



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

9TH JANUARY 2022

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Canon Michael Dunne
Fr Daniel Herrero
Sharon Bowden

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Administrator

Fr Michael writes:

"You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you." At first glance this might seem to us something of a distant or remote thing for the voice of the Father to have said to His Son, given that what was said must surely have already been known by the Son. Clearly it expresses the very intimate relationship between Father and Son and the Father's favouring of the Son, commending Him to all those assembled by the River Jordan for St John the Baptist to baptise them. But of course the truth of the matter is that it wasn't said for Jesus' benefit but for ours. When we reflect on it and in the current context of being still so close to Christmas, we begin to see how this line of the Father's involves *us* so much, invites *us* to so much, *promises us* so much. On the Feast of Christmas in the manger at Bethlehem we see God *choosing human life* for Himself: here is Emmanuel, God-with-us. On this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord we see this truth the other way round: here we humanity, in the person of Jesus, a human being, being *anointed to, chosen for*, the Divine Life, the life of God, *in* God. From God *choosing* humanity at Christmas, now humanity, in whom God by His choice has been made one, the Second Adam after the failure of the first Adam, is here choosing obedience and so *choosing God* and Who indeed is then *anointed* by God confirming the choice both of God and renewed, that is, the new humanity.

Pope Francis developed this much further when speaking of our own baptism at a General Audience: *Baptism is the Sacrament on which our very faith is founded and which grafts us as a living member onto Christ and his Church. It configures us to the Lord and turns us into a living sign of his presence and of his love. Yet a question may stir within us: is Baptism really necessary to live as Christians and follow Jesus? After all, isn't it merely a ritual, a formal act of the Church in order to give a name to the little boy or girl? This question can arise. And on this point what the Apostle Paul writes is illuminating: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom 6:3-4). Therefore, it is not a formality! It is an act that touches the depths of our existence. A baptized child and an unbaptized child are not the same. We, by Baptism, are immersed in that inexhaustible source of life which is the death of Jesus, the greatest act of love in all of history; and thanks to this love we can live a new life, no longer at the mercy of evil, of sin and of death, but in communion with God and with our brothers and sisters. We must reawaken the memory of our Baptism. We are called to live out our Baptism every day as the present reality of our lives.*

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sat 8/1 6.30pm	Vigil Mass	Deceased members of the O'Sullivan Family Mansoure Sfeir	RIP RIP
6.30pm	Grove Park		
Sun 9/1 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	BAPTISM OF THE LORD Gunnersbury	Ciaran O'Brien Charlotte Flynn Kitty Kennedy Veronica Fernandez People of the Parish Daniel O'Leary	SICK RIP RD ANN INT ANN
Mon 10/1 10.00am	Feria	Bridie Tuffy	RD
Tue 11/1 10.00am	Feria	Kenneth Holmes	RD
Wed 12/1 10.00am 6.00pm	Feria Comboni Convent	Thomas Garrett Monica, Michael, Adrian & Bethan	ANN INT
Thur 13/1 10.00am 12.00 Noon	Feria	Sasha Mullen Funeral, Brian John Waldron	INT RIP
Fri 14/1 10.00am 6.00pm	Feria PIME Convent	John Muldoon Bernice Gilburt	RD RD
Sat 15/1 10.00am 6.30p 6.30pm	Feria Grove Park	Azael Ortiz Ospina Tom Furlong Melhem & Family	RD RD RIP

LET US PRAY

For those who are sick: Sandra Bocca, Cecil Pocock, Romeo Monthy, Eulalie Raymond, Mary Garrett, Fr. Eammon Conarty, Celino Duignon, Andy Cronin, Trish Williams, Hugh Caldin, Ben Okoro, Elizabeth Fagundez, Alex Tuffy, Isabelle Ranle, Eileen McGuinness, Mary Innes and all those suffering in the pandemic.

For those recently deceased: Brian John Waldron, John McManus, Bridget Heaney, Ralph French, Melissa Hughes, Paul Myles, Mick Hayes, Patrick Doherty, Nancy Jennings, Sa (Sandra) Wood, Geraldine Brady, Joseph Martial, Marzenna Schejbal, Sheila Peters. May they rest in peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Veronica Fernandez, Daniel O'Leary, Thomas Garrett. May they rest in peace.

THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.120:

1st Reading: **Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**
Psalm: **103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30**
2nd Reading: Titus: **2:11-14; 3:4-7**
Gospel: **Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22**

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.127:

1st Reading: **Isaiah 62: 1-5**
Psalm: 95:1-3, 7-10
2nd Reading: **1 Corinthians 12: 4-11**
Gospel: **John 2: 1-11**

COVID SAFETY IN CHURCH:

- FACE MASKS ON, even when singing, unless exempt
- SOCIAL DISTANCING where possible
- HOUSEHOLD MIXING to a minimum
- HAND SANITIZER / HAND-WASHING
- GET BOOSTERED / VACCINATED
- LATERAL FLOW TEST BEFORE MASS is recommended
- ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID/FLU, please stay home!

FOODBANK COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND - we will have our monthly collection of non-perishable items of food which may be brought and left at the Sacristy door. Cash donations are welcome also in envelopes marked 'Foodbank' through the letterbox. There will be a cash collection after all Masses.

