



Our Lady of Grace & St Edward's Chiswick and 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

8th JANUARY 2023

THE BAPTISM 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:

Today's Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord celebrates life; life to the fullest, here and hereafter. As we heard over some of the Christmas Masses, *Preface III of the Nativity* so eloquently expresses this truth:

For through him the holy exchange that restores our life has shone forth today in splendour: when our frailty is assumed by your Word not only does human mortality receive unending honour but by this wondrous union we, too, are made eternal.

Our mortal nature in itself leads only to death but with the Son of God in his divine nature assuming this very mortal nature we, too, may through the Holy Spirit share in his divine nature. Our baptism is our being grafted into this divine nature just as today's Gospel of the Lord's baptism by St John in the River Jordan, is the Lord's wholly identifying with our fallen human nature in need of redemption, though he is without sin. Given our expertise in life, human and divine, it follows then that we Christians are to be apostles of life and defenders of life. "Woe to you if you do not succeed in defending life!" as Pope St John Paul II declared at World Youth Day in Denver USA in 1993.

House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee Inquiry into Assisted Suicide ('Assisted Dying')

The above Committee of the Commons launched this inquiry shortly before Christmas, inviting responses from the public, but without leaving much time for that response, namely by 20th January. I do encourage parishioners, particularly healthcare and legal professionals to respond from their expertise but also all others interested, to look it up online either by entering the full title above into a search engine or following the link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/M66AML/> The online form is just of six questions and the Chair of the Committee, Mr Steve Brine MP, writes that "We want to hear from campaigners, members of the medical profession and members of the public". Following the inquiry and the consideration of the evidence gathered, the MPs will write a report for the Government about prospective next steps. It is these next steps which are the worry given the profound dangers to public safety and the common good which assisted suicide could present. The Church's unflinching determination, of course, is that we can never assist in taking the life of another, even if they request it; that life is sacred from conception to natural death. High quality palliative care is what is required in such situations; assistance in living, not assistance in suicide. Statements of the Bishops' Conference can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/life-issues/assisted-dying/> The Anscombe Centre can also help the response. They have produced a statement and resources about this Inquiry: <https://bioethics.org.uk/news-events/news-from-the-centre/anscombe-centre-statement-on-commons-hsc-committee-inquiry-into-assisted-suicide/>.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sat 7/1 6.30pm 6.30pm	Vigil Mass Grove Park	Mary & Edward Regan Margaret Foley	ANN 6 th ANN
Sun 8/1 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	BAPTISM OF THE LORD Gunnersbury	Louise Suruim Henry Aylett Tom Garrett Tony Goodfellow People of the Parish Daniel O'Leary	ANN RIP ANN RD INT ANN
Mon 9/1 10.00am	FERIA	Sir Thadeus Emenyeonu	RIP
Tue 10/1 10.00am	FERIA	Bridget O'Donnell - Birthday	INT
Wed 11/1 10.00am 12.00 Noon 6.00pm	FERIA Grove Park Comboni Cnvnt	Tom O'Connell Funeral: Desmond Conboy Pat Carey	RD RIP RD
Thur 12/1 10.00am 3.20pm	FERIA Mortlake Crem	Roberto Gonito Funeral: Maurice Batarseh	RD RIP
Fri 13/1 10.00am 6.00pm	FERIA PIME Convent	Anastatia Hickey Mary Davey	ANN RD
Sat 14/1 10.00am 11.00am 5.00pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	FERIA Grove Park	Frank Connor Confession Confession Tom Jennings & Torin Creed Laurie Fabien	RD 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.Wryne, Ted O'Connor, Cecilia Walsgrove, Marion Sutton, Iris Faulkner, Mike O'Farrelly, Elizabeth Mulhall, Pascale Murphy, Claudio Bogi, Gloria Weymouth, Theresa Southern, Constance Redmond, Georgia, Brid, and those suffering.

For those recently deceased: Felicia Agidee, Desmond Conboy, Marie Downes, Maurice Batarseh, James McGeever, Terence Stanley Fernando, Daniel Murnane, Arthur Clancy. May they Rest in Peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Thomas Garrett. May they Rest in Peace.

THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.118

1st Reading: **Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7**

Psalm: **28: 1-4, 9-10**

2nd Reading: **Acts 10:34-38**

Gospel: **Matthew 3:13-17**

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.125

1st Reading: **Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6**

Psalm: **39: 2, 4, 7-10**

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

Gospel: **John 1:29-34**

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'.

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.

