

Our Lady of Lourdes Wanstead

1st Sunday of Advent (B)

Newsletter – 29th November 2020

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Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming

Dear Parishioners.

STAY AWAKE

Today we begin a new Liturgical Year. It is the year of Mark, Year B. The first thing that comes to mind when we think of Advent is of course the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The Advent liturgy takes a broader perspective and concentrates on the three-fold coming of Jesus. The first historical coming is as a child born of Mary in Bethlehem, his future coming as the son of God at the end of time and thirdly and his sacramental coming in word and sacrament in the Liturgy.

Advent gives the opportunity to see beyond the glitter and glamour of this season and helps us to prepare spiritually for the great feast of the Incarnation. I encourage you to use this time wisely and well to prepare for Christmas. It will be a different Christmas this year but we must do the best we can to make it meaningful and special as we celebrate with family and friends.

"CHRIST COULD BE BORN 1000 TIMES IN BETHLEHAM BUT ALL IN VAIN UNLESS HE IS BORN IN ME".

God Bless you and yours this week and I look forward to seeing you at Sunday Mass.

Fr. Pat.

Fr Adrian Reflects

It seems that situations often cause new words to enter our vocabulary, as we have seen the way that Coronavirus Pandemic has brought us words like lockdown and Zoom (the online video technology). I am sure that we would not use the word lockdown before and if we did not many people would know the meaning! If we spoke about 'zooming' others would think we were travelling somewhere very quickly!

Something similar happened when the Church came into being. As Christians we use words which would have at one time been unfamiliar and which may not be known by people who are not of faith; I am thinking especially of the word sacrament. As far as I know, it isn't used outside of a Christian context. The word itself wasn't used in the Church until the third century: early Christians called sacraments the mysteries or mysterion in Greek. Tertullian, an early Christian writer, arrived in Rome he noticed that Roman soldiers took an oath of allegiance to the emperor and had a seal placed on them - this process was called a sacramentum in Latin. He thought the word should also be used for Christian initiation as in baptism we promise to follow Christ. The modern baptism ceremony includes the priest or deacon saying 'I claim you for Christ' and in confirmation the words, 'be sealed with the Holy Spirit' are said.

We can see how appropriate the word sacrament is and how the oath and seal of the Roman influenced the word progressing into Christian language. Perhaps this week we can reflect on the 'oath' we have made as Christians and how we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit. Sacraments are real encounters with Jesus and help us be faithful in our Christian lives. Can we think of any other words which are unique to Christianity?

Wishing everyone a joyful start to the advent season.

With my prayers

Father Adrian

Pray for the Sick & Housebound

Robert Britt-Hazard, Steve Britt-Hazard, Pat Hetherington, Noreen Cavanagh, Justina Paul, Mary O'Riordan, Anne Silcock, Norma Cohen-Johnson, Olive Flynn, Bridie Connolly, Glafira D'Souza, Violet Ruttlidge, Mary P. Sullivan, Bridie Halligan, Mikey McDonagh and David Cootes.

{If you wish to include the name of a sick and housebound person, please email the parish office}.

RIP Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dr Norma Cohen who died during the week. Also please pray for the repose of the soul of Ellen (Nell) Farrelly. Her body will be received into the church on Wednesday 9th December at 7.30pm and her Funeral Mass will be on Thursday 10th December at 10am. May they Rest in Peace.

Mass Intentions this week

Sunday 29th November	11.30am (Private Mass) Casmiro And Rita Gomes RIP Live Streamed on YouTube http://tiny.cc/OLOLE11
Monday 30th November	8.30am (Private Mass) – Shanthi Francine RIP Church open for private Prayer 9-10am
Tuesday 1st December	8.30am (Private Mass) - John Duncan Francis Leyland RIP Church open for private Prayer 9-10am
Wednesday 2nd December	9am - Marie Francis RIP
Thursday 3rd December	9am – Holy Souls
Friday 4th December	9am - Holy Souls 11am Funeral Mass Susan Darrell RIP
Saturday 5th December	9am – Michael Murray and Patrick Naughton. RIP 6.30pm – People of the Parish
Sunday 6th December	8am - Private Intention 9.30am - Leonarda and Ronilo Rontale RIP and Bernadine Rosita Price. RIP 11.30am – Nora Pinnock RIP Live Streamed at http://tiny.cc/OLOLE11 6.30pm - Michael and Amiela Smolowik RIP

Church Reopening

The Church will reopen for daily mass on **Wednesday 2nd December** at 9am. There will be Masses on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9am and the Church will remain open until 10.am. Weekend Masses next Sunday will be Saturday 6.30 pm and Sunday 8am 9.30am 11.30 am 6.30pm.



Next weekend we will have an additional Sunday Mass at 8am in addition to the normal Sunday masses.

