



# 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

31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2023

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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

Parish Priest  
Assistant Priest  
Assistant Priest  
Administrator

### Fr Michael writes:

No less than last Sunday when the Fourth Sunday of Advent in the daytime became Christmas Eve as the sun set, so we have a near conflation of great Feasts today. In Sunday's daylight hours we'll be celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family but the 6.30pm Mass will be the Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, principally celebrated on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January, with Mass here at 12.00 noon. So a plethora of rich reflection is called for but with such limited space. However, 31<sup>st</sup> December is also the first anniversary of the death of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, whom we again, as we do with all our deceased, commend to Almighty God. He reflected on today's Feast as follows in 2009 and even commends us to the Mother of God at the end of his rich and powerful meditation:

*Today is Holy Family Sunday. The first witnesses of Christ's birth, the shepherds, found themselves not only before the Infant Jesus but also before a small family: mother, father and new-born son. God had chosen to reveal himself by being born into a human family and the human family, thus, became an icon of God! God is the Trinity, he is a communion of love; so is the family, despite all the differences that exist between the Mystery of God and his human creature, an expression that reflects the unfathomable Mystery of God as Love. In marriage the man and the woman, created in God's image, become "one flesh" (Gen 2: 24), that is a communion of love that generates new life. The human family, in a certain sense, is an icon of the Trinity because of its interpersonal love and the fruitfulness of this love.*

*The Christian family is aware that children are a gift and a project of God. Therefore, it cannot consider that it possesses them; rather, in serving God's plan, through them, the family is called to educate them in the greatest freedom, which is precisely that of saying "yes" to God in order to do his will. The Virgin Mary is the perfect example of this "yes". Let us entrust all families to her.*

*I ask God that in your homes you may always breathe this love of total self-giving and faithfulness which Jesus brought to the world with his birth, nurturing and strengthening it with daily prayer, the constant practice of the virtues, reciprocal understanding and mutual respect. I then encourage all families so that, trusting in the motherly intercession of Mary Most Holy, Queen of Families, and under the powerful protection of St Joseph, her spouse, you may dedicate yourselves tirelessly to this beautiful mission which the Lord has placed in your hands.*

### THE HOLY FAMILY

Sat 30/12 6.30pm	Vigil Mass	Hayes & O'Sullivan Family Teresa Eastbrook	INT RIP
6.30pm	Grove Park		
Sun 31/12 8.30am	THE HOLY FAMILY	Patricia Moore Michael Hayes People of the Parish	ANN ANN INT
9.45am		Jose Francie Fernandes	ANN
10.00am	Gunnersbury	Pat Holian R. Sahadevan	ANN RD
11.00am			
12.15pm			
6.30pm			
Mon 1/1 12 Noon	SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD	James & Elizabeth Kiggins	ANN
Tue 2/1 10.00am	Ss BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN	Alphonsus Michael Egan	RD
Wed 3/1 10.00am	CHRISTMAS FERIA	Cheryl Rappolt Celmira Castaño de Calderón	SICK ANN
6.00pm	Comboni Covent		
Thur 4/1 10.00am	CHRISTMAS FERIA	Margaret Ogram	ANN
Fri 5/1 10.00am	CHRISTMAS FERIA	Conor Hickey	ANN
Sat 6/1 10.00am	CHRISTMAS FERIA	Laurence Cooleen Confession	ANN
11.00am		Confession	
5.00pm		Sean Quinn	ANN
6.30pm		Tina Byrne	RD
6.30pm	Grove Park		

**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 and all those suffering.

**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, Patricia Moore, Louise Suruim, Jose Francie Fernandes, Pat Holian, James and Elizabeth Kiggins, Celmira Castaño de Calderón, Margaret Ogram, Conor Hickey, Laurence Cooleen, Sean Quinn, Rita Esposito on the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of her death and Pope Benedict XVI on the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of his death. May they rest in peace.

### THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p. 107

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalm: 127: 1-5

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

### NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p. 115

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm: 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

**CATHOLIC HERALD** – Five copies of the New Year edition are on sale at £5. Please put cash in the 'Catholic Papers' box opposite.

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

**CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY (CTS) BOOKLETS/LEAFLETS** – are on a stand 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'.

**THANK YOU from Frs. Michael, Dan and Jude** – Parishioners have been extraordinarily kind to the priests over Christmas. The presbytery is lavishly stocked with wines and spirits, cakes, biscuits, cheeses 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.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY / SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD** – Please note that the one Parish Mass on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, also a Bank Holiday, is at **12.00 noon**, not at the routine weekday time of 10.00am. Perhaps come to Mass as a fine start to the New Year!

**PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS** - The Parish Office will re-open from 9.00am on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

**PARISH CENTRE** – The Parish Centre will re-open on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Christmas to Epiphany, 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 under the statue of St Peter. Offerings for the candles at the crib should also be placed in the Crib Offerings boxes. Thus far over Christmas **£584.06 has been raised**. The Crib will remain up (and the offerings going to the Westminster Catholic Children's Society) until 2<sup>nd</sup> February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. Other Christmas decorations will come down after the weekend of the Solemnity of the Epiphany – when the Three Kings will only just have arrived in the Crib!

**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, with a further £40 coming in from St Dunstan parishioners, and **thus a new total of £490.58**. For their report on treating the wounded and supplying the overwhelmed hospitals of Gaza among other challenges see: <https://msf.org.uk/>

**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 next weekend, 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** – **Reconvening on Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Jan**. Those aged 18-35 are welcome to join the weekly social gathering of young adults in our parish. On 14<sup>th</sup> Jan we'll have a guest speaker, Emzo De Los Santos of the Sword of the Spirit Community, on 'The Gift of Prophecy'. <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)

**CENTERING PRAYER (CP)** – The group is now convening weekly via Zoom at 7.00pm. The next meeting is 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)

**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/>

**CAFOD'S ISRAELI-PALESTINE CRISIS RESPONSE** – There's information about CAFOD's response to this humanitarian crisis easily found from their website's home page: <https://cafod.org.uk/> or follow the link: <https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/israeli-palestinian-crisis-how-you-can-help>

**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.

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

**TEA & COFFEE AFTER 9.45am MASS** - Coffee morning in the Parish Centre will resume on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January. **Families, children, visitors all welcome.**

**TEA AND COFFEE MORNINGS** –The Tues & Fri post Mass coffee mornings will resume in January:- Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Jan and Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM CAROLINE DOYLE, formerly PARISH CENTRE MANAGER having now left the role after eight years:** *A very sincere 'thank you' to everyone who has passed on good wishes, and for all the lovely Friday Coffee morning attendees for their kind words, generous gifts and leaving cards. It has been a real pleasure hosting the coffee mornings over the years and it has become the highlight of my working week! Thank you to Jenny Wiltsie for her generous voluntary assistance with this - it has made such a big difference! I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me in my role, including Canon Michael Dunne, Michael Maher, Sharon Bowden and Sharron Brooks. I shall very much miss working at the Catholic Centre, but hopefully I will still be involved in various parish activities and will be able to stay in touch. Wishing you all a very merry and blessed Christmas season.*

**Collections for last weekend – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:**

**OLOG & St Edward's and St Dunstan's Chiswick**

24/12/23 - £4,319.50

**Grove Park**

24/12/23 - £285.46

**Thank you for your generosity.**

**Happy New Year!**