

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**Saturday 24th December ~ Christmas Eve**

9am Mass  
5pm Family Mass (First Mass of Christmas)  
7pm Vigil Mass  
9.30pm CAROLS  
10pm Mass during the Night

**Sunday 25th December ~ Christmas Day**

9.30am Mass  
11.30am Mass  
(No Evening Mass on Christmas Day)

**Monday 26th December ~ Feast of St Stephen**

10am Mass

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Website: [www.ourladyoflourdeswanstead.com](http://www.ourladyoflourdeswanstead.com)

Priest in Charge - Fr Adrian Lowe

Pastoral Assistants - Carmel Docherty, Frank Adesegha

Parish Secretary – Eileen Crotty

Chair of Parish Council - Fiona Christison

OLOL Site Manager - Bernie Dando

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**2022**



*"Today, a Saviour has been born to you"*

Dear Friends,

I hear many people saying, 'here we are at another Christmas,' or 'is it really Christmas already? Where did the year go?' We can get used to Christmas over the years and it can seem like the same routine every year - shopping, arranging for our visitors to come and perhaps a little stress and anxiety about getting things done and being ready.

We shouldn't be surprised that Christmas always has the same kind of build up; the same kind of feel to it. We are, after all, celebrating the same great event in history every year, that Jesus Christ, the Word of God, became flesh and dwelt among us. We prepare special food each year to commemorate this, we come together in families and communities to celebrate the birth of Jesus and we give each other presents to mark this special event.

It was not always like this - the first Christmas celebration is recorded as being in Rome in the year 336 on 25th December, it took three hundred years to reach an agreed date for this special feast. Perhaps we can get over our sense of how ordinary Christmas has become by thinking about the excitement of those first Christmas celebrations. Christians were unsure of the date of Christ's birth and having the celebration fixed on a particular day must have brought about a sense of great joy and a feeling that the Church was celebrating together. When we celebrate Christmas we are never alone, nor do we celebrate only in our own circles of families and friends, but rather we are celebrating with others right through time and space - a massive party that transcends cultures, race and language.

When we celebrate as a Church, we not only feast together; we also pray together. Christmas is a wonderful opportunity for us to enrich our pray lives and spend some time remembering more people in need, more situations that need our prayer and know that our prayers this Christmas are always heard and answered by God in some way. That's certainly a reason to celebrate!

Wishing you all a very happy and Holy Christmastide.

with my prayers

Father Adrian

## DIOCESAN NEWS/VACANCIES

### THE CHRISTMAS GOSPELS

From 17<sup>th</sup> December we read the stories of Christmas from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke at Mass. Fr Adrian Graffy has prepared a three-part video recording on these 'Christmas Gospels'. Simply visit [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) and go to 'Faith Talks'.

### CHRISTMAS READINGS FROM THE LECTIONARY

The season of Christmas begins on Christmas Day and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on 8<sup>th</sup> January. Text and commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy on all the readings for Mass is now available free of charge on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Go to 'Scripture Readings'.

### MISIO RED BOXES /2023 CALENDAR

Missio would like to thank all our Red Box supporters this year. Your support has been a lifeline for missionary Priests and Sisters, enabling them to come to the aid of our global family in some of the most troubled parts of the world. There are boxes in the foyer, together with the Missio 2023 calendar for you to take.

### Job opportunity: Walsingham House at Abbotswick Site Manager

Walsingham House are looking for someone who has a passion for caring for and supporting others to care for their beautiful site in the heart of the Brentwood countryside. The role involves helping to maintain the House and grounds throughout the year. Hours are 9 per week, 4 of which being worked on a Tuesday. For more information and how to apply, please see <https://bcys.net/job-vacancy-site-manager-for-walsingham-house-at-abbotswick/> Closing date is 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

### TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL - VACANCY

Teacher of Psychology & Sociology - Part time 2 days per week  
Please visit school website for further information



***WELCOME** - We welcome into the family of God, through baptism, Thiago Khalil Ikenenna Ogbonna Isoka and Juvée Mayara Urenna Olachi Isoka.*

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Saturday 31st Dec 6.30pm - Mary Reynolds, Maria Gunayon.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Sunday 1st Jan 9.30am - Augusta-Mary Joseph, Seema Barah.  
 11.30am - Richard Smolowik, Esther Murphy.  
 6.30pm - Michaela Mouquet, Linda Gerrish.

Saturday 7th Jan 6.30pm - Tina Luckie, Simon Nicholson.  
 Sunday 8th Jan 9.30am - Bill Meenaghan, Jacqui Masayi.  
 11.30am - Maureen Greensmith, Joan Stears.  
 6.30pm - Anne Heeney, Gerard Heeney.