Please remember your face coverings when attending Mass (or private prayer) and to sanitise your hands on your arrival and as you leave the church.



Christmas Mass Times

Now that the government has issued instructions on COVID 19 procedures for the Christmas period, we are able to inform parishioners of the arrangements for Christmas masses.

To ensure you get a place in the church you will need to book your seat(s).

There will be eight Christmas Masses beginning on Christmas Eve 24th December at 2pm; 4pm, 6pm, 8pm and 10pm.

Christmas Day 25th December there will be masses at 7.30am 9.30am 11.30am.

How to Book for Christmas Masses

There will be two ways to book - on line or by telephone.

- If you are booking online go to the parish website and follow the instructions.
- If you are booking by telephone call the designated phone number during the allocated times which will be published next week.

The telephone number will be published in next week's newsletter. It is not the parish number. Please do not call the parish office number to book.

Please book for one mass only.

You may book one place or several places for family and friends. Once booked you cannot change.

The website for booking will go live next Sunday 8th December. Telephone bookings will go live on Monday.

Christmas Posters

When you come to mass next Sunday pick up a Christmas poster and place it in the front window of your home, it is a good reminder to everyone passing that we are preparing for Christmas.

Diocesan Yearbook 2021

Copies of the Diocesan directory for 2021 will be available in in the repository next weekend.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols' concern regarding overseas aid reduction

Cardinal Nichols wrote to all MPs expressing his concerns about UK spending cuts on overseas aid. In his letter he calls on all parties to not step back from our responsibilities to the world's most vulnerable people in these trying times. He also highlights the impact this will have on tragedies such as forced mass migration and human trafficking.

Letter of Cardinal Vincent Nichols;

Dear Friend,

I am writing to express my concern at plans to reduce UK spending on overseas aid from 0.7% of gross national income to 0.5%. In today's figures that amounts to a cut of around £4 billion in spending on help to the world's poorest people.

A clear measure of a nation's greatness is the manner in which it responds to the needs of its poorest. The same is true for the response to poverty between nations. If we truly wish to be a great nation, then cutting the overseas aid budget is a retrograde step. The great tragedies of forced mass migration and human trafficking must be tackled at their source. Carefully targeted and well managed overseas aid programmes are an essential part of this effort. In the face of these catastrophes, this is no time to reduce the UK's contribution or effort.

As Pope Francis said recently, 'Poverty, decadence and suffering in one part of the earth are a silent breeding ground for problems that will end up affecting the entire planet. If we are troubled by the extinction of certain species, we should be all the more troubled that in some parts of our world individuals or peoples are prevented from developing their potential and beauty by poverty or other structural limitations. In the end, this will impoverish us all¹.

Promises were made by all parties on aid spending at the last election. In these extraordinarily difficult times, we should not now step back from our responsibilities to the world's most vulnerable people, especially as combatting the spread of COVID-19 will necessarily mean richer countries supporting poorer ones in purchasing vaccines for their people and helping to roll out mass vaccination programmes. Combatting COVID-19 is an international endeavour and we cannot neglect those countries that benefit from our aid. I hope that compassionate and wise counsel will prevail.

I realise the pressures which those holding elected office face in these times. Thank you for what you do and you remain in my prayers.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Archbishop of Westminster

¹ Pope Francis Fratelli Tutti (2020, para 137)

Vacancies

Trinity Catholic High School has the following vacancies.

- Careers Leader
- Attendance Officer
- Clerical Assistant

More information can be found at <https://www.tchs.org.uk/about-us/employment/>

Trinity Catholic High School is committed to safeguarding children; successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.



The parish is on Facebook & Twitter **@OLOLE11** and on Instagram at **@LOL_E11** please follow or like these pages and ask your family and fellow parishioners to do the same.

These sites, along with the parish website <http://www.ourladyoflourdeswanstead.com/> will be updated regularly during lockdown as a key method for us to communicate key information and announcements to parishioners. Sunday Mass is live streamed on our YouTube channel every Sunday at 11.30 <http://tiny.cc/OLOLE11> - please subscribe today.

Parish Finances

Contributions to the parish can be made via a page on the Brentwood Diocesan website at: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=wanstead> or by scanning our QR code with your smartphone and selecting "General Offertory".



You can, if you prefer, make a account using online banking. Wanstead Parish as a payee on your online banking app or internet page.

payment directly into the parish bank You will need to set up the OLOL

The Parish Bank details are as follows:

Account Name:	<i>Catholic Church Wanstead Our Lady of Lourdes</i>
Sort Code:	40-13-22
Account number:	71018973

Alternatively, you can deliver your offertory envelopes though the presbytery letterbox with cheques made payable to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Wanstead.

Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time.