



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

23rd JANUARY 2022

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD)

Canon Michael Dunne
Fr Daniel Herrero
Sharon Bowden

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Administrator

Fr Michael writes:

Our parish process of synodality was completed last Sunday when those who had participated in one or another way since last October were invited to contribute to the completion of the 'synthesis form', which is to say our submission to the Diocese before the deadline on 21st January. The Parish Rep, Clare Muldoon and I despatched it on Monday 17th. Overall there had been about 80 participants, some of whom attended three or so times and so a total attendance of 150 at the sessions. This represents about 10% of the parishioners currently active. The annual count of average Sunday Mass attendance in October 2021 was 818 which is half of what it was at the same count in 2019, although double what it was in 2020, with numbers still recovering in the uncertainty of the phases of the pandemic.

In terms of 'journeying together', a key phrase of the synodality process, parishioners *had* felt that the joys and sorrows of the pandemic had been shared. However, one repeated experience was that although those embedded in the community at Our Lady of Grace felt the church was welcoming as they knew many friends and neighbours, those newer to the community felt it was not so welcoming or even unwelcoming. To remedy this perhaps we could start simply greeting those next to us in the pews before or after Mass? We *all* have a role to welcome those at Mass, as the Lord welcomes *us*. St Paul is richly emphatic on this: "*The mystery is Christ among you!*" 1Col.27.

In terms of engagement in the parish's priorities for mission, there was a strong sense of this over the pandemic both among and because of the 180+ Stewards who volunteered to keep the church open for Mass which otherwise would have to have been closed. However, among the subjects raised as areas of neglect in terms of parish mission, there were the green agenda, social activities, and outreach to the poor, to the lapsed, to youth and to those disaffected from the Church for one or another reason. I listened very attentively but somewhat helplessly as all such excellent initiatives would need *volunteers*, with availability, training and commitment, when so many find themselves so heavily committed in other areas of their lives already.

There was a general and shared sense, however, that all of the above manifested great love for the Church universally as well as lived in our parish, for the Mass and for wanting to participate in our local mission. Participants spoke of starting more small groups and events, that if we begin something, then 'the Holy Spirit will do the heavy lifting'! Edified by the process, for my part I thought we should continue to have perhaps two parish-wide 'synodal meetings' a term both to listen and to discern priorities (and therefore associated opportunities) that we might respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit calling us, in our community, to mission.

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat 22/1 6.30pm 6.30pm	Vigil Mass <i>Grove Park</i>	Margaret Gilroy Antoine Sfeir	RD RIP
Sun 23/1 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	3 RD SUNDAY IN OT <i>Gunnersbury</i>	Clarina Fernandes Dementia Sufferers & Families Hans Radhe Brian Davison Mary Murnane People of the Parish	ANN INT RD ANN ANN INT
Mon 24/1 10.00am	ST FRANCIS DE SALES	Bridie Tuffy	RD
Tue 25/1 10.00am	CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE	Maureen Kehoe	RIP
Wed 26/1 10.00am 2.00pm 6.00pm	Ss TIMOTHY & TITUS <i>Comboni Convent</i>	Frank & Doreen Murphy & Family Funeral of Geraldine Brady Sr. De Lourdes	INT RIP RD
Thur 27/1 10.00am	Feria	Anne Catherine Blake	RIP
Fri 28/1 10.00am 11.20am 6.00pm	ST THOMAS AQUINAS <i>Mortlake Crem</i> <i>PIME Convent</i>	Jan Richards Funeral of Patrick Doherty John Patton	RD RIP RD
Sat 29/1 10.00am 12.30pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	Feria <i>Grove Park</i>	Anne Savage Baptism Margaret Barnett Naja & Sfeir Families	RD 1 ST ANN RIP

LET US PRAY

For those who are sick: Sandra Bocca, Cecil Pocock, Romeo Monthy, Mary Garrett, Fr. Eammon Conarty, Celine Duignon, Andy Cronin, Trish Williams, Hugh Caldin, Elizabeth Fagundez, Alex Tuffy, Isabelle Ranle, Eileen McGuinness and all those suffering in the pandemic.

