daniel Daley
Fr Erasmus Egenonu CSSp
Tomas Krejci
Sharon Bowden

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Assistant Priest
Seminarian
Administrator

Tomas writes:

The last Sunday of Advent before Christmas Day describes the events surrounding the birth of Our Lord, an event anticipated for centuries: God coming into the world and renewing it. Where St Luke concentrates on the character of Mary, St Matthew focuses on the person of Joseph and builds his story upon him, communicating a real sense of a supernatural drama. Both accounts contain the sudden appearance of an angel: in one case to Mary and in the other to Joseph. When Joseph finds out that Mary is pregnant – and he cannot possibly be the father – he faces a dilemma: should he expose Mary to public humiliation or repudiate her privately? But then he has a dream, like Joseph of the Old Testament. In his dream, Joseph finds that he is to become a part of something *greater* than simply his envisaged marriage: he has been chosen for an extraordinary part in the divine plan for the salvation of the world, for Mary has conceived a child in a *supernatural* way. Joseph was certainly familiar with our first reading in which Prophet Isaiah promises a great sign. In the original Hebrew text, it says 'A girl is with child' using the word *almah* which means a girl, an unmarried woman. Later, the text was translated into Greek as 'A virgin will be with a child' and this translation became the basis for the Latin translation of the Bible, known as the Vulgate, which associates Isaiah's prophecy with the Blessed Virgin Mary. Joseph accepts what is asked of him and this makes him a great inspiration for us: in the words of the Holy Father Pope Francis, "*Joseph's risk gives us this lesson: to take life as it comes. Has God intervened there? I accept it.*" He no longer follows his own desires but entrusts himself, silently and humbly, without reserve, to God's greater plan. "*In Joseph, we never see frustration, but only trust,*" said Pope Francis, "*his patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust.*" Infinitely surpassed by the mystery, both Joseph and Mary are willing to fully comply with God's will, content with the place that they were assigned. They both face an enormous challenge to their fidelity and trust in God, awaiting the reactions of their family and neighbours. However, Mary and Joseph remain the most authentic heirs of the faith of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Their faith involves *trusting in God's plan* – which often remains clouded with mystery. Let us pray that we too allow ourselves to be surprised by God when we do not expect it, discovering also in our lives the mystery of eternal joy and love, forever embodied in the One who will be born in a week's time.

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat 17/12 6.30pm 6.30pm	Vigil Mass Grove Park	Bridget Sweeney Hagerty Family Deceased	INT ANN
Sun 18/12 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT Gunnersbury	Mary Ann Keane People of the Parish Angela Parkin & Tony Kealy Eamonn Andrews Centenary of Birth Eamonn King Maurice Noonan	RD INT ANN RIP RIP ANN
12.15pm 6.30pm	Advent Feria	Maria & Andrea Beschizza	ANN
Mon 19/12 10.00am	Advent Feria	Kalyani Davidian	INT
Tue 20/12 10.00am	Advent Feria	Michael Keating	RD
Thur 22/12 10.00am	Advent Feria	Michael Hayes	ANN
Fri 23/12 10.00am	Advent Feria	Pearl Fernandez & Family	INT
Sat 24/12 10.00am 6.00pm 6.30pm 6.30pm 10.30pm 11.00pm	Advent Feria Grove Park	Maureen O'Grady Carols Christmas Eve Family Mass Christmas Eve Mass Carols Midnight Mass	ANN INT INT INT

LET US PRAY

For those who are sick: Sandra Bocca, Cecil Pocock, Romeo Monthly, Mary Garrett, Fr. Eammon Conarty, Celine Duignon, Andy Cronin, Hugh Caldin, Elizabeth Fagundez, Alex Tuffy, Isabelle Ranle, Eileen McGuinness, Albie Korinek, Greta Gribben, John Monks, Jim Ryan, P.C.Wrynne, Ted O'Connor, Cecilia Walsgrove, Marion Sutton, Iris Faulkner, Mike O'Farrelly, Elizabeth Mulhall, Pascale Murphy, Claudio Bogi, Gloria Weymouth, Theresa Southern, Constance Redmond, Joss Kellond, Georgia, Brid and those suffering.

For those recently deceased: Felicia Agidee. May she Rest in Peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Hagerty Family, Carmel Houlihan, Angela Parkin, Tony Kealy, Maurice Noonan, Maria & Andrea Beschizza, Michael Hayes, Val Kudhail-Hudson. May they Rest in Peace.

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

1st Reading: **Isaiah 7: 10-14**

Psalm: **23: 1-6**

2nd Reading: **Romans 1: 1-7**

Gospel: **Matthew 1: 18-24**

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.95

1st Reading: **Isaiah 62: 1-5**

Psalm: **88: 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29**

2nd Reading: **Acts 13:16-17, 22-25**

Gospel: **Matthew 1:1-25**

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

REPOSITORY – On sale now **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 for cards, gifts and many more items. Please note the Repository will be closed on 25th Dec and 1st Jan.

THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

18th Dec. 4th Sunday of Advent:

8.30am: Mass
9.45am: Family Mass
10.00am: [Gunnorsbury] Mass
11.00am: Sung Mass
12.15pm: Mass

6.30pm: Mass

19th to 24th Dec inclusive, Advent Ferias

10.00am: Mass

24th Dec. (Saturday) 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. (Sunday) Christmas Day:

8.30am: Mass
9.45am: Mass
10.00am: [Gunnorsbury] Mass
11.00am: Sung Mass
12.30pm: Mass
No Mass at 6.30pm

26th Dec. St. Stephen, The First Martyr

12 Noon: Guild of St. Stephen Mass

27th Dec. St John, Apostle & Evangelist

10.00am: Mass

28th Dec. The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

10.00am: Mass

29th Dec. St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

10.00am: Mass

30th Dec. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

10.00am: Mass

31st Dec. (Saturday) 7th Day in the Octave of Christmas

10.00am: Mass
6.30pm: Mass
6.30pm [Grove Park] Mass

1st Jan. (Sunday) Mary, Mother of God

8.30am: Mass
9.45am: Mass
10.00am: [Gunnorsbury] Mass
11.00am: Mass (Choir on holiday)
12.15pm: Mass
6.30pm: Mass

2nd Jan. Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

10.00am: Mass

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed from 24th December and re-open on Tuesday 3rd January

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 safes beside the crib. Offerings for the candles at the crib should also be placed in the Crib Offerings boxes.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CRAFTS - Please join the Children's Liturgy group on **Monday 19th December** from 4pm in St Edward's Room for Advent / Christmas Crafts for children all ages. We will be making some Christmas ornaments to decorate St Edward's Room on Christmas Eve and some to take home.

FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS REHEARSAL - If you plan to attend the First Christmas Mass on Saturday 24th December at 6:30pm and your children would like to take part in the acting of the Gospel, please join us on **Wednesday 21st December** at 4.00pm in St Edward's Room for rehearsal.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT - although likely to be a packed event for the school community, parents and friends, there should be some space for parishioners if they wish to attend. It's here in Our Lady of Grace at **5.00pm Tues 20th Dec** with a retiring collection for a school charity.

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.

GUNNORSBURY NOTES

CHRISTMAS EVE: 24th Dec, Carol Service at 4.00pm in the church. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS MASS: 10.00am Christmas Day 25th Dec. Full details in adjacent column.

ST JOSEPH'S, GROVE PARK

CHRISTMAS MASS: 6.30pm Christmas Eve 24th Dec. Full details in adjacent column. The offerings of Christmas will be banked for the parish, not the priests, whose income is from Chiswick parish with which Grove Park is twinned.

SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY - THANK YOU! - The team who organised the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party last Sunday would like to express their gratitude to all those who contributed so much to its great success! Equally, the people and priests 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. **THANK YOU!**

CAROL SERVICE COLLECTION - THANK YOU! - With thanks to the Choir and readers for so glorious a Carol Service last Sunday afternoon, thanks, too, to the congregation for their singing but also their raising **£521** for the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine Emergency Appeal, assisting Ukrainians in this winter. Thank you.

YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL in Chiswick - Following the success of these informal gatherings for Catholics aged 18-35 they will now happen each Sunday until Christmas. Meet **THIS EVENING** after 6:30pm Mass for a pub trip. New people welcome! Come and meet!

CENTERING PRAYER (CP) - The group is convening weekly via Zoom at 7.30pm with the next session Tuesday 20th Dec. Contact: John O'Brien: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS 2023: To obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP), if your Catholic practice allows for it, pls contact the Parish Office to request a self-assessment form (preferably sent electronically) and an appointment with Fr Michael.

APPEAL FOR A USED SEWING MACHINE IN GOOD WORKING ORDER - Layla is a Somali refugee woman we met at the Women & Children Group at Emmaus House in Acton. She's taken a course in fashion & design and would like to start a small dressmaking business, but lacks a sewing machine. If you can offer one in good working order this would give Layla the opportunity to start the work to allow her to help her family. Please contact Sr. Natalia, Comboni Sister, 020 89941220 at 2 Chiswick Lane W2 2JF.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023 in LISBON - Pope Francis is inviting millions of the Church's youth, 18-35, to join him in Portugal in August next year. The Westminster Diocese is taking a group of 50 and surely some should come from this parish? Deepen faith, encounter Jesus, meets others from across the world, forge memories to last a lifetime - as well as two weeks in Fatima/Porto and Lisbon 25th July to 9th August! Please see posters at the back of church or <https://dowym.com/events/world-youth-day-lisbon/>

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.

TEA AND COFFEE MORNINGS - **Tuesday** post-Mass coffee morning at 10.30am in the St Edward's Room and **Friday** in the Parish Centre Lounge Bar at 10.30am. **Please note the last before Christmas will be Tues 20th & Fri 23rd Dec and then Tues 10th & Fri 13th Jan.** All are very welcome this year and next!

LEFT IN CHURCH - A carrier bag with keys and items was left in the church. If this belongs to you, please contact the Parish Office.

Collections for last weekend:

OLOG & St Edward's and St Dunstan's Chiswick
11/12/22 - £4280.20

St Joseph's Grove Park 11/12/22 - £202.35

Thank you for your generosity.