BAPTISM – The next Baptism Preparation Course for those seeking their first baptism for a baby or infant is on 11th and 18th Jan in the church and St Edward's Room. Apply via the Parish Office or the parish website: <http://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY with the Enrolement Mass at 9.45am. Please be in good time!

YOUTH CONFIRMATION BEGINS TODAY, SUNDAY 9th Jan, with an Introductory Talk in church at 5.30pm for APPLICANTS AND PARTENTS/GUARDIANS. Please be in good time!

LAST CALL for ADULT CONFIRMATIONS & RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) or THINKING ABOUT CATHOLICISM? – If you know of anyone who is considering exploring Catholicism or if a Catholic has missed out on any of the sacraments, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the course to follow. Full details are now available on the parish website and from the Parish Office. If possible contact the office to arrange a conversation with Fr Michael; otherwise, simply turn up 15 minutes early for the first meeting which is at **7.00pm Weds 12th January in the St Edward's Room** and the subsequent Weds evenings of the term. The meetings will begin in person but if social distancing or lock down were imposed, we'd move to zoom.

THE SYNODAL PROCESS – With 21st January being the deadline for submission of the parish report to the diocese we are rather constrained in contemplating further synodal opportunities. The last 'new' session, which will be a stand-alone session of one and a half hours comprising all three of the fuller sessions, will be **TODAY Sunday 9th Jan at 4.00pm to 5.30pm, in the**



Parish Centre Lounge Bar. (We may move to the St Edward's Room at the church if the prior booking in the Main Hall is providing a bit much distraction!) Although this session would be aimed at those who have not yet attended any session, those who have attended before are also welcome, other than they should remember they will be looking at the same questions as before. Beyond that, **the final session will be at 4.00pm to 5.30pm Sunday 16th January also in the Parish Centre**, either the Main Hall or the Lounge Bar depending on numbers, which will be aimed at all those who *have participated* in previous sessions, and will be reflecting on the whole parish process and helping to prepare the parish submission to the diocese with any last contributions. Fr Michael and Clare Muldoon, the Parish Synodality Rep, will then write up the submission to be in by 21st January.

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).

Brian John Waldron – 13th Jan 12.00 Noon, Funeral Service

Sandra Wood – 18th Jan 6.00pm, Reception into Church
19th Jan 2.00pm, Requiem Mass

Geraldine Brady – 26th Jan 2.00pm, Requiem Mass

Patrick Doherty – 28th Jan 11.20am, Mortlake Crematorium

Ralph French – 31st Jan 6.00pm, Reception into Church
1st Feb 12.00 Noon, Requiem Mass

John Paul Myles – 4th Feb 10.00am Requiem Mass

Nancy Jennings – 4th Feb 12.30pm Requiem Mass

Mick Hayes – *Time and date to be confirmed*

Joseph Martial – *Time and date to be confirmed*

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

WESTMINSTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST – The Annual Report & Accounts 2020 are available to view at <https://bit.ly/DowAccounts2020> or you can scan the QR code on the poster at the back of the Church.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE - You are invited to place the names of your deceased relatives and friends whom you would like to remember on this last day of Christmas, or any other prayer intention, on the Christmas tree at St Edward's Chapel. Please remember to sanitise your hands before and after using both pens and cards, and/or kneeling in front of the crib. The tree will come down this week but the crib will remain up until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas, Weds 2nd February.

CRIB OFFERINGS - The Crib Offerings as 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.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK – The new Westminster Year Book is on sale from the Parish Office during working hours price £4.50.

GROVE PARK NOTES

CHISWICK & GROVE PARK BRIDGE CLUB – meets every Tuesday at 7.00pm in the Parish Room of St Joseph's Church, 1 Bolton Rd. A friendly group who play duplicate bridge and usually finish around 10.00pm. There's a table fee of £3.00. For info call Phil Tait on 07860575135 or email philliptait@btinternet.com

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS - To obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice, *if your Catholic practice allows for it*, you should contact the Parish Office to request 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* (therefore including before the pandemic) it is likely that it will be impossible for Fr Michael to issue a Certificate.

CENTERING PRAYER (CP) – The group is convening weekly via the Zoom, Mondays at 7.30pm. Next meeting takes place on 10th Jan. Contact John O'Brien: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

THE MEN'S GROUP The next meeting will be on Thursday 20th January, 8.15 for an 8.30pm start, on Zoom, due to current Covid concerns. We will listen to a Fr Larry Richards talk on how to be a Holy Leader of Your Family. Men of all ages are very welcome. Email Stephen Donnelly at donnelysm@hotmail.com for details. We are affiliated to www.catholicman.uk

TEA AND COFFEE MORNINGS – The **Tuesday morning** post-Mass coffee morning at 10.30am in the St Edward's Room resumes this Tuesday as does the **Friday coffee morning** in the Parish Centre at 10.30am. All are very welcome!

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.

FOOT HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CLINIC – In the Catholic Centre, Dukes Ave, for chiropody, reflexology and wellbeing advice. Home visits also. Tel. Gerardine McCaffrey 07957165123.

2022 CALENDARS – We have a surplus of 2022 calendars given to us by the various Funeral Directors which are at the back of the Church to be taken away if wanted, free of any charge or offering.

Collections for last two weekends:

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

26/12/21 – £3207.40

2/1/22 - £3544.32

St. Joseph's Grove Park

26/12/21 - £514.08 (incorporating Christmas collection)

2/1/22 - £172.60