



Our Lady of Grace & St Edward's Chiswick and 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

1st JANUARY 2023

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

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

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Assistant Priest
Seminarian
Administrator

Fr. Daniel writes:

Guide us to thy perfect light

As we close on the end of 2022 and the beginning of a new year, we rightly reflect on what has passed and look to the future. We honour the Mother of God today but the feast of the Epiphany this coming Friday also offers us encouragement through the actions of the three wise men of how we can discover our God and follow the path of holiness he sets before us.

First, the wise men recognised in their work of astrology, something of God, and they followed his star, despite not knowing precisely where it would lead. As St John Chrysostom observes, "God calls them by means of the things that they are most familiar with." God gives us clues and hints through the events and people in our lives to help lead us back to him. Like the wise men, we too need wisdom to recognise these signs and courage when we find them to follow them, trusting that God knows the way.

Second, we should not despair if we lose sight of God's path for us at times, like the Three Kings we should not be afraid to ask for directions. When difficulties arise, when the events in our life make us lose sight of God and his path, it is important to ask for help. Turn to your priests, to your spiritual director, to those who ought to know, and ask for their guidance. Not all are like King Herod, motivated by their own interests, most want to help us rediscover God's path, and as God demonstrates he will ensure that his plans prevail despite the evil intention of others.

Finally, the wise men after finding the baby Jesus, were preparing to go back the way they came, but God had other plans. When we follow God's plan for us, be prepared for this to be, at times, very different from our own plans. The wise men were receptive to God's instruction and altered their planned route to avoid Herod on their way back. We too are invited to co-operate with God's grace in our lives, to persevere even if it means having to change our own plans because ultimately, we trust that God knows what he is doing.

The Epiphany of the Three Kings reminds us that Jesus came to save all, but not all in the same way. Our path to holiness is unique to us, a journey made for us by our God. Like the wise men, we need to learn to see God's plan for us in the events and people of our lives, trusting that our God knows the way, that he will guide us to his son, Jesus Christ, and ultimately to our heavenly home.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Sat 31/12 6.30pm 6.30pm	Vigil Mass <i>Grove Park</i>	Tom & Elenor O'Donnell Michael & Ann Flood	RIP ANN
Sun 1/1 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD <i>Gunnersbury</i>	Inglehearn Family Anton Fernando Eileen Martin Mary O'Meara People of the Parish Marie Vincent	INT RD RD RD INT 1 st ANN
Mon 2/1 10.00am	SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN	Michael Keating	RD
Tue 3/1 10.00am	CHRISTMAS FERIA	Mary Kate Casey	RD
Wed 4/1 10.00am	CHRISTMAS FERIA	Margaret D'Arcy & Parents	RD
Thur 5/1 10.00am	CHRISTMAS FERIA	Sean Cullen	RD
Fri 6/1 10.00am 12.30pm 7.30pm	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	Christy Hickey & Family John Brennan Sean O'Neill	INT RD RD
Sat 7/1 10.00am 11.00am 5.00pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	CHRISTMAS FERIA <i>Grove Park</i>	Maureen & Joe O'Grady Confession Confession Mary & Edward Regan Margaret Foley	ANN ANN 6 th ANN

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.Wynne, 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, Desmond Conboy, Marie Downes, James McGeever, Terence Stanley Fernando, Daniel Murnane, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. May they Rest in Peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Sa Wood – 1st Anniversary, Michael & Ann Flood, Marie Vincent, Mary & Edward Regan, Margaret Foley, Maureen & Joe O'Grady. May they Rest in Peace.

THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.109

1st Reading: **Numbers 6: 22-27**

Psalm: **66:2-3, 5, 6, 8**

2nd Reading: **Galatians 4:4-7**

Gospel: **Luke 2:16-21**

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.118

1st Reading: **Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7**

Psalm: **28: 1-4, 9-10**

2nd Reading: **Acts 10:34-38**

Gospel: **Matthew 3:13-17**

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

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

THANK YOU from Frs. Michael, Dan and Erasmus - Parishioners have been extraordinarily kind to the priests over Christmas. The presbytery is lavishly stocked with wines and spirits, cakes and chocolates, and many other rich provisions. *Thank you.* Thanks, too, for the many cards bearing greetings, gratitude and prayer; and for the many cards which also enclosed generous offerings. Thank you for the Christmas collection, which is a major part of the priests' annual income and is paid to them via the parish over the following year having first been banked in the parish account as any normal collection. If you have been away over Christmas and would like to contribute to the Christmas collection, there are still marked envelopes at the back of church which can be placed in any normal collection or through the front door of the Priests' House. Thank you again.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS: The Parish Office will re-open from 12.00 noon on Tuesday 3rd January.

FOODBANK - The next Foodbank collection will take place next weekend, 7th/8th Jan when we make our monthly collection of non-perishable items of food for families and individuals in crisis, together with a cash collection for those who prefer.

EPIPHANY, this FRIDAY 6th Jan, a HOLY DAY of OBLIGATION and therefore with Masses at 10.00am, 12.30pm lunchtime and in the evening after work at 7.30pm. All Masses will be said Masses of about 30 minutes.

CONVENT MASSES RESUME NEXT WEEK - Those who like to attend when possible the 6.00pm Masses on Wednesdays of term time at the Comboni Convent, 2 Chiswick Lane, and/or the 6.00pm Masses on Fridays at the PIME Convent, 10 Chiswick Lane, will be pleased to note that they resume *next week*, 11th and 13th Jan.

