



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 or follow the parish on Twitter @ourladychiswick or Facebook

at Our Lady of Grace & St Edward, Chiswick, London W4

3rd DECEMBER 2023

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Assistant Priest
Administrator

Fr Michael writes:

"Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down!" is a line in today's First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah so expressive of that ancient and intense *longing* for God to be *among His people*. This sense of longing, this expectancy and desire, is much of what Advent is about. We too all have it deep in our hearts or we wouldn't come to Mass: we *long* for, we *desire* the encounter with the Risen and mysteriously present Christ Who gives Himself to us anew in every Mass. But with the challenges and hassles of life, both the important ones as well as those on the side lines, we can easily lose sight of our expectancy of Christ Who also *longs* to be in our consciousness, in our company, *with us*. That is why Our Lord rather goads us in the Gospel "Stay awake! He must not find you asleep." St Cyril of Jerusalem (313-386) is certainly wide awake which is why, perhaps with greater confidence than us, he can equally long for Christ's glorious Second Coming:

We preach not one coming only of Christ, but a second also, far more glorious than the first. The first revealed the meaning of his patient endurance; the second brings with it the crown of the divine kingdom. Generally speaking, everything that concerns our Lord Jesus Christ is twofold. His birth is twofold: one, of God before time began; the other, of the Virgin in the fullness of time. His descent is twofold: one, unperceived, like the dew falling on the fleece; the other, before the eyes of all, is yet to happen. In his first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in the manger. In his second coming he is clothed with light as with a garment. In his first coming he bore the cross, despising its shame; he will come a second time in glory accompanied by the hosts of angels. It is not enough for us, then, to be content with his first coming; we must wait in hope of his second coming. What we said at his first coming, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord", we shall repeat at his last coming. Running out with the angels to meet the Master we shall cry out in adoration, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

One who did indeed spiritually at least run to meet the Lord is St John the Baptist and who accordingly is quite a figure in Advent. The *Catechism* tells us why: *When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present the ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his Second Coming.* St John the Baptist, though, would be the first to tell us that desire, however ardent, isn't of itself enough. If we truly desire His return in glory, let us *prepare* for it by making our lives more like *His*, and, through our efforts, our world more like His Kingdom. That's also what Advent is about and is worthy of our attention and resolve.

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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| Sat 2/12 6.30pm 6.30pm | Vigil Mass <i>Grove Park</i> | Robert Edward Smith Deceased Members of the Hagerty Family | ANN RIP |
| Sun 3/12 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm | 1 st SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Gunnersbury</i> | The Higgins Family Felicia Agidee Eva Armstead Roland Wijesinghe James & Tracy O'Connor- Golden Wedding Anniversary People of the Parish | RIP 1 st ANN ANN ANN INT INT |
| Mon 4/12 10.00am | ADVENT FERIA | Patrick Rogers | RD |
| Tue 5/12 10.00am | ADVENT FERIA | Laura Williams | ANN |
| Wed 6/12 10.00am 6.00pm | ADVENT FERIA Comboni Covent | Janina Szwajk Betty Byrnes | RD RD |
| Thur 7/12 10.00am | ST AMBROSE | Daniel de Chambure | RD |
| Fri 8/12 10.00am 11.30am 6.00pm | IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM Comboni Covent PIME Covent | Maurice Cooleen Religious Sisters of the Parish Donald Redfern | ANN 1 st ANN |
| Sat 9/12 10.00am 11.00am 5.00pm 6.30pm 6.30pm | ADVENT FERIA <i>Grove Park</i> | Tom Williams Confession Confession Thanksgiving Hayes Family Alexander George | ANN INT 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, Tina Byrne, Greta Gribben, Romeo Monthy, Benjamin White and those suffering.

For the recently deceased: Margaret Papadakis, Joan Rogers, William Francis Ryan, Maura Theodore and Catherine Marshall. May they rest in peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Robert Edward Smith, Felicia Agidee 1st Anniversary, Eva Armstead, Roland Wijesinghe, Laura Williams, Maurice Cooleen, Donand Redfern, 1st Anniversary, Tom Williams, Tony Kealy, Angela Parkin. RIP

THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p. 82

1st Reading: **Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8**

Psalm: **79: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19**

2nd Reading: **1 Corinthians 1: 3-9**

Gospel: **Mark 13: 33-37**

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p. 85

1st Reading: **Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11**

Psalm: **84: 9-14**

2nd Reading: **2 Peter 3:8-14**

Gospel: **Luke 3: 4, 6**

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

REPOSITORY – On sale now and **NEWLY STOCKED** with Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars and Year Diaries as well as sympathy cards, candles and rosaries etc. The Repository is open after all Sunday morning Masses. Pop in and see us.

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.

THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

23rd Dec. Saturday, Vigil of 4th Sunday of Advent

6.30pm: Mass

6.30pm: [Grove Park] Mass

24th Dec. 4th Sunday of Advent:

8.30am: Mass

9.45am: Family Mass

10.00am: [Gunnersbury] Mass

11.00am: Sung Mass

12.15pm: Mass

24th Dec. Sunday, Christmas Eve

6.00pm: Carols

6.30pm: Christmas Eve Family Mass

6.30pm: [Grove Park] Christmas Eve Mass

10.30pm: Carols

11.00pm: Christmas Midnight Mass

25th Dec. Monday, Christmas Day

8.30am: Mass

9.45am: Mass

10.00am: [Gunnersbury] Mass

11.00am: Sung Mass

12.30pm: Mass (NB later start)

There is NO Mass at 6.30pm

26th Dec. Tuesday, St Stephen, Protomartyr

12.00 noon: Mass (with enrolment to the Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers)

