

ST LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH FELTHAM

9 The Green, Feltham, TW13 4AF

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)



0208 890 2367

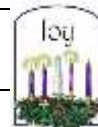
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web: www.saintlawrences.org.uk

alternative web: parish.rcdow.org.uk/feltham/

16th/17th December 2023

Year B, Volume 1 (Page 87): Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; Luke 1; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
Sunday 24 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent (Page 90): 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16, Psalm 88, Romans 16:25-27;
Luke 1:26-37



Parish Team

Parish Priest:

Fr John Byrne

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Assistant Parish Priest:

Fr David Cherry

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Deacons:

Rev Colin Macken

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Catechetical Co-ordinator:

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Parish Secretary:

Florie Fernandes

Contact details as at top of page

Parish Office Hours: Monday 9.15am-12.15pm;

Tuesday & Thursday 9.15am-5.15pm.

Safeguarding Officer:

Helen Abiegbé

Email: felthamsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Sisters:

Sr Nora Gorman, Sr Monica Killeen

Protecting your Privacy:

In compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which became effective in May 2018, the Parish requires your permission to hold your data for Parish/Diocesan use. You can read our full privacy policy on

www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy

Fairtrade.org.uk



Mass and other liturgies live streamed from Westminster Cathedral and other parishes are available at www.churchservices.tv

MASS TIMES

Sunday Mass: 8.00am, 9.30am and 11.00am

Monday to Friday Mass: 9.30am; Saturday Morning: 11.00am

Saturday Morning: Confessions: 9.30am to 10.45am with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,

Saturday Evening: 5.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday

Ethnic Chaplaincies: Polish Mass every Sunday 1.00pm, Ukrainian Mass 2nd Sunday 2.30pm & 4th Saturday 7.00pm; Malayalam Mass 3rd Sunday 2.30pm; Mass in Tagalog 4th Saturday 3pm; Mass led by Nigerian Chaplaincy 4th Sunday 2.30pm.

This Parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (WRCDT) Registered Charity No: 233699

Reflection on John 1:6-8,19-28

When we meet John in this Gospel, we immediately see it is not by happenstance that he will play out his role as the first one to identify Jesus as the Son of God: "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John" (1:6). God has chosen John and commissioned his role as a witness to Jesus.

John's witness transcends throughout all of the time as he bears witness to the light that has come into a darkened world: "John came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (1:7-9). John's role as a witness and Jesus's role as light are inseparable.

When asked about his identity, John identifies himself as the prophetic voice of one such as the figure of Isaiah whose role in the sixth century before Christ announced the return of God's people from their years of captivity in Babylon: "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord".

John the Baptist was a man who was clear on who he was not and who he was. He is certain about who Jesus is, which enabled him to point others clearly to Jesus as the one and only saviour whom they desperately needed. We need to be clear on who we are in God's kingdom so that we can effectively point others to Jesus for salvation.

On this third Sunday of Advent, we have a unique opportunity to identify the role that all persons of faith are called to by God. Each one of us who has heard the words of this Gospel have seen the importance of John's witness to Jesus. Like John, God commissions us to bear witness to the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the one who has come in the flesh, the one who is here with us, and the one who will come again in his reign as Lord of all.

In this, there is no greater witness to the truth of God's work of salvation.

Have a blessed week.

Deacon Rolly

FAREWELL TO FR DAVID

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has appointed Fr David as Parish Priest for Hemel Hempstead West from the 12th January. We shall say farewell to him on **Sunday, 7th January after the 11am Mass** in the Parish Centre. Bring a plate to share (sweet or savoury – finger food only). There are envelopes at the back of Church for your gift to him. There is also a card in the repository for you to sign.

We thank Fr David for his time here, albeit brief but has achieved a lot and helped with various programmes and projects in the Church, school, presbytery, hospital and prison not forgetting visiting the sick and housebound.

WELCOME TO FR PETER EGBOO

The Cardinal has appointed Fr Peter Egboo as Assistant Priest here at St Lawrence's from 8th January 2024. Fr Peter was formerly a Nigerian Chaplain, on loan from the Archdiocese of Onitsha.

Fr Peter is no stranger to St Lawrence's having served the Nigerian community at the monthly Masses and we look forward to welcoming him into our parish.



SERVICES AT ST LAWRENCE'S AT CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR



Saturday 23 December

9.30-10.45am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions and Benediction
11.00am – Mass, Confessions 11.30am-12.30pm
3.00pm Mass in Tagalog
4.00-4.45pm Confessions
5.00pm – Vigil Mass for Sunday

Sunday 24 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mass - 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 1.00pm (Polish)



Christmas Eve

Mass - 6.00pm, 8.00pm and 10.00pm (Carols at 9.30pm)

Monday 25 December - Christmas Day

Mass - 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 1.00pm (Polish), 3.00pm Ukrainian
No evening Mass

Tuesday 26 December – St Stephen

Mass - 10.00am, 1pm (Polish)

Wednesday 27 December – St John, Thursday 28 – The Holy Innocents;
Friday 29th December – St Thomas Beckett;

