

SERVICES THIS WEEK – December 2023

SUNDAY 3 December	9.00am, 11.00am 6.00pm	Mass	1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>The 11.00am Mass is livestreamed (see www.ourladyoffatima.org.uk for link)</i>
MONDAY 4 December	9.15am	Mass	<i>St John Damascene</i>
TUESDAY 5 December	9.15am	Mass	
WEDNESDAY 6 December	7.30am 12noon	Mass Mass	<i>St Nicholas</i>
THURSDAY 7 December	9.15am	Mass	<i>St Ambrose</i>
FRIDAY 8 December	9.15am 6.00pm	Mass	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
SATURDAY 9 December	9.15am 6.00pm	Mass Mass	<i>St Juan Diego</i> <i>First Mass of Sunday</i>
SUNDAY 10 December	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Mass Mass Mass	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>The 11.00am Mass is livestreamed</i>

ROSARY	After Morning Masses Monday to Saturday
EXPOSITION/private prayer	Wed: 10–11am; Fri 10-11am; 5-5.50pm; Sat 9.45-11am
RECONCILIATION	At the above time of adoration & on request
PRAYER GROUPS (in Chapel)	Charismatic Prayer Group - Monday evenings 7pm.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Peace and reconciliation in Israel and Gaza at this time of war, suffering and violence.
- Peace & reconciliation in Ukraine/Russia, Sudan, Afghanistan, South Africa, Nigeria, Iraq, Ethiopia, Yemen, Syria and other countries in crisis at this time.
- Radical and game-changing results from the COP28 Climate Change conference.
- All those affected by extreme climate change weather events around the world..
- All those Christians in Pakistan, India, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, China and other countries who are being persecuted for their faith at this time.
- All those affected by the cost of living crisis in our local community and beyond.
- Gregory Gill, Gladys Bardouille, Anthony Heraghty, Dean-Jean Baptiste, John Dineen and all who have died recently & all whose anniversaries occur at this time.
- The homeless that they may receive the support they need as winter kicks in.
- All refugees and migrants – that they may find a place of sanctuary.
- All those who are preparing for or recovering from surgery, the sick, housebound and most vulnerable members of our parish community.
- The work of CAFOD, Mary's Meals, Caritas and the Catholic Children's Society.
- Our parish community, that this season of Advent may be a time of deep spiritual renewal.

3 December 2023 / No. 3031



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church - White City

Parish Priest: Fr Richard Nesbitt | Assistant Priest: Fr Ephrem Andom
Parish Administrator: Collise Lynch – Mon, Wed & Fri (10am – 3pm)

The Presbytery, Commonwealth Avenue, White City, London, W12 7QR
Tel: 020 8743 8334 | Email: whitecity@rcdow.org.uk | Instagram @olofwc.youth
www.ourladyoffatima.org.uk | Facebook: ourladyoffatimawhitecity

The FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT – A TIME of NEW HOPE

Today we begin our Advent journey – a time of preparing for the coming of Christ. “Come, Lord Jesus” is our Advent prayer. Advent is a wake-up call, as we hear in today's Gospel – “**Stay Awake**” – inviting us to shake out of our routine & staleness and to open our eyes to the great hope which our faith gives us. We look forward to Christ's future coming in glory at the end of time to fulfil all of God's promises and so complete his plan of salvation which was first revealed when Jesus came into the world as a tiny baby 2000 years ago. We also pray in Advent for the grace to be able to recognise how Christ comes into our lives today in so many different ways to comfort, challenge, strengthen and guide us.

At the end of our first reading there is a great image for how we are called to live during Advent (and indeed all our lives!). The prophet Isaiah writes: “**Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.**” Think about that image. If we are really to be clay in God's hands then we need to be supple, moist and open to being formed in a new way. If we are hardened and fixed in our ways, then we cannot change or be transformed. God's hands are gentle and merciful, yet powerful and strong and he wants to do something new in each one of us. He wants to come into our lives in a new way. So Advent is an invitation to us to be open to God, to change, to grow. **God comes to us but we also need to come to him.** When we do this, God can renew us, heal what is broken in us and make us whole again.

Of course Advent is a busy time, with so much to do in preparation for Christmas. But the most important preparation is spiritual. Find a still, quiet time to read the beautiful Advent daily readings, find some daily Advent resources, simply pray “Come, Lord Jesus” at the beginning and end of each day, come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation... Just do something new so that God can do something new in you!

With prayers - Fr Richard, Fr Ephrem, Deacon Robert and all the parish team

IN THE PARISH...

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS: 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Pg 82 Parish Mass book) Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64: 1, 3-8; Psalm 79 Response: **God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.** 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 33-37 **Jesus says: 'Stay awake!'**

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Pg 85 Parish Mass book) Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; Psalm 84 Response: **Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.** 2 Peter 3: 8-14; Mark 1: 1-8 **The beginning of the mission of John the Baptist**

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION: £2234.18; Loose: £377.39; Planned Giving: £426.70; On-line donations: £1137.09 Contactless machine: £293.00. *Just a reminder – it costs approx. £8,000 a month/ £2,000 a week to cover just the parish's basic running costs – we do not receive money from the diocese/Vatican/Government but rely 100% on your support.*

*Many thanks for your donations for the annual collection to support the **Sick and Retired Priests of our diocese.** We raised **£504.80.** Thank you!*

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 the parish. Use the parish bank account details above. Add your surname/first name as a reference. Tax payers can gift aid your donation. Email 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 to the parish.

COST OF LIVING CRISIS - 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). Veggie Lunch & take-home bags. A very special community time with lots of friendly faces and really delicious freshly cooked food. All welcome!

White City Community Food Hub on Mondays in our parish centre. Doors open at 10.30am(ish!) and the food is distributed from 11.30am. You need to be registered and live in W12 – bring proof of address and ID.

The WEDNESDAY WARM WELCOME FAMILY HUB Sports activities for children, plus arts & crafts, and sewing/upcycling for parents. We now have a wonderful baking teacher as well. Simple supper too! 3-6pm in the parish centre. Children must be accompanied by a parent/carer.

THE THURSDAY CLUB for our older parishioners and local residents meets Thursdays 10am – 12noon in the parish centre. Social time, knitting, chair exercises with Carol & much more.

PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH for the over 60's! We have a limited number of spaces available for this special celebration, which will be on Friday 15 December. See Laura/Fr Richard if you would like an invitation.

YOUTH! See our new parish Youth Instagram account @olofwc.youth

2024 CONFIRMATION JOURNEY We plan to begin this year's Confirmation group for Year 10 & above young parishioners from January 2024, but we would like to start working with all candidates asap. Please take and return a registration form asap

ADVENT!

ADVENT CANDLES/CALENDARS are available in the repository.

FAITH SHARING GROUP for ADVENT – given the situation in Israel & Gaza, we will be reflecting together on the Advent Sunday Gospels & reading extracts from Fr Richard's 'Christmas Voices from the Holy Land' book of Poetry/Reflections of Christians living in the Holy Land today. **3 Sundays in Advent – Dec 3rd, 10th & 17th after the Sunday 6pm Mass.** Midweek chapel.

Journey through Advent individually or as a family with **a new series of films on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.** Filmed in the Holy Land with beautiful commentaries and reflections. See: www.therosaryseries.com

Follow **CAFOD's interactive on-line Advent calendar** with daily reflections – see www.cafod.org.uk

CARITAS ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR are still available. Support others in need this Advent. This will help the parish to collect extra donations for the busy winter period for our Community FoodHub. Calendars are **FREE.**

CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL – could you donate a toy for a child (aged 0 -18) from a needy local family? All gifts should be new and please don't wrap them. Final deadline next Sunday!

Sunday 10th December: Parish Christmas Fair. NEXT SUNDAY!!! 12.30 – 2pm in the parish centre – come and enjoy a really special parish celebration. International food, Bethlehem Grotto, crafting/Christmas gift making with Marisol, raffle, activities for children and much, much more. Could you also make/bake/cook some international food to donate to the feast? **RAFFLE TICKETS to buy this weekend after every Mass.** All proceeds from Christmas Fair/Raffle to help fund young parishioners to Lourdes in 2024