27th Dec. Wednesday, St John, Apostle

10.00am: Mass

6.00pm: [Comboni Convent] Mass

28th Dec. Thursday, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

10.00am: Mass

29th Dec. Friday, St Thomas Becket, Martyr

10.00am: Mass

30th Dec. Saturday in Christmas Octave

10.00am: Mass

11.00am: Confessions until 11.45am

5.00pm: Confessions + Exposition concluding with Benediction

6.30pm: Vigil Mass of Feast of the Holy Family

6.30pm: [Grove Park] Vigil Mass of Feast of the Holy Family

31st 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

1st Jan. Monday, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

12.00 noon: Mass

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The Parish office will be closed from 23rd December and re-open on Tuesday 2nd January

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED – THANK YOU to those who were able to contribute to the collection recently. An amazing final total between Chiswick, Gunnersbury and Grove Park, **£3,010.00 has been raised**, and has been sent off. Thank you.

FOODBANK COLLECTION TODAY – Non-perishable items of food may be brought and left in the box at the back of church this weekend. Cash collection also after all Masses.

ST FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD (SFLG) We have received a certificate of thanks for all those who supported the Lent Project this year from St Francis Leprosy Guild which can be seen on the board at the back of the church. An amazing **£12,626** was raised.

PUBLIC CAROL SERVICE – Our annual pre-Christmas treat for neighbours, friends and family: **4.00pm Sunday 17th Dec.**

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 5th Jan 2024** with the Introductory Talk on the 14th Jan 2024.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP – Those aged 18-35 are welcome to join the weekly social gathering of young adults in our parish. Meet outside church after the 6.30pm Sunday Mass. 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 9th Jan and 16th Jan. Apply via Parish Office or online: www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org

COMBONI CENTRE – Auction in support of the apostolate next Sun 10th Dec at the Comboni Centre, 2 Chiswick Lane, 3.00 to 5.00pm. Details: 020 8994 1220 or combonicentre16@gmail.com

CENTERING PRAYER (CP) – The group is now convening weekly via Zoom at 7.00pm with the next session Tues 5th Dec. Please feel free to contact John O'Brien: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

THE MEN'S GROUP - Don't miss Advent in the pre-Christmas frenzy! Men of all ages are very welcome to join us for a half-hour Advent Reflection, followed by social drinks at The Lamb: meet Thursday 7 December, 8.15 for 8.30pm in the St Edward's Room, newcomers are particularly welcome. Email Stephen Donnelly for details: donnelysm@hotmail.com or just turn up.

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS 2023. To obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) please contact the Parish Office for assistance and an appointment if appropriate.

ST. DUNSTAN'S GUNNERSBURY NOTES

COFFEE MORNING TODAY – In the Priests' House after the 10.00am Mass. All welcome.

A DAY WITH MARY – JUST NEXT DOOR IN HOUNSLOW – The next *Day with Mary* is in Ss Michael and Martin's Church, Bath Road, Hounslow, on Saturday 9th Dec, 9.30am to 5.30pm, or why not join for any part of the day? Details on poster at the back of church.

ETHICS CONFERENCE – Patient Advocacy in Palliative Care – Legal/professional issues & conscientious objection. 11th Dec, 10am to 4.00pm at 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PB. Cost £40 (concessions available) lunch etc provided. Contact Teresa Lynch, Pro Life Nurse teresalynch1@hotmail.co.uk or 07721372788.

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT RELIEVING HOLY LAND SUFFERING At 7.30pm Thursday 14th December in Our Lady of Victories Church, Kensington High Street, there's the annual CHRISTMAS CONCERT of FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND featuring The London Welsh Male Voice Choir and guest soloists. Tickets to include a Holy Land themed Reception at 6.00pm are £50; tickets for the *Concert only* at 7.30pm are £30. See poster at back of church for QR code or search Eventbrite 'FHL Christmas Concert' or visit: www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Event/christmas-concert-2023

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION 2025-2026 – Please see the parish website <https://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org/> home page for this statutory consultation for admission arrangements for 2025/6. **NB:** for *current* admissions arrangements for 2024/5 go to the St Mary's website <https://www.stmaryschiswick.org.uk/> and look up 'Admissions'. The above *consultation* is for 2025/6.

ST MARY'S NURSERY? - At St Mary's we are constantly striving to ensure that we are meeting the ever changing needs of children and families within our community. We are keen to learn your views and invite you to complete the one page form at the back of church (pls hand in to the Parish Office) or on the parish website. The answers provided will help us to make any changes that may be useful in meeting parents' needs. Thanks!

TEACHING POST AT ST MARY'S? - St Mary's is seeking to appoint a positive and inspiring Teaching Assistant for January 2024 who can work in Key Stage 1. Please see the school website for more information: <https://www.stmaryschiswick.org.uk/>

NO TEA & COFFEE AFTER 9.45am MASS TODAY! Please note there will be no coffee morning after the 9.45am Mass today due to the preparations for the Senior Citizens Christmas Party later in the day. However, Coffee mornings will resume for the following two Sundays, 10th and 17th Dec., before breaking for Christmas. Sunday 14th Jan will be the first session of the New Year. If you would like to volunteer to help at the coffee mornings, 4 volunteers are required on a rota basis. Please contact Monica by email if you can help: monicaolim@hotmail.com

TEA AND COFFEE MORNINGS – The Tuesday post-Mass coffee morning is at 10.30am in the St. Edward's Room and on Friday at 10.30am in the Parish Centre. Please note the dates of the last coffee mornings for this year are Tues 12th Dec and Fri 15th Dec.

Collections for last weekend:

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

26/11/23 - £3903.95

Grove Park

19/11/23 - £241.46

Thank you for your generosity.