

## SERVICES THIS WEEK – December 2025

<b>SUNDAY</b> 7 December	9.00am 11:00am 6.00pm	Mass	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <i>The 11.00am Mass is livestreamed</i>
<b>MONDAY</b> 8 December	9.15am	Mass	<b>The Feast of the Immaculate Conception</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b> 9 December	9.15am	Mass	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10 December	7.30am 12 noon	Mass	
<b>THURSDAY</b> 11 December	9.15am	Mass	
<b>FRIDAY</b> 12 December	9.15am 6.00pm	Mass	
<b>SATURDAY</b> 13 December	9.15am 6.00pm	Mass	<b>St Lucy</b> <i>First Mass of Sunday</i>
<b>SUNDAY</b> 14 December	9.00am 11:00am 6.00pm	Mass	<b>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</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 10-11am, 5-5.50pm; Sat 10-11am</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>	At the above time of adoration & on request
<b>PRAYER GROUPS (in Chapel)</b>	Charismatic Prayer Group - Monday evenings 7pm.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Pope Leo – that his apostolic visits to Turkey and Lebanon may bear rich fruit.
- All those who died and have been affected by the tower block fires in Hong Kong.
- A just and lasting peace for the people of Ukraine.
- Peace and reconciliation in Ukraine/Russia, Israel/Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Myanmar, DRC and all countries/communities living under the shadow of war.
- Release for all political prisoners held unjustly in captivity around the world.
- All Christians, e.g. in Nigeria, and people of faith being persecuted around the world. We pray for the all the children kidnapped in recent days in Nigeria by extremists.
- The repose of the soul of Patricia Cannon, Raymond Ince and all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.
- The homeless, refugees and migrants – that they may find a place of sanctuary.
- All the sick, housebound and most vulnerable members of our parish community.
- Our national and local politicians.
- The work of CAFOD, Mary's Meals, Caritas and the Catholic Children's Society.
- Our Parish Centre Renovation Project which starts this week. Pray for the builders!
- Our parish community – that this Advent may be a time of grace and growth for us.

7 December 2025 / No. 3136



## Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church - White City

**Parish Priest: Fr Richard Nesbitt | Assistant Priest: Fr Ephrem Andom**  
**Parish Administrator: Collise Lynch – Monday & Friday: 10am -3pm**  
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### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – A Time for Building Peace

Last week we lit the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent candle – that fragile flickering flame in the darkness reminding us of God's gift of hope. This week the 2<sup>nd</sup> candle reminds us of his gift of peace. We think of Jesus' words at the Last Supper: "Peace I leave you, my peace I give you. A peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you." (John, 14:27). And we remember that the first words which Jesus spoke to the same disciples in that same upper room after the resurrection were: "Peace be with you." It is a precious gift – a gift we so urgently need in our world today.

The tone is set by our beautiful 1<sup>st</sup> Reading from the prophet Isaiah who gives a vision of a future world where "the wolf shall dwell with the lamb". This makes me think immediately of Sir David Attenborough's latest series called 'Kingdom' currently showing on Sundays on BBC1. It shows the fierce rivalries between four top predators sharing the same Zambian river valley – lions, leopards, hyenas and wild dogs. It is brutal! But Isaiah prophesies a time when the Spirit-filled Messiah – "a shoot from the [seemingly dead] stump of Jesse" – will come to rule with justice, bringing a new era of perfect peace where natural enemies, predators and prey, will co-exist and all creation will know the Lord.

This is a kingdom which we are called to build in the here and now. In today's Gospel John the Baptist tells us the first step needed to build this kingdom. We hear his cry from the desert: "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Repentance means coming back to God, and recognising what we need to leave behind if we are to be truly free and once more walk in God's ways and live in peace. What do you need to leave behind? What robs you of peace in your life? Give this to God. Let us also pray particularly for all political leaders in the world – that they will have the wisdom & humility not to be predators but builders of just & lasting peace – a peace which only Christ can give.

**Advent blessings & prayers, Fr Richard, Fr Ephrem & all the parish team**

## IN THE PARISH...

**THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS: 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT** (Pg 85 in the Parish Mass book) 1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72 Response: **In his days shall justice flourish and great peace for ever.** 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Romans 15: 4-9; Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12 *John the Baptist Prepares the Way*

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT** (Pg 88 in the Parish Mass book) 1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 35:1-6,10; Psalm 146 Response: **Come, Lord, and save us.** 2<sup>nd</sup> reading James 5: 7-10; Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11 *John the Baptist sends some of his disciples with a question for Jesus*

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION: £2,021.08;** Loose Plate: £403.01; Planned Giving: £242.27; On-line donations: £1,082.80; Contactless machine: £293.00. Remember it costs at least £2,000 a week just to cover the basic expenses of running the parish. We do not receive money from the diocese or the Vatican (!), but rely totally on your support.

**SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND COLLECTION** - £601 raised so far. Thank you!

**Online Donations Account Name: WRCDT White City Sort Code: 40-05-20**

**Account No: 31264990.** A regular standing order is a great way to support the parish. Use the parish bank account details above. Add your surname/first name as a reference. Taxpayers can 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 – this is a HUGE help.

Please note: if you sign up for **GIFT AID** on the contactless machine, you must put your FULL NAME for the parish to claim your gift aid - initials are not enough. Envelope holders must use the correct envelopes for each week. We cannot claim gift aid donations for unmarked envelopes with handwritten numbers on.

### OUR PARISH COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS

**Saturdays at 1pm** is our Parish Centre free community lunch run by the FoodCycle charity. Veggie Lunch & take-home bag. This Saturday's lunch is the last before we break until early May for the building project.

**White City Community Food Hub every Monday** in the parish centre. Doors open@10.30am for teas/coffees. Food distributed from 11.15am.

• **The Thursday Club** for our over-60's is going on its Christmas outing next Thursday, which is now fully booked. From January the group will be meeting at St Michael and St George church hall from January 8<sup>th</sup> until early May because of our parish centre building work.

### PARISH CENTRE RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE

- **WONDERFUL NEWS – the diocese has given us the green light to start the project!!!** This was because we have raised 80% of the total budget of £490,000. The diocesan finance board described this as a 'remarkable achievement' by the parish. Amen!!! And the builders begin this Tuesday!
- **Our next big fundraiser is our Parish Christmas Fair, today Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec in the parish centre from 12.30pm.** Many thanks to all who are contributing to this great community event. Lots of fun, food, gifts and community warmth for all ages. Come and have Sunday lunch!

We are honoured once again to be hosting a **CHRISTMAS SERVICE of REMEMBRANCE & THANKSGIVING** organised by Barnes & Sons Funeral Directors, for all who have experienced the death of a loved one this year or before, and for whom Christmas can be a difficult time of the year. **This Wednesday, 6.30pm in the church.** Open to all – a beautiful time of reflection, music and prayer. For more info, call 02087434312.

### ADVENT IDEAS/EVENTS in the parish...

- **CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY GIFT APPEAL** Thank you for your gifts for local families in need. Final deadline for donations – tomorrow, Monday!
  - **ADVENT SCRIPTURE SERIES.** You can still join the '**Advent 2025 Bible Studies' sessions online**, led by Mauro Iannicelli. Wednesdays, 7-8pm, 10 & 17 December. Register beforehand at: [www.comeandsee.org/advent25](http://www.comeandsee.org/advent25)
  - **I HAVE LOVED YOU: ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP** Prepare to welcome Jesus as he comes among us by joining Sr Silvana at 3 Sunday evening sessions, reflecting on Pope Leo's first papal document *Dilexi te* reflecting on God's love & ours for the poor, vulnerable and excluded. Starts 2night Sunday evenings, 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 7pm in the midweek chapel.
- ST JOHN XXIII Primary School Advent & Christmas Carol Service** is on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 5.30pm in the church. A wonderful way to prepare for Christmas – come and be inspired by the beautiful singing of our primary school children and staff. All welcome. And it's free!
- ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE** – there will be a parish reconciliation service before Christmas. Details to be confirmed next weekend. A really important way to prepare for Christmas!

And finally... We are planning our **parish pilgrimages for 2026!** We plan to go to **Medjugorje in the May half-term:** May 25-30. Cost tbc - £750pp. But we need to book flights asap! If you are interested please tell Fr R asap!!!