



# 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](http://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org) or follow the parish on Twitter @ourladychiswick or Facebook at Our Lady of Grace & St Edward, Chiswick, London W4

24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023

## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT and CHRISTMAS

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

Parish Priest  
Assistant Priest  
Assistant Priest  
Administrator

### Ecumenical Christmas Message of the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem 2023:

We, the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, convey our Christmas greetings to the faithful around the world. In extending these greetings, we are well aware that we do so during a time of great calamity in the land of our Lord's birth. For over the past two-and-a-half months, the violence of warfare has led to unimaginable suffering for literally millions in our beloved Holy Land. For those caught in the midst of such dire circumstances, hope seems distant and beyond reach.

Yet it was into such a world that our Lord himself was born in order to give us hope. Here, we must remember that during the first Christmas, the situation was not far removed from that of today. Thus the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph had difficulty finding a place for their son's birth. There was the killing of children. There was military occupation. And there was the Holy Family becoming displaced as refugees.

Nevertheless, in the midst of such sin and sorrow, the Angel appeared to the shepherds announcing a message of hope and joy for all the world: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord". In Christ's Incarnation, the Almighty came to us as Immanuel, "God with us", in order to save, redeem, and transform us. This was to fulfill the words of the Prophet Isaiah: "The Lord has anointed me . . . to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor".

This is the divine message of hope and peace that Christ's Nativity inspires within us, even in the midst of suffering. For Christ himself was born and lived amid great suffering. Indeed, he suffered for our sake, even unto death upon a cross, in order that the light of hope would shine into the world, overcoming the darkness.

It is in this spirit of Christmas that we denounce all violent actions and call for their end. We likewise call upon the people of this land and around the globe to seek the graces of God so that we might learn to walk with each other in the paths of justice, mercy, and peace. Finally, we bid the faithful and all those of goodwill to work tirelessly for the relief of the afflicted and towards a just and lasting peace in this land that is equally sacred to the three Monotheistic Faiths.

In these ways, the hope of Christmas will indeed be born once again, beginning in Bethlehem and extending from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth—thus realizing the comforting words of Zechariah, that "the dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, guiding our feet into the way of peace".



### 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT and CHRISTMAS

Sat 23/12 6.30pm	Vigil Mass	Tom Carney Jim Sheridan	ANN RD
6.30pm	Grove Park		
Sun 24/12 8.30am	4 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Mary (Maureen) O'Grady Joseph O'Grady	3 <sup>rd</sup> ANN ANN SICK RD ANN
9.45am	Gunnersbury	Peter Conway Geraldine Griffin Mary O'Grady	
10.00am			
11.00am	CHRISTMAS EVE	<b>Carols</b>	
12.15pm			
6.00pm		People of the Parish	INT
6.30pm	Grove Park	People of the Parish	INT
10.30pm		<b>Carols</b>	
11.00pm		People of the Parish	INT
Mon 25/12 8.30am	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) Gunnersbury	People of the Parish	INT
9.45am			
10.00am			
11.00am			
12.30pm			
Tue 26/12 12 Noon	ST STEPHEN	Guild of St Stephen, Living & Deceased	INT/ RIP
Wed 27/12 10.00am	ST JOHN	Mary O'Gorman	INT
6.00pm	Comboni Covent	Daniel Daley Snr.	ANN
Thur 28/12 10.00am	THE HOLY INNOCENTS	Stuart Bush	RD
Fri 29/12 10.00am	ST THOMAS BECKET	Brian Gill	RIP
Sat 30/12 10.00am	6 <sup>th</sup> DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS	John Lawlor Confession Confession	ANN
11.00am		Hayes & O'Sullivan Family	INT
5.00pm			
6.30pm			
6.30pm	Grove Park	Teresa Eastbrook	RIP

**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.

**For the recently deceased:** Jackie Dunn, Billy O'Connor, Pat Harte and Theresa Carroll. May they rest in peace.

**For those whose anniversaries are at this time:** Michael Hayes, Tom Carney, Felicia Agidee, Mary (Maureen) O'Grady, Joseph O'Grady, Mary O'Grady, Daniel Daley Snr, John Lawlor, Archie Peters, Flavio Faria. Rest in peace.

**REPOSITORY – On sale now** and Year Diaries, the **Westminster Year Book 2024**, sympathy cards, candles and rosaries etc. Please note the Repository will be closed on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec and will re-open on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January for cards, gifts and many more items.

