



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

020 8994 2877

www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org

chiswick@rcdow.org.uk

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

4th DECEMBER 2022

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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:

The prophet Isaiah features twice in today's scriptures. He is cited in St Matthew's Gospel as the voice crying in the wilderness to prepare a way for the coming of the Lord, the Messiah. And in the First Reading he is more completely quoted but this time prophesying on the glorious fruits of the Messianic age in the time of the Lord's coming and thereafter, "for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious." The coming of Christ is not disputed, nor for the Church is the invincibility of His Kingdom. Whether 'the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord' is however a matter for conversation in the light of the Census results of 2021 published last week. There has been a steep decline in the decade since the last Census of 2011. Then 33.3 million people, 59.3% of the population of England and Wales described themselves as Christian whereas now it is 27.5 million people, 46.2% of the population. This is still a huge minority but a minority for the first time nonetheless for about a thousand years, since, I suppose, the late middle ages when Christianity may have first attained its majority. What is intriguing, too, about this Census question, is the increase in the response of 'No religion' which is now the second most common response at 22.2 million people, 37.2% of the population, up from 14.1 million or 25.2% of the population in 2011. If these twin trends were to continue at this pace over the next decade the 2031 Census could record the response of 'No religion' hovering at the cusp or beyond the majority. This isn't in itself alarming, though looking to the future when measured in decades, it is concerning not least because of the leaven Christianity has given to society, the subject of Tom Holland's monumental book of 2019, *Dominion – The Making of the Western Mind*. "This book," he writes, "explores what it was that made Christianity so subversive and disruptive; how completely it came to saturate the mindset of Latin Christendom; and why, in a West that is often doubtful of religions' claims, so many of its instincts remain – for good or ill – thoroughly Christian." Where would society be without Christian 'instincts' ie doctrines, such as the inviolable dignity of every human being; that all human beings are created equal; that, contrary to the complaint of the faithless Cain (Gen 4:9) we are the keepers of our brothers and sisters, and need to be busy in building up the Kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, the kingdom of justice, love and peace, to cite the Preface of Christ the King? Let us keep up with our work.

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat 3/12 6.30pm	Vigil Mass	Antonio Jose & Rosalina Remedios	RIP
6.30pm	Grove Park	Elias Baroud & Deceased Family	RIP
Sun 4/12 8.30am	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Pauline & Tommy Wyrms- 50 th Wedding Anniversary	INT
9.45am		Andre, Rosaline & Mariquinha Martins	RIP
10.00am	Gunnersbury	Eva Armstead	ANN
11.00am		Kathleen & James Cullen-50 th Wedding Anniversary	INT
12.15pm		Roland Wijesinghe	ANN
6.30pm		James Bracken & Francis Dunken	ANN
Mon 5/12 10.00am 12.30pm	Advent Feria	Laura Williams Funeral of Gine Bridgeman	ANN RIP
Tue 6/12 10.00am	Advent Feria	Stephen Gosztony	RD
Wed 7/12 10.00am 6.00pm	St Ambrose <i>(Comboni Convent)</i>	Alice O'Sullivan People of the Parish	RD INT
Thur 8/12 10.00am 11.30am 6.00pm	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM <i>(Comboni Convent)</i> <i>(PIME Convent)</i>	Deirdre O'Donnell Eileen Martin Dolores McMara	RD RD SICK
Fri 9/12 10.00am	Advent Feria	Natalie Simons	RD
Sat 10/12 10.00am 11-11.45am 12.15pm 5-5.45pm 6.00pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	Advent Feria Grove Park Grove Park	Mary O'Gorman & Family Confession Baptism Confession Benediction Geraldine Neville & Family Zakia Sfeir & Deceased Family	INT INT RIP

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.Wrynn, 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 and those suffering.

For those recently deceased: Gine Bridgeman, Laurence Ryan, Maeve Kanal, Patricia Moore. May they Rest in Peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Eva Armstead, Roland Wijesinghe, James Bracken, Francis Dunken, Laura Williams, Angela Parkin, Tony Kealy. May they RIP.

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

1st Reading: **Isaiah 11: 1-10**
Psalm: **71, 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17**
2nd Reading: **Romans 15:4-9**
Gospel: **Matthew 3: 1-12**

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.88

1st Reading: **Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10**
Psalm: **145: 6-10**
2nd Reading: **James 5: 7-10**
Gospel: **Matthew 11:2-11**

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK – The new WYB is on sale from the Repository on Sunday mornings or the Parish Office at £5.00.

THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

18th Dec. 4th Sunday of Advent:

8.30am: Mass
9.45am: Family Mass
10.00am: [Gunnorsbury] Mass
11.00am: Sung Mass
12.15pm: Mass

6.30pm: Mass

19th to 24th Dec inclusive, Advent Ferias

10.00am: Mass

24th Dec. (Saturday) 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. (Sunday) Christmas Day:

8.30am: Mass
9.45am: Mass
10.00am: [Gunnorsbury] Mass
11.00am: Sung Mass
12.30pm: Mass

No Mass at 6.30pm

26th Dec. St. Stephen, The First Martyr

12 Noon: Guild of St. Stephen Mass

27th Dec. St John, Apostle & Evangelist

10.00am: Mass

28th Dec. The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

10.00am: Mass

29th Dec. St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

10.00am: Mass

30th Dec. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

10.00am: Mass

31st Dec. (Saturday) 7th Day in the Octave of Christmas

10.00am: Mass
6.30pm: Mass
6.30pm [Grove Park] Mass

1st Jan. (Sunday) Mary, Mother of God

8.30am: Mass
9.45am: Mass
10.00am: [Gunnorsbury] Mass
11.00am: Mass (Choir on holiday)
12.15pm: Mass

6.30pm: Mass

2nd Jan. Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

10.00am: Mass

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The Parish office will be closed from 24th December and re-open on Tuesday 3rd January

FOODBANK COLLECTION TODAY – the monthly collection of non-perishable items of food to be left in the box at the back of church today. There is also a cash collection after all Masses.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION 2022/23 IS NOW OPEN - Fr Daniel has now published the application process as well as the teaching session dates from January to the Confirmation Masses 17th June 2023. Please go to the parish website and click on 'Sacraments' and then on 'Confirmation' and 'Form submission' for all details: www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org **The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Sunday 18th December.**

YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL in Chiswick - Following the success of these informal gatherings for Catholics aged 18-35 they will now happen weekly until Christmas. **THIS EVENING Sunday 4th Dec** after the 6:30pm Mass we'll start the evening with a **Young Adults' Q&A Session** with Frs Michael, Daniel, Erasmus and Tomas the seminarian in the St Edward's Room at 7.30pm and afterwards go for a pub trip! New people welcome! Come and meet!

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/>

LEFT IN CHURCH – A carrier bag with keys and items left in the Church. If this belongs to you, please contact the Parish Office.

GUNNORSBURY NOTES

COFFEE MORNING AFTER MASS TODAY

All are invited to join the coffee morning after Mass today which will be held in the Presbytery.

ST JOSEPH'S, GROVE PARK

COMBONI SUPPER LAST SATURDAY – THANK YOU to Paola and her family for hosting the delicious and congenial supper last Saturday raising funds in support of Sr Nives and her projects in Ethiopia. Thank you, too, to all those who supported the event. An amazing £660 was raised which Paola herself raised to £700 which has been sent off to Sr Nives and those she serves for Christmas.

PARISH MEETING / PARISH GIVING – Thank you to those who came to the meeting on the parish's future plans effectively. The generous support already given becomes most effective if given through the Planned Giving Gift Aid Envelopes scheme or Standing Orders which are also Gift Aided. Over £2,000 was claimed back for the parish in 2021 from tax paid. Standing Order forms are available at the back of church or from the Parish Office. Thank you.

SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS DINNER - The annual Christmas dinner for our senior parishioners and neighbours will take place in the Parish Centre on Sun 11th Dec. We have now issued all the tickets but as usual we rely on volunteers to help with the successful running of the day. We need volunteers:

Sunday 11th Dec: 9.00am – 11.00am – setting up

1.00pm – 3.30pm – helping to serve

3.30pm – 5.30pm – helping to serve and tidy up

We also need drivers both before and after the party. This is absolutely essential as many of the guests are unable to travel without transport. Please contact Jackie Knight if you are able to help on 0771 2675020 jmq123@btinternet.com It would be lovely to have some teenagers/young people also volunteering for the event which is always great fun. Also we like to give each guest a small gift, items such as small boxes of sweets, toiletries, or gentlemen's socks are very welcome, and can be handed in at the Parish Office if possible TODAY Sunday as they are being collected for wrapping or as soon as possible thereafter.

CENTERING PRAYER (CP) – The group is convening weekly via Zoom at 7.30pm with the next session Tuesday 6th Dec. Contact: John O'Brien: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

THE MEN'S GROUP - Our next meeting is on Thursday 8th Dec, 8.15 for 8.30pm in the St Edward's Room. Men of all ages are very welcome to join us for a presentation on 'Rerum Novarum and its Challenges' – socio-economic morality and justice from the 1891 encyclical of Pope Leo XIII, followed by drinks at The Lamb. Email Stephen Donnelly at donnellysm@hotmail.com for details, or just turn up. We are affiliated to www.catholicman.uk

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS 2023: To obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP), if your Catholic practice allows for it, pls contact the Parish Office to request a self-assessment form (preferably sent electronically) and an appointment with Fr Michael.

The Late JOHN COLLINS R.I.P. – The funeral of our late parishioner of many years, most recently of Jessop House, is at Mortlake Crematorium on Friday 9th Dec at 10.40am. All welcome.

REPOSITORY – On sale now **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 for cards, gifts and many more items. Due to unforeseen circumstances the Repository will **NOT be open on SUNDAY 11th DEC**. Sorry for any inconvenience this might cause.

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 – 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!

Collections for last weekend:

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

27/11/22 - £4183.00

St Joseph's Grove Park 27/11/22 - £200.85

Thank you for your generosity.