

## SERVICES THIS WEEK – DECEMBER 2024

<b>SUNDAY</b> 22 December	9.00am, 11.00am 6.00pm	Mass	<b>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <i>The 11.00am Mass is livestreamed (see <a href="http://www.ourladyoffatima.org.uk">www.ourladyoffatima.org.uk</a> for link)</i>
<b>MONDAY</b> 23 December	9.15am	Mass	
<b>TUESDAY</b> 24 December	9.15am <b>9.00pm</b>	Mass	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE MASS</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 25 December	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY MASS</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b> 26 December	<b>10.00am</b>	Mass	<b>St Stephen</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b> 27 December	9.15am 6.00pm	Mass	<b>St John</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b> 28 December	9.15am 6.00pm	Mass	<b>The Holy Innocents</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 29 December	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Mass	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</b> <i>The 11.00am Mass is livestreamed</i>

<b>ROSARY</b>	After Morning Masses Monday to Saturday
<b>EXPOSITION/private prayer</b>	<b>Wed: 10–11.50am; Fri: 10.15–11am, 5–6pm; Sat: 10–11am</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>	At the above time of adoration & on request
<b>PRAYER GROUP (in Chapel)</b>	Charismatic Prayer Group - Monday evenings 7pm.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- For peace & reconciliation in all countries at war. Especially, Ukraine/Russia, Israel/Palestine/Lebanon, Sudan, Nigeria, Yemen and other countries in crisis at this time.
- Release for all hostages in Israel & Palestine, and other political prisoners in the world.
- The people of Syria at this momentous time in their history.
- All Christians, and people of faith, being persecuted around the world
- All those affected by famine in Sudan and other parts of the world.
- All who have died recently, including Carmen Delaney, Johanna Cheeseman, Josephine Sweeney, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.
- The sick, the housebound and most needy & vulnerable members of our community. And for all those who care for them.
- Our local school communities as they begin the Christmas break.
- CAFOD, Mary's Meals, Caritas, Friends of the Holy Land, the Catholic Children's Society & all who support those most in need in our society and world today.
- A blessed Christmastide for all our parish community. May this be a time of spiritual renewal and hopefully rest for us all.

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 / No. 3086

## Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church - White City



**Parish Priest: Fr Richard Nesbitt | Assistant Priest: Fr Ephrem Andom**  
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### **The Fourth SUNDAY of ADVENT – Love in Motion**

As we reach the final Sunday of our Advent journey, with Christmas now so close, our attention turns to Mary. In today's Gospel we see Mary's excitement as, immediately after the Angel Gabriel's invitation to her to become the mother of God's own Son, she travels "as quickly as she could" to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who Gabriel has told her is already 6 months pregnant. Filled with the Holy Spirit, already sensing something of the mystery of God's own life growing inside her, Mary's life has now become a mission – to bring Christ to others. Despite all the anxieties she must have had (the reaction of her family, neighbours and her fiancé Joseph to the news of her pregnancy), this is a young woman filled with joy and purpose. She is a living image of 'love in motion'.

When she arrives at Elizabeth's house, after a 3-4 day journey from Nazareth, Mary finds her own joy mirrored in her cousin. This is one of the most moving/joyful moments in the whole Bible – the affectionate embrace of the older woman, pregnant after all hope of ever having a child had gone, and her younger cousin, pregnant in a way she could never have expected. Their meeting is like what happens when a single log smouldering on the fire is put next to another log and suddenly the two catch fire and the flames leap and roar. Elizabeth and Mary are ablaze with joy and gratitude. This same joy is also felt by the baby in Elizabeth's womb – John the Baptist - who leaps for joy at the nearness of Jesus - the Messiah whose coming he is to proclaim. Jesus is the hidden source of all this joy in Elizabeth, Mary and John. In these final days of Advent, may we too open our lives more fully to welcome Jesus this Christmas. He wants to touch and transform our lives, to turn our mourning into dancing, our sorrow into joy. We are simply invited, like Mary, to say 'Yes' to God and give our lives unconditionally into his hands for his service. Come Lord Jesus, come!