FOODBANK COLLECTION TODAY – the monthly collection of non-perishable items of food to be left in the box at the back of church today for families and individuals in crisis, together with a cash collection for those who prefer.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2023 NEXT WEEKEND – The Society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend. SPUC wants a world where abortion is unthinkable, and is raising awareness of the widespread problem of abortion coercion. According to an independent poll, 87% of GPs are concerned that the Government's 'pills by post' scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. SPUC is calling on the Prime Minister to condemn this abhorrent tragedy. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis.

CONVENT MASSES RESUME THIS WEEK – Those who like to attend when possible the 6.00pm Masses on Wednesdays of term time at the Comboni Convent, 2 Chiswick Lane, and/or the 6.00pm Masses on Fridays at the PIME Convent, 10 Chiswick Lane, will be pleased to note that they resume *this* week, 11th and 13th Jan.

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.

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.

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.

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS - To obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice, *if your Catholic practice allows for it*, you should contact the Parish Office 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.

CENTERING PRAYER (CP) – The group is convening weekly via Zoom at 7.30pm with the next session Tuesday 10th January. Contact: John O'Brien: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

THE MEN'S GROUP - Our next meeting is on Thursday 19th January, 8.15 for 8.30pm in the St Edward's Room. Men of all ages are very welcome to join us for a postponed presentation on '*Rerum Novarum and its Challenges*' - socio-economic morality and justice, followed by drinks at The Lamb. Email Stephen Donnelly at donnelysm@hotmail.com for details, or just turn up. We are affiliated to www.catholicman.uk

REPOSITORY – The Repository is open after Sunday morning Masses for cards, gifts and many more items.

CATHOLIC CENTRE CHISWICK – The Parish Centre is now open for all activities and the Lounge Bar has now reopened for its regular hours.

PARISH FUNERALS:

Very sadly, many parish families are suffering the death of a loved one at this time; friends and neighbours are enquiring about funeral arrangements. Let us spiritually accompany the deceased and the bereaved with our prayers, participating in the Lord's assistance - "*Blessed are those who mourn, they shall be comforted*" (Mt 5:5).

Desmond Conboy – 11th Jan 12.00 Noon, Requiem Mass at Grove Park

Maurice Batarseh – 12th Jan 3.20pm Mortlake Crematorium

Daniel Murnane – 17th Jan 6.00pm, Reception into church
18th Jan 11.30am, Requiem Mass

Felicia Agidee – 19th Jan 6.00pm - Service of Song in the Church
20th Jan 12 Noon, Requiem Mass

Marie Downes – 25th Jan 12 Noon, Requiem Mass

Arthur Clancy - 30th Jan 12.30pm, Requiem Mass

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

GROVE PARK NOTES

CHURCH LAVATORY & FLOWER ROOM – This had been 'Out of Order' due to the burst pipe in the house resulting in the house water supply being turned off, but now an 'emergency supply' has been routed to the lavatory and sink in the Flower Room. Unfortunately there is no additional hot water supply but hot water is available in the kitchen off the Parish Room. Sorry for the inconvenience. Let's look forward to the renovation of the house.

PARENTING CHILDREN COURSE - For parents who want to learn more about how to support their children's development and keep a strong and healthy family (of all types) we will be offering again the "Parenting Children Course". The course will run over 5 sessions, on the last Saturday of the month, from January to May, at the Comboni Centre, 2 Chiswick Lane. Babysitting will be offered by certified volunteers. To secure a place for the first session on 28th January, please email Isabel dos Santos Lima or Sister Natalia at combonicouples@gmail.com

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION – Volunteering for CAFOD - the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking people join us in our mission here in the Westminster diocese. Could you volunteer and help us raise awareness in either parishes or schools about our work across the developing world tackling poverty and injustice? Join a volunteer meetings in Lambeth on Sat 21st Jan or Oakwood, North London on Wed 1st Feb. Contact Tony at CAFOD for further details. westminster@cafod.org.uk or 0208 449 6970

A DAY WITH MARY – The next is on Sat 28th Jan, Holy Apostles Church, Winchester St, SW1V from 10am to 5.30pm.

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.

TEA AND COFFEE MORNINGS – The Tuesday post-Mass coffee morning at 10.30am in the St. Edward's Room resumes on Tuesday 10th January and on Friday 13th January in the Parish Centre. All are very welcome!

Collections for last weekend:

OLOG & St Edward's and St Dunstan's Chiswick
1/1/23 - £3802.41

St Joseph's Grove Park 1/1/23 - £194.85

Thank you for your generosity.