Mass - 10.00am

Saturday 30 December – 6th Day in the Octave of Christmas

9.30-10.45am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
Mass – 11.00am,
Vigil Mass for Sunday - 5.00pm

Sunday 31 December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

There will be a retiring collection for the Holy Land at all Masses today

Mass - 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am and 1.00pm (Polish)

Vigil led by the Nigerian Chaplaincy - 10.30pm-Midnight

Monday 1 January - New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Mass - 9.30am, 11.00am and 1.00pm (Polish)



Tuesday 2 January – Saturday 6th January

Normal weekday timetable



Sunday 7 January – The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass - 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 1.00pm (Polish), 3.00pm Ukrainian

Mass will be livestreamed in the Parish Centre on Sundays in Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day through to the Feast of the Epiphany.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

There will be a retiring collection at the end of this week's Masses for flowers and decorations for the Church if you did not get a chance to give last week.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

For the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass all children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity – an angel, shepherd, wise men, even an ox, donkey 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. This Mass is primarily for families and children.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Welcomers and Stewards – please put your name on the appropriate lists, available in the Sacristy for the Mass you are planning on attending, especially the Vigil Mass at 8.00pm.

CHRISTMAS CRIB APPEAL

Our Christmas Crib Appeal is for the Catholic Children's Society.

APPEAL FOR THE HOLY LAND

A collection will be taken on **Sunday 30th December** and will remain open until 7th January.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you do not have a Planned Giving envelope but would like to make a Christmas Offering, please take a "Christmas Offering" envelope available in the porch.

ADVENT IN ST LAWRENCE'S

Please note **NO** Flowers in Church during Advent.

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 9.25am.

There will be no Mass at 8.15am on Monday mornings or 7pm on Tuesday evenings until further notice.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 16	11.00am 5.00pm	Catherine Ojideh in Thanksgiving Felicio Eleuterio Mendes RIP (1 st Anniversary)
✕ Sun 17	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 1.00pm 2.30pm	Cedric Harris RIP (1 st Anniversary) and Lucille & Edward Gomes RIP Mary D'Souza in Thanksgiving Ofelia Petate RIP (Anniversary) Mass in Polish (Msza sw) Mass in Malayalam
Mon 18	9.30am	Rosa Da Silva Alves RIP (Birthday Remembrance)
Tues 19	9.30am	Faustina Mendoza – Birthday Thanksgiving
Wed 20	9.30am	Matthew Rodrigues RIP (Anniversary)
Thurs 21	9.30am	Carlita Martin RIP (Anniversary)
Fri 22	9.30am	Katherine Soares RIP (Anniversary)
Sat 23	11.00am 3.00pm 5.00pm	Joe Fernandes RIP Mass in Tagalog Deceased members of the Fernandes Family RIP
✕ Sun 24	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 1.00pm 6.00pm 8.00pm 9.30pm 10.00pm	Deceased members of the McGillcuddy Family RIP Eamon O'Brien RIP Three deceased babies of Monika RIP Mass in Polish (Msza sw) Christmas Eve Family Mass Vigil Mass Carols Mass in the Night
Sanctuary Lamp: Bishop Themudo RIP		

SACRAMENTS

WALK WITH JESUS (SUNDAY SCHOOL)

The next session will be on **Sunday 17th December** at 10.30am.
You can still register if you attend a non-Catholic School and are in Year 2 or above. Please email Cathy Early, details overleaf.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE PROCEEDS TOWARDS PURCHASE OF DEFIBRILLATORS FOR THE CHURCH AND PARISH CENTRE

The Draw takes place today **17th December** after the 11am Mass.

There is still time to buy tickets if you haven't already done so

Tickets: £1 per strip or 6 strips for £5.00.

Many thanks in advance for your generous support

We have raised **£972.17** so far

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

St. Lawrence Charismatic Prayer Group inviting all our Parishioners for their monthly Charismatic Prayer Meeting & Christmas Celebration on **Saturday 16 December from 6.15 pm to 8pm** in the Parish Centre. Come and experience God's Love & Mercy!

CARITAS ADVENT CALENDAR:

Your donations are due today 17th December. Thank you all for your generosity so far. Donations will be given to the St Lawrence Foodbank hub and to Riverside Vineyard Storehouse. Thank you.

REPOSITORY

We have Advent Calendars, Christmas Cards, 2024 religious calendars, gift wallets and a few gifts available in the Repository.

CAR PARKING

The Church car park is for use for those who have a disabled badge or employees or contractors. For anyone else it's a drop off point. Parking is available elsewhere – Tesco's, Feltham Leisure West or on Sundays in the School car park or side roads. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON CHURCH PREMISES ANY DAY OF THE WEEK.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

9th/10th December: Loose: £1,012.16 Envelopes: £205.00

Total: £1,217.16

Standing order and online donations November: £5,953.80

<https://portal.myдона.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=262>

HSBC Bank: WRCDT Feltham Sort code: **40-05-20** – Acc. No: **71095528**

Please add your Surname and First Name as a reference, to help our bookkeeper also if it's a Donation, Baptism, etc.