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.

RECYCLE YOUR RELIGIOUS ONLY CHRISTMAS CARDS - If you would like to recycle your religious Christmas cards please do drop them any time through the Priests' House letterbox or hand them in to the Parish Office. Either the whole of the card or just the picture half can be given in and then over the year they can be turned into the prayer cards used next Christmas on the Christmas tree, through the kind labours of volunteers. The prayer cards on the tree enable parishioners and visitors to the church to remember their loved ones and commend them to God and/or bring their intentions to Jesus, Mary and Joseph at the crib.

BAPTISM - The next Baptism Preparation Course for those seeking their first baptism for a baby or infant is on 10th and 17th Jan in the church and St Edward's Room. Apply via the Parish Office **after 3rd January 2023** or online via the parish website: <http://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org>

ADULT CONFIRMATION - If any adult Catholic having been baptised and perhaps having made their First Holy Communion but not Confirmation would like this Easter to complete their Sacraments of Initiation, please contact Fr Michael. The course begins at 7.00pm Weds 11th Jan and runs until Easter. Details are under 'Sacraments' then 'RCIA' on the parish website.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION - has now closed and the course begins Sunday 15th Jan. Late applications might be possible until 6th Jan.

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS - To obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice, if your Catholic practice allows for it, you should contact the Parish Office **after the 3rd January 2023** for an appointment. Please ensure you also complete a self-assessment form by obtaining a copy from the Parish Office BEFORE meeting Fr Michael. If you are a Catholic but not a *practising* Catholic, coming to Mass *habitually*, over the last *several years* it is likely that it will be impossible for Fr Michael to issue a Certificate.

CENTERING PRAYER (CP) - The group is convening weekly via Zoom at 7.30pm with the next session Tuesday 3rd January. Contact: John O'Brien: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

GUNNERSBURY NOTES

CHRISTMAS - THANK YOU for the Christmas collection. The Crib Offering basket will remain open until after Epiphany with all contributions going to Westminster Catholic Children's Society. (See adjacent items on both these points.)

GROVE PARK NOTES

CHRISTMAS - THANK YOU for the Christmas offerings which will be counted this week will be banked for the parish, not the priests, whose income is from Chiswick.

CHURCH LAVATORY & FLOWER ROOM - This had been 'Out of Order' due to the burst pipe in the house resulting in the house water supply being turned off, but now an 'emergency supply' has been routed to the lavatory and sink in the Flower Room. Unfortunately there is no additional hot water supply but hot water is available in the kitchen off the Parish Room. Sorry for the inconvenience. Let's look forward to the renovation of the house.

PARENTING CHILDREN COURSE - For parents who want to learn more about how to support their children's development and keep a strong and healthy family (of all types) we will be offering again the "Parenting Children Course". The course will run over 5 sessions, on the last Saturday of the month, from January to May, at the Comboni Centre, 2 Chiswick Lane. Babysitting will be offered by certified volunteers. To secure a place for the first session on 28th January, please email Isabel dos Santos Lima or Sister Natalia at combonicouples@gmail.com

POST-EASTER HOLIDAY PILGRIMAGE TO THE LOIRE? - The parish is planning a small group six-day coach trip 17th - 22nd April 2023 to the shrines and wines of the Loire. Based in the ancient Catholic city of Tours we'll visit the shrine of St Martin before further day trips to the medieval city and Cathedral of Orléans frequented by St Joan of Arc during the Siege of Orléans (which, against the English, she won...); also the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud, a World Heritage Site, where, among others, King Henry II of England and his son, King Richard the Lionheart, are buried; also the great Abbaye Saint-Pierre de Solesmes, a vast living monastery with over 1,000 years of history as well as being custodian and promoter of Gregorian chant. Where possible Mass will be celebrated daily at the various sites. There will also be a chance to explore a few of the vineyards of the Loire's celebrated wines. Sadly we will not have time to visit any of the Loire's famous royal chateaux. Travelling by coach and Eurotunnel, and staying in central two-star ensuite accommodation, the approximate cost, while details are still to be finalised, will be £750 excluding lunch, supper and admission charges. If interested please email the parish office.

CATHOLIC CENTRE CHISWICK - The Parish Centre remains CLOSED for all activities until 3rd Jan 2023. The Lounge Bar will reopen for its regular hours from Friday 6th Jan 2023.

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 - The Tuesday post-Mass coffee morning at 10.30am in the St. Edward's Room will resume on Tuesday 10th January and on Friday 13th January in the Parish Centre. All are very welcome!

REPOSITORY Please note the Repository will be closed on 1st January and will re-open on Sunday 8th January for cards, gifts and many more religious items.

HIS HOLINESS POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI RIP

Cardinal Vincent writes: *I remember with particular affection the remarkable Papal Visit to these lands in 2010. We saw [the Holy Father, Pope Benedict's] courtesy, his gentleness, the perceptiveness of his mind and the openness of his welcome to everybody that he met. He was through and through a gentleman, through and through a scholar, through and through a pastor, through and through a man of God, close to the Lord and always his humble servant. Pope Benedict is very much in my heart and in my prayers. I give thanks to God for his ministry and leadership.*

Further details: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

Requiem Mass: St Peter's in Rome, Thursday 5th January 9.30am (Central European Time), 8.30am (Greenwich Mean Time)

**May his soul and the souls of all the Faithful Departed,
Rest in Peace. Amen.**