For those recently deceased: Ralph French, Paul Myles, Mick Hayes, Patrick Doherty, Nancy Jennings, Geraldine Brady, Joseph Martial, Mary Innes, Patrick Hogan, Philip Romain, Ena Mulhall, Eulalie Raymond, Moya O'Sullivan, Ben Okoro and Aishling Murphy. May they rest in peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Clarina Fernandes, Brian Davison, Mary Murnane, Margaret Barnett, Finbarr O'Keefe. May they rest in peace.

THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.129:

1st Reading: **Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10**

Psalm: **18: 8-10, 15**

2nd Reading: **1 Corinthians 12: 12-30**

Gospel: **Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21**

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.132:

1st Reading: **Jeremiah 1: 4-5, 17-19**

Psalm: 70:1-6, 15, 17

2nd Reading: **1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13**

Gospel: **Luke 4: 21-30**

COVID SAFETY IN CHURCH:

- FACE MASKS ON, legally required this weekend, unless exempt, but becoming simply a 'recommendation' from Thursday 27th Jan.
- SOCIAL DISTANCING where possible
- HOUSEHOLD MIXING to a minimum
- HAND SANITIZER / HAND-WASHING
- GET BOOSTERED / VACCINATED
- LATERAL FLOW TEST BEFORE MASS is recommended
- ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID/FLU, please stay home!

THE SYNODAL PROCESS: - With the completion of the 'parish phase' of the synodal process the 'diocesan phase' is underway. **The 'Diocesan Synodal Gathering' with Cardinal Vincent at Westminster Cathedral & Hall is on Saturday 19th February, 11.00am to 4.00pm.** *If you have been part of the parish synodal process and would like to join the*



diocesan gathering for the day, please see Fr Michael or Clare Muldoon soon as places need to be booked by 31st January.

CRIB OFFERINGS - The Crib Offerings as 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. the crib will remain up until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas, Weds 2nd February.

DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE (DEC) have written to the parish to thank us for the **£2,210.63** we sent them from the World Hungry Box to assist with their Afghanistan Appeal. Through the Government's match-funding scheme, **£4,421.26** was raised. The DEC letter is on the board at the back of church.

COMBONI SISTERS 150th ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDATION - This year is the Sisters' sesquicentenary being founded in Verona in 1872 for mission in Africa at the time particularly. They are therefore celebrating internationally whilst also raising the profile of the current need for the continuation and development of the missionary imperative they have lived so generously over 150 years. Various celebratory events are planned for London and Chiswick including a Mass and Reception on a Thames cruiser emulating the journey of the first Sisters accompanied by the then Fr Daniel Comboni up the River Nile to the interior of Africa. Firstly, however, the jubilee year will be launched in the parish on Sunday 6th Feb when we will hear a word from one of the Sisters after all Masses. The Comboni magazine will be distributed afterwards.

BAPTISM - The next Baptism Preparation Course for those seeking their first baptism for a baby or infant is on 1st and 8th Feb in the church and St Edward's Room. Apply via the Parish Office or the parish website: <http://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org>

CENTERING PRAYER (CP) - The group is convening weekly via the Zoom, Mondays at 7.30pm. Next meeting takes place on 24th Jan. Contact John O'Brien: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

HANDBAG LEFT IN CHURCH after Sunday morning Mass last weekend. If this belongs to you, please contact the Parish Office.

PARISH FUNERALS:

Very sadly, many parish families are suffering the death of a loved one at this time; friends and neighbours are enquiring about funeral arrangements. Let us spiritually accompany the deceased and the bereaved with our prayers, participating in the Lord's assistance - *"Blessed are those who mourn, they shall be comforted"* (Mt 5:5).

