

This week at St Lawrence's



15th/16th December 2012



Third Sunday of Advent
(Missal Page 87 – YEAR C)
Eucharistic Prayer III (Page 27)

Zephaniah 3:14-18; Psalm Isaiah 12; Philipians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18
4th Sunday of Advent (Missal Page 90): Micah 5:1-4; Psalm 79; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Dear Friends

What would most give you joy this Christmas? *Maybe it would be good or better health, maybe a little more wealth, maybe the happiness of my children and family, maybe the prospect of a job, maybe a special gift, maybe the birth of a new baby, maybe the ending of an argument, maybe peace of mind – at last.*

This weekend we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a day that reminds us to “Rejoice”. Our faith always takes us deeper and lifts us higher, helps us to find the joy in living, the reason for rejoicing. Above all it gives us an experience of the joy of being loved unconditionally and unreservedly by a God who in Jesus came- and comes – to share our life.

My prayer for each of you as Christmas comes near is that you will know afresh the sheer joy and exhilaration of receiving the gift of Jesus again. There is no greater thing.

God bless you always.

Fr Chris

Sunday Mass Times

Saturday 6 pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - Saturday 11am & 5pm

Contact us:

9 The Green, Feltham, TW13 4AF
www.saintlawrences.org.uk

Fr Chris Vipers

Sister Katherine O'Reilly

Catechetical Co-ordinator: Bridget Brinkley

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes (Office Opening Hours: 9am to 1pm)

020 8890 2367

feltham@rcdow.org.uk

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SERVICES

Masses at St Lawrence's over Christmas will be as follows:

Christmas Eve Monday 24 December: 9.30am, 6pm (Children's Mass) & 11pm
Christmas Day Tuesday 25 December: 9.00am & 11.00am, 1.00pm (Polish Mass)
(No evening Mass)

Normal schedule Wednesday 26th December to Sunday 30th December

New Year's Eve Monday 31st December: 9.30am, 10pm (African Community)

New Year's Day Tuesday 1st January: 9.30am

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

For the 6pm Family Mass on Christmas Eve all children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity – angel, shepherd, wise man, even an ox, ass or sheep! Please could children also prepare a birthday card for Jesus and bring it with them to the Family Mass. They will be asked to place it by the crib during the Offertory.

CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT MASS OR CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

We are pleased to welcome Bishop Alan Hopes who will be celebrating our Midnight Mass this year.

If you would like a lift to and from the Church for the Midnight Mass which will start at 11pm (Carols at 10.30pm) or the 9am, 11am on Christmas Day, please leave your name, address and phone number at the Parish Office. We also need drivers for this. If you could offer a place in your car to someone who would not otherwise be able to get to Church at Christmas please let us have your name and number and an indication of how many places you can offer.

POLISH MASS AND CONFESSIONS

Confessions (Spowiedz) in Polish will take place on Saturday 22nd December from 3.00 to 5.00pm.

On Sunday 23rd December, Confessions (Spowiedz) will take place at 12.30 followed by Mass (Msze) at 1.00pm.

On Christmas Day Mass will be celebrated at 1.00pm.

AFRICAN MASS

A special Mass led by the African Community will take place on Monday 31st December at 10pm.

SACRAMENTS

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2013 (YEAR 9 AND ABOVE) NOT ADULT CONFIRMATION

If you have registered to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2013 and have not already written to Fr. Chris requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation please do so before **Wednesday 19th December**. Preparation sessions begin on the 10th January 2013 at 7pm in St. Lawrence's School Hall.

PARISH NOTICES

ADVENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

This year, let us be ADVENT people, - people who wait, like Mary, with great longing for the coming of the Child. The readings at Mass will help us to “prepare the way of the Lord.”

Come along and join Sr. Katherine on Mondays during Advent at 10am (after Mass) in the Presbytery for a time of prayer and reflection.

SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY

The Parish's annual Senior Citizen's "Christmas" Party will take place on Sunday 12th January from 12noon to 4pm. Please put your name down on the lists in the porch if you would like to come or if you can help. Details from Philomena Franklin

UCM

The annual Christmas Party for UCM members will be on Monday 17th December at 7.30pm. Please bring membership fees if not already paid.