**With prayers - Fr Richard, Fr Ephrem & all the parish team**

## IN THE PARISH...

**THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS: 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT** (Pg. 90 Parish Mass book) Micah 5: 2-5a; Psalm 80 Response: **Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.** Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45 *Mary Visits Elizabeth.*

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: THE HOLY FAMILY** (Pg. 105 Parish Mass book) Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128 Response: **Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways.** Colossians 10: 5-10; Luke 2: 41-52 *Jesus is lost and found in the Temple.*

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION: £2,374.19;** Loose: £ 463.38; Planned Giving: £350.40; On-line donations: £1,280.41; Contactless machine: £280.00. It costs over £8,000 a month/ £2,000 a week to cover just the parish's basic running costs. We don't receive money from the diocese/Vatican /Government but rely 100% on your support. Thank you for everything©

**COLLECTION for CHRISTMAS FLOWERS this weekend.** Thank you for any donations to help towards the cost of our Christmas flowers in church.

**On Line Donations Account Name: WRCDT White City Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account No: 31264990.** A regular standing order is a great way to help the parish. Use the parish bank account details above. Add your surname/first name as a reference. Tax payers - gift aid your donation! Email [giftaid@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:giftaid@rcdow.org.uk) with: the name of your parish (White City); your title, first name/surname; address & postcode; date of your gift, or start date of standing order; the amount; please add the line: 'Please gift aid my donations'. Many thanks indeed – this is a HUGE help.

**Please note if you sign up for GIFT AID on the contactless machine, you need to put your FULL NAME for the parish to claim your gift aid – your initials are not enough. If you are an envelope holder, you must use the correct envelopes for each week. We cannot claim gift aid donations in unmarked envelopes.**

### OUR PARISH COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS:

**Saturdays at 1.00pm** in our Parish Centre. Free friendly community lunch run by FoodCycle charity (see [www.foodcycle.org.uk](http://www.foodcycle.org.uk)). Veggie Lunch & take-home bags. A very special community time with friendly faces and delicious freshly cooked food. **On Christmas break until January 4<sup>th</sup>**

**White City Community Food Hub - Mondays** in our parish centre. Doors open: 10.30am & the food is usually distributed from 11.30am. You need to be registered and live in W12 – bring proof of address and ID. **We have a service this Monday, but then a break on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

● **THE THURSDAY CLUB** for our local over 60's residents/parishioners is now on its Christmas break until Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

● **NEW FAMILY CATECHESIS at Our Lady of Fatima...** is our new approach to helping our children & families grow in their faith in the parish. This includes a new way of preparing children for their **First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion.** You can still register & join the group. See Fr R.

● **BIBLE REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT.** A HUGE 'thank you' to Sr Anne who has led our Advent Sunday evening Scripture study group so beautifully during Advent – a real gift for all who have been involved. Last session this Sunday evening (Dec 22) after 7pm in the midweek chapel.

● **CARITAS ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR** – huge thanks to all of you who have already brought in your donations. Please bring them when you can – they are a massive help for our Monday Community Food project.

● **CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS CARDS & GIFTS** on sale in the Parish Repository. Last chance for a Christian Christmas present – calendars, Bibles, candles

● **BAMBINELLI SUNDAY!** This is a beautiful, quite recent Advent tradition instituted by St Pope John Paul II during his papacy. The idea is that on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) children and adults bring their baby Jesus figures from their homes to church to be blessed before they are put in their Christmas Nativity set at home. Fr Richard is a bit disorganised (!) so we will be doing this **this Sunday at the end of Mass!**

● **LOOKING AHEAD: We hope to run 2 new Alpha Courses in the parish** - one on Tuesday evenings & one on Wednesday lunchtimes from the end of January. If you would like to be part of the team, see Fr Richard asap!

● **2025 PARISH PILGRIMAGE to FATIMA, PONTEVEDRA & SANTIAGO de COMPOSTELA.** At last, we can share the details of our main parish pilgrimage for next year. This will mark the centenary of Our Lady to Sr Lucia in Pontevedra, Spain. We will visit Fatima, Pontevedra & Santiago. May 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> (half term week). Guide cost £850 per person – see full pilgrimage plan and registration form at back of church. To ensure cheaper flights, the final deadline for registration/deposit – 20<sup>th</sup> January.

And finally – a HUGE '**thank you**' to all who have helped with the preparations for Christmas here in the parish & all who will help over the coming days. God bless you! Christmas blessings and prayers to all our parishioners & your families. Wishing you all a really blessed, beautiful and **Merry Christmas!!!** Fr Richard & Fr Ephrem©