- Geraldine Brady** - 26th Jan 2.00pm, Requiem Mass
- Patrick Doherty** - 28th Jan 11.20am, Mortlake Crematorium
- Ralph French** - 31st Jan 6.00pm, Reception into Church
1st Feb 12.00 Noon, Requiem Mass
- Mary Innes** - 2nd Feb 6.00pm, Reception into Church
3rd Feb 12.30pm Requiem Mass
- John Paul Myles** - 4th Feb 10.00am Requiem Mass
- Nancy Jennings** - 4th Feb 12.30pm Requiem Mass
- Patrick Hogan** - 7th Feb 11.00am Requiem Mass
- Mick Hayes** - 11th Feb 1.45pm Requiem Mass
- Philip Romain** - 15th Feb 12 Noon Requiem Mass
- Joseph Martial** - 18th Feb 11.30am, Requiem Mass

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

ST JOSEPH'S, GROVE PARK NOTES

CHISWICK & GROVE PARK BRIDGE CLUB - meets every Tuesday at 7.00pm in the Parish Room of St Joseph's Church, 1 Bolton Rd. A friendly group who play duplicate bridge and usually finish around 10.00pm. There's a table fee of £3.00. For info call Phil Tait on 07860575135 or email philliptait@btinternet.com

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL: GOLDEN TICKET FOR GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY. If you have a son in Years 2 or 3 who loves to sing then the world's greatest Catholic Choir would be delighted to hear from you. Every year six boys enter Year 4 as new choristers and all receive generous scholarships supplemented by means-tested bursaries where necessary providing education at a top independent school as well as the opportunity to sing and tour in a world famous choir. Fr Michael has four such 'Golden Tickets' if interested or also find out more at www.choirschool.com

WORKING WITH OLDER PEOPLE? If so, there's to be a diocesan networking meeting for you online, 11.00am to 12.30pm Thurs 3rd Feb. The event is for anybody who journeys alongside older people, perhaps by organising events or running projects. It is an opportunity to share ideas, discuss issues, and meet others who are engaged in the same mission. Please contact Rosa Lewis for more information rosalewis@rcdow.org.uk

GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS READY FOR THE SPRING? A NEW Garden Enterprise at Caritas St Joseph's Centre facilitates the employment of young adults with learning disabilities by engaging them in all aspects of garden maintenance. In addition, the Garden Enterprise can provide garden design services, and supply garden furniture made out of recycled wood by adults with learning disabilities. To discuss your garden maintenance and design requirements, please contact Gail Williams, the Centre Manager, gailwilliams@rcdow.org.uk

WESTMINSTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST - The Annual Report & Accounts 2020 are available to view at <https://bit.ly/DowAccounts2020> or you can scan the QR code on the poster at the back of the Church.

RETOUVAILLE - Covid 19 - a very challenging time for many marriages. So much uncertainty around, health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing. Different ways of seeing things, coping with change, managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. You wonder would we be better apart? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples, it brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriageand you don't need to leave home, it comes to you! For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for the next programme, a Virtual weekend commencing **3rd to 6th March 2022** call or text +44 788 729 6983. Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.org or visit www.retrouvaille.uk

A DAY WITH MARY - This takes place on Sat 19th February at Holy Apostles Church, Winchester Street, SW1V, 9.45am-5.30pm.

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY (CTS) BOOKLETS/LEAFLETS - There is a NEW and FRESH selection on a rack at the back of the church. Prices are marked on each booklet/leaflet. Please put the money for these purchases in the brown collection box marked 'CTS' also at the back of the church opposite the CTS rack.

TEA AND COFFEE MORNINGS - There is a **Tuesday morning** post-Mass coffee morning at 10.30am in the St Edward's Room each week and a **Friday coffee morning** in the Parish Centre Lounge Bar at 10.30am. All are very welcome!

RECYCLE YOUR RELIGIOUS ONLY CHRISTMAS CARDS - Please drop your religious cards 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 they can be turned into the prayer cards used on the next Christmas Tree, through the kind labours of volunteers. The cards enable parishioners and visitors to remember their loved ones and commend them to God and/or bring their intentions to the crib.

Collections for last weekend:

OLOG & St Edward's and St Dunstan's Chiswick
£4577.92
St. Joseph's Grove Park
£212.88

Thank you for your generosity.