THE FELTHAM PASSION

Next March, just before Holy Week, we are joining with local churches to present **The Feltham Passion**. Recruitment for this starts right now, and we are looking for people to take part in the following ways: *soloists, actors, dancers, readers, stage management, technicians and costume makers*. Full details are available in the Church porch, and you are asked to return your form to the presbytery by 23rd December. You won't regret it!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to two of our oldest parishioners who celebrate their birthdays at this time. Nora Sermon celebrates her 96th birthday on 16th December and Christina Power will celebrate her 98th birthday on the 19th December. Many happy returns!

We offer our warmest congratulations to Carlos Pina and Jessica Burke who celebrate the sacrament of marriage during the week.

OTHER

CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROL SINGING

Churches Together will be Carol Singing at Asda on Monday 17th December from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. Come and join in.

LIFE – MINCE PIE AND CAKE SALE – THANK YOU

An amazing sum of £425 was raised in support of LIFE. A huge thank you to all who supported the event and to those who helped.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

2013

January

Saturday 12th – 12noon – Thanksgiving Mass for the Sacrament of Baptism

Sunday 13th – Senior Citizen's Christmas Party

February

Wednesday 13th – ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent Course – A School of Prayer – a four week journey of discovery

Saturday 16th – Lent Day of Prayer in Church

SCHOOL FORM SIGNING

Fr Chris will be available at the following times for St Lawrence's School Reception Class 2013 Admissions: Please come with your child and wait in the Church.

Thursdays: December 20th, January 3rd – 3.45pm-4.45pm

Saturdays: December 22nd, January 5th, 12th – 9.30am-10.30am

REST IN PEACE

It is with sadness that we learnt of the deaths this week of **Michael McEvoy RIP** and **Grace Netto RIP**. Please pray for the happy repose of their souls and keep their families in your prayers at this time. Funeral details will be announced shortly.

Mass intentions and other services this week:

Saturday 15th Advent Feria	09.30 10.30 12.00 12.30 14.30 17.00 18.00	ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER: 9.30am - 2.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Christian and Megan D'Souza (Intention) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation Benediction Sacrament of Reconciliation Harry & Philomena Booker RIP
+ Sunday 16th Third Sunday of Advent	09.00 11.00 15.00 18.00	Mary D'Souza in Thanksgiving People of the Parish Carol Service of Remembrance (Lodge Brothers) Thomas Diaper RIP
Monday 17th Advent Feria	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Kitty Briant RIP
Tuesday 18th Advent Feria	09.15 09.30 10.00	Morning Prayer Jean & Alex Thomas RIP Novena to Our Lady
Wednesday 19th Advent Feria	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Bertha, John & Michael McDonagh RIP
Thursday 20th Advent Feria	09.30	No Morning Prayer Matthew Rodrigues RIP (with School – Gift Mass)
Friday 21st Advent Feria	09.15 09.30 14.00	Morning Prayer Ray Palmer RIP Wedding of Carlos Pina and Jessica Burke
Saturday 22nd Advent Feria	11.00 11.00 11.45 12.00 14.00 15.00 17.00 18.00	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Benediction Bridie Kearns (Intention) Wedding of Wilfred Umenyo and Mary Nnaji Sacrament of Reconciliation in Polish (Spowiedz) Sacrament of Reconciliation Maria Isabel Figueiredo RIP
+ Sunday 23rd Fourth Sunday of Advent	09.00 11.00 12.30 13.00 18.00	Faustina Mendoza in Thanksgiving People of the Parish Sacrament of Reconciliation in Polish (Spowiedz) Mass in Polish (Msze) Mary & John D'Souza RIP

Sanctuary Lamp: Emmanuela Danladi (Intention)

Thank you for your generosity in last week's Offertory Collection:

Envelopes £ 924.64, Loose £740.92, Standing Orders £265 Total: £1930.56
Crisis at Christmas Appeal - £393.82

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