**4<sup>th</sup> ADVENT SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p. 90**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16

Psalm: 88:2-5, 27, 29

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 16: 25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

**CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY SCRIPTURE READINGS:****6.30pm & 11.00pm Christmas Eve – Mass Book p. 98****8.30am Christmas Day – Mass Book p. 101****9.45am, 10.00am, 11.00am & 12.30pm – Mass Book p. 103****NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE****31<sup>st</sup> Dec. Sunday, The Holy Family**

8.30am: Mass

9.45am: Mass (Organist on holiday)

10.00am: [Gunnersbury] Mass

11.00am: Mass (Organist and Choir on holiday)

12.15pm: Mass (Organist and Choir on holiday)

6.30pm: Mass

**1<sup>st</sup> Jan. Monday, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

12.00 noon: Mass

**PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS****The Parish Office closed on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December****and will re-open on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

**CAROL SERVICE COLLECTION** – Thank you to those who attended last Sunday's Carol Service and contributed to the retiring collection for **Medecins Sans Frontieres. £450.58 was raised** and a cheque has been sent to help them continue in their work. For their report on treating the wounded and supplying the overwhelmed hospitals of Gaza among other challenges see: <https://msf.org.uk/>

**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.

**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.

**FOODBANK** – The next Foodbank collection will take place on the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> January when we make our monthly collection of non-perishable items of food for families and individuals in crisis, or the cash collection for those who prefer.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024** with the Introductory Talk on the 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024.

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP** – **The group will reconvene on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January.** Those aged 18-35 are welcome to join the weekly social gathering of young adults in our parish. See: <https://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org/young-adults>

**BAPTISM** – The next Baptism Preparation Course for those seeking their first baptism for a baby or infant is on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan and 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. Apply via Parish Office or online: [www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org](http://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org)

**ST. DUNSTAN'S GUNNERSBURY****CHRISTMAS MASS: 10.00am Christmas Day, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

Fr Janos is booked to return as Celebrant.

**ST. JOSEPH'S GROVE PARK****CHRISTMAS MASS: 6.30pm Christmas Eve, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**NEW YEAR NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY – The Catholic Union of Great Britain** was founded in 1870 to represent the views of lay Catholics to Government and Parliament. A major part of our work is educating parliamentarians and the public about those aspects of Catholic moral and social teaching that are relevant to issues of public policy. The Union is seeking a new **DIRECTOR** in January to succeed the great work and growth completed under the current Director over seven years. Might this vital role be for you or for someone you know? Working from home and in the office, please read about it at: <https://catholicunion.org.uk/jobs/> Closing 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**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 gave us as the model of all prayer which we pray in every Mass. By all means read about it: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/>

**CENTERING PRAYER (CP)** – The group is now convening weekly via Zoom at 7.00pm. Please note there will be no meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> December and will resume on Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Please feel free to contact John O'Brien: 07747611616 or [john@jobrien.co.uk](mailto:john@jobrien.co.uk)

**PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS 2024.** To obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP), *if your Catholic practice allows for it*, you should **firstly** contact the Parish Office to request an appointment and collect a self-assessment form (which can also be sent electronically). You should **secondly** complete the self-assessment form and bring it to your appointment with Canon Michael. You should not bring blank CCPs from schools. If you are a Catholic but not a *practising* Catholic, it will be impossible to issue a CCP as it is *certifying* actual Catholic practice of *habitually attending weekly Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation* over several years. The period of churches being closed is irrelevant because Catholic practice is to be evidenced over *several years*. It is also *perfectly feasible* to submit an application to a Catholic school *without* a CCP. The application would be categorised according to the admission criteria published by the school. Please do not phone or email the Parish Office for a slot until after it re-opens on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan '24.

**WATCH THE SURPRISE**, a wonderful play by Catholic author GK Chesterton this Christmas. Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 3.30pm online [www.ewtn.co.uk](http://www.ewtn.co.uk) or on sky 586. For GK Chesterton Prayers see: [www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk](http://www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk)

**TEA & COFFEE AFTER 9.45am MASS** - Coffee morning in the Parish Centre has now finished for the Christmas break and will resume on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

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

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

**PARISH CENTRE AND LOUNGE** – **Please note the Parish Centre and Lounge will be closed on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December and will re-open on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.**

**Collections for last weekend:****OLOG & St Edward's and St Dunstan's Chiswick**

17/12/23 - £4293.80

**Grove Park**

17/12/23 - £285.35

**Thank you for your generosity.****HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR!**