**READERS**

Saturday 31st Dec 9.00am - Crispin Acton  
 6.30pm - Veronica Castillo-Guevara, Jean Bermudez.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Sunday 1st Jan 9.30am - Sarah Robin, Jane Herald.  
 11.30am - Audrey Castelino, Michael Smith.  
 6.30pm - Ann Wells, Sr Helen.

Saturday 7th Jan 9.00am - Crispin Acton  
 6.30pm - Gwen Hindley, Pearl Sebastian.

Sunday 8th Jan 9.30am - Sarah Robin, Jennie Gumbrell.  
 11.30am - Sylma Laviniere, Julius Nkafu.  
 6.30pm - Philippe Freund, Linda Houghton.

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December (Boxing Day) is the feast of St Stephen, Patron Saint of Altar Servers and all servers are welcome to serve at the 10am Mass on that day.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS**

The Offerings given at all Christmas Masses are traditionally the personal gift of parishioners to their priest. Please Gift Aid donations. Thank you.

There will be a collection on Monday 26th December (Boxing Day) for the Poor of the Parish. Please Gift Aid donations. Thank you.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

***Robert Britt-Hazard, Steve Britt-Hazard, Justina Paul, Ann Silcock, Bridie Connolly, Glafira D'Souza, Mikey McDonagh, Sandra Samler, Jane O'Halloran, Caroline Sarpong, Thelma, Lanre Falano, Vivian Bazuaye, Julia Shearman, Grace Harding, Edward Burns, Gerald Clarke, Nenad (Len) Ivanovic, Sister Marian, Patricia (Pat) Hallahan, Pat Flannery, Tony Loffhagen, Danny John-Baptiste, Leanne de Silva, Margaret Davies, Eva Acton, Tara Fallon. (If you wish to include the name of someone for prayers, please contact the parish office)***

**The Presbytery will be closed over the Christmas and New Year period and will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 10am.**

The Funeral Mass of Lorraine Campling will take place at 11am on Wednesday 4th January 2023. May she Rest in Peace.

**NEWSLETTER**

This week's newsletter will be the last until 7/8<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Please keep it for reference purposes.

**WEEKDAY/SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**

Sunday 25th December  
 9.30am MASS - Sammon and O'Toole families (Living and dead)  
 11.30am MASS - Joseph and Dorothy Briffa RIP  
**(NO EVENING MASS)**

Monday 26th December  
 10.00am MASS - Maria Keen RIP  
 ST STEPHEN

Tuesday 27th December  
 9.30am MASS - The Lock Family (Living and Dead)  
 ST JOHN

Wednesday 28th December  
 9.30am **FUNERAL MASS - Edgar De Sousa**  
 THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Thursday 29th December  
 9.30am MASS - James Howard RIP  
 ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Friday 30th December  
 9.30am MASS - Kay Dimony RIP  
 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Saturday 31st December  
 9.30am MASS - James Kane RIP  
 6.30pm MASS - Aongus and Geraldine O' Carroll and Family members (Living and Dead)  
 SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday 1st January  
 9.30am MASS - Maria Falco-Smith RIP  
 11.30am MASS - Lilian Peace RIP  
 6.30pm MASS - Michael and Aniela Smolowik  
 MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

**WEEKDAY/SUNDAY MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**

Monday 2nd January  
 9.00am MASS - Margaret and Thomas Luckie RIP  
 SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN

Wednesday 3rd January  
 9.00am MASS - Benjamin Onwumezie RIP  
 FERIA OF CHRISTMASTIDE

Wednesday 4th January  
 9.00am MASS - Joseph Devine RIP  
**11.00am FUNERAL MASS - Lorraine Campling RIP**  
 FERIA OF CHRISTMASTIDE

Thursday 5th January  
 8.30am MASS - Mary and Charlie O'Rawe RIP  
 FERIA OF CHRISTMASTIDE

Friday 6th January  
 9.00am MASS - Danny Daniels RIP  
**12.00pm FUNERAL SERVICE - Amanda Farrell RIP**  
 8.00pm MASS - Joseph Henry RIP  
 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

Saturday 7th January  
 9.00am MASS - Mary Toher RIP  
 6.30pm MASS - People of Parish  
 FERIA OF CHRISTMASTIDE

Sunday 8th January  
 9.30am MASS - Mary & John Kiely RIP  
 11.30am MASS - Timothy J Murphy RIP  
 MASS - Edward Joseph Raynor RIP  
 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD