



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

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25th DECEMBER 2022

CHRISTMAS DAY - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Assistant Priest
Seminarian
Administrator



Fr. Michael writes:

"If you only *knew* the gift of God!" is a line from the scriptures Pope Francis has used to exhort us to conversion of heart. The words were spoken by Jesus to the Samaritan woman at the well, found in St John's Gospel (4:1-42), as He offers her the living water, welling up from within to eternal life. Christmas is precisely the season to reflect upon and so better *know* the gift of God-to-us, which is to say, Emmanuel, God-with-us. A start might be by visiting prayerfully our exquisite crib or bringing a memory of the original crib in Bethlehem home to a moment's silent prayer. And what might we reflect upon in this mysterious and fruitful silence? Perhaps something akin to a passage of a 1971 homily of Pope St Paul VI which I heard some years ago at the Christmas Celebration at Westminster Cathedral:

God could have come wrapped in glory, splendour, light and power, to instil fear, to make us rub our eyes in amazement. But instead he came as the smallest, the frailest and the weakest of beings. Why? So that no one would be ashamed to approach him, so that no one would be afraid, so that all would be close to him and draw near to him, so that there would be no distance between us and him. God made the effort to plunge, to dive deep within us, so that each of us, each of you, could speak intimately with him, trust him, draw near him and realise that he thinks of you and loves you....He loves you! Think about what it means! If you understand this, if you remember what I am saying, you will have understood the whole of Christianity.

Let us make haste with the shepherds in acting upon the angels' tidings 'so that there would be no distance between us and him'. Let us join the profoundly joyful silence of the crib with Mary and Joseph, *knowing* the gift of God to us and treasuring these things in our hearts.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

from Fr Michael, Fr Daniel, Fr Erasmus and Tomas

CHRISTMAS DAY - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Sat 24/12 6.00pm 6.30pm 6.30pm 10.30pm 11.00pm	Vigil Mass Grove Park	Carols Christmas Eve Family Mass Christmas Eve Mass Carols Christmas Midnight Mass	People of the Parish
Sun 25/12 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.30pm	NATIVITY OF THE LORD Gunnersbury	People of the Parish Brendan, Dorothy & Barry McCaull People of the Parish People of the Parish People of the Parish	INT ANN INT INT INT
Mon 26/12 12.00 Noon	ST STEPHEN	Guild of St Stephen, Living & Deceased	INT/ RIP
Tue 27/12 10.00am	ST JOHN	Mary Kate Casey	RD
Wed 28/12 10.00am	HOLY INNOCENTS	Mary O'Mearg	RD
Thur 29/12 10.00am	ST THOMAS BECKET	Johnny Chaudhuri	INT
Fri 30/12 10.00am	THE HOLY FAMILY	Jo & Bill Hodgson – 50 th Wedding Anniversary	INT
Sat 31/12 10.00am 11.00am 5.00pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	7 TH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS Grove Park	Mary & John Reynolds Confession Confession Tom & Elenor O'Donnell Michael & Ann Flood	ANN RIP 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. May they Rest in Peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Melissa Hughes 1st Anniversary, Michael Hayes 1st Anniversary, the Myles Family, Jack Lester, Brendan, Dorothy & Barry McCaull, Mary & John Reynolds, Michael & Ann Flood. May they Rest in Peace

THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

CHRISTMAS EVE, Mass Book p.98

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Psalm: 95:1-3, 11-13 response Lk 2:11

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

CHRISTMAS DAY 8.30am only, Mass Book p.101

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:11-12

Psalm: 96:1, 6, 11-12

2nd Reading: Titus 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:15-20

CHRISTMAS DAY, all other Masses, Mass Book p. 103

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm: 97:1-6 response v3

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.1091st Reading: **Numbers 6: 22-27**Psalm: **66:2-3, 5, 6, 8**2nd Reading: **Galatians 4:4-7**Gospel: **Luke 2:16-21****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'.**REPOSITORY** Please note the Repository will be closed on 25th Dec and 1st Jan and will re-open on Sunday 8th January for cards, gifts and many more items.**THE NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE****1st Jan. (Sunday) Mary, Mother of God**

8.30am: Mass

9.45am: Mass

10.00am: [Gunnersbury] Mass

11.00am: Mass (Choir on holiday)

12.15pm: Mass

6.30pm: Mass

2nd Jan. Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

10.00am: Mass

Routine 10.00am Mass time thereafter.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURSThe Parish Office is now closed and will re-open on Tues 3rd Jan.**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 safes beside the crib. Offerings for the candles at the crib should also be placed in the Crib Offerings boxes.**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.**FOODBANK** – The next Foodbank collection will take place on the weekend of 7th/8th 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.**CENTERING PRAYER (CP)** – The group is convening weekly via Zoom at 7.30pm with the next session Tuesday 27th December. Contact: John O'Brien: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk**GUILD OF ST STEPHEN FOR ALTAR SERVERS – At 12.00 noon on 26th Dec, St Stephen's Day**, is the annual Mass for for Altar Servers present and past, and in a sense, future, as it is the day for the formal reception into the Guild of those ready make the promises of the Guild and to be commissioned by the Church as Altar Servers. All existing or past members of the Guild are warmly invited to attend, as are all parishioners being the only parish Mass that day: **CVI SERVIRE REGNARE EST** – the Guild motto – **To Serve is to Reign. A rich reflection for servers and served alike.****GUNNERSBURY NOTES****CHRISTMAS MASS: 10.00am Christmas Day 25th Dec.****GROVE PARK NOTES****CHRISTMAS MASS: 6.30pm Christmas Eve 24th Dec.** The offerings of Christmas will be banked for the parish, not the priests, whose income is from Chiswick with which Grove Park is twinned.**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.**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.**CATHOLIC CENTRE CHISWICK** – From 23rd Dec 2022 to 3rd Jan 2023 the Parish Centre is closed for all activities. The Lounge Bar will reopen for its regular hours on Friday 6th Jan 2023.**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 LISTENERS** - A new confidential helpline Catholic Listeners, Diocese of Westminster, for those returning to the faith. Although not a counselling service, we have a professional team trained on signposting to other services and agencies. Contact Ade, Catholiclisteners@gmail.com or 08004480704.**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** – With the Christmas Break in routine the Tuesday post-Mass coffee morning at 10.30am in the St. Edward's Room will resume on Tues 10th January and on Friday 13th January in the Parish Centre. All then very welcome!**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**18/12/22 - £3780.36****St Joseph's Grove Park 18/12/22 - £261.15***Thank you for your generosity.*