



ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH

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Fr Albert Ofere

1st Sunday of Advent

27th November 2022

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for December: For volunteer not-for-profit organisations - We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Sun 27th	(Sat) 6 p.m. 9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6 p.m.	L Travasso R.I.P. B & E Lawrence Int; T Gaughan Int T Reece; P D Dias R.I.P.; J Braganca R.I.P.; P Uwechue; D Dwomah People of the Parish	
Mon 28th	Advent Feria	Holy Souls; M & M McNicholas R.I.P.; J O'Connor R.I.P.	
Tues 29th	Advent Feria	Holy Souls; Peiris & Pereira Families R.I.P.; S Fernandes RIP	
Wed 30th	St Andrew	7 p.m. G Hamilton R.I.P.; Holy Souls	
Thurs 1st	Advent Feria	K O'Leary & Family Int; T Cremins R.I.P.	Exposition until 11 a.m. First Communion Children 6 p.m.
Fri 2nd	Advent Feria	J Hernon R.I.P.	First Friday Devotion 7 p.m.
Sat 3rd	St Francis Xavier	Fernandes Family R.I.P.	Reconciliation 10.40 a.m. & 5.15 p.m.

• **Mass Books: Order of the Mass: Page 7 – 1st Sunday of Advent: Prayers and Readings of the day: Page 82**

Light for the journey

In faith and in hope we begin Advent this week with its first candle. With Mary and Joseph, we wait for Christ. The candles are lighting the way for them - and for us! The coming light of Jesus lights both our waiting and our journey in life. May it shine the light of Christ into the darkness's of the year since last Christmas - bereavement, illness, depression, disappointments?

We prepare best for Christmas by spreading this light. The way to celebrate Christmas is rooted in our following of the gospel. Among our ways are care for the poor, some daily prayer, and the wish to forgive and be forgiven.

All the different images of Christmas prepare us for this birth

- the carols we hear and sing,
- the lights in the streets,
- the star over the church and the ways we pray with anticipation and remember other Christmas days with joy.

Everything of this month can remind us of God. The Christmas trees, lights, cards, carols, parties, Santa hats, the houses lit up with reindeer and all the things we see about Christmas, all remind us that God is near.

We welcome this light in the spirit of Pope Francis:

'Those who have opened their hearts to God's love, heard his voice and received his light, cannot keep this gift to themselves.

Since faith is hearing and seeing, it is also handed on as word and light' (The Light of Faith, 37).

Spend a little time this Advent to remember some people or family memories that make you grateful for Christmas. Thank God for these in your own world.

Come, Lord Jesus.

*Come into our world of gold and grey,
which needs you badly.*

Advent 2022:

- **1st Candle of the Wreath: God's people** – The Candle of **hope**. Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.
- **Let us pray** O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation, Saviour of all peoples, come and dwell among us.

- **Fr Albert** will be available on Mondays from **6.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.** to see parishioners regarding non urgent matters, including the signing of passports and other forms. **(Not school forms.)**

- **First Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday at 7 p.m.**
Do you have an hour to spare to join us in prayer?

Can you help in some market research?

This year is the 10th anniversary of Caritas Westminster, the social action arm of the Diocese. We are inviting anyone who would be interested to be part of a focus group happening in the coming fortnight to get in touch. There are three Zoom focus groups to choose from: Thursday 1, Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 December from 6.30-7.45pm. Your opinion would be very helpful. If you would like to take part, please email Julie Christie-Webb, Caritas Fundraising Manager, to register, at juliechristiewebb@rcdow.org.uk

- **Advent Penitential Service:** Monday, 19th December at 7 p.m. we will have our Advent Penitential Service. We will have visiting priests for confessions.

- **St Margaret Clitherow School:** Foodbank is open Monday – Friday 12.00 – 1 p.m. (Parishioners welcome) Donations for the foodbank can be dropped at the school or the parish. Thank you for your continued support. It is very much appreciated.

- **Reception & Nursery School Certificate of Catholic Practice at 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. Wednesday 30th Nov, Thursday 1st Dec 11.15 -12.30., Fri 2nd Dec 10.30 – 12.00** Fr. Albert will be available to sign the above forms for those who live within the parish boundaries, are on the parish register and attend Sunday Mass. Please note that if you do not attend this Church regularly you will need to see the Priest of the Church you attend. Please call for an appointment during office hours 89042306

- **Our sympathy and prayers** to the family of Teresa Jellie who died this week. Requiem Mass for Teresa will be on Friday 16th Dec at 11 a.m. May her gentle soul rest in peace.

Anima Christi
Soul of Christ, sanctify us.
Body of Christ, save us.
Blood of Christ, inebriate us.
Water from the side of Christ, wash us.
Passion of Christ, strengthen us.
O Good Jesus, hear us.
Within Thy wounds hide us.
Suffer us not to be separated from thee.
From the malicious enemy defend us.
In the hour of our death call us.
And bid us come unto Thee,
That with all Thy saints,
we may praise thee
Forever and ever.
Amen

- **Filipino Community Concert:** A huge thank you to the performers and to everyone who supported this event. The evening raised £2818 for the parish Building Fund.
- **Benefit Dance:** Again, a huge thank you to the organisers and supporters of the evening. The total raised came to £3000 for the parish Building Fund and to help send two children to Lourdes.
- Your continued support for our parish is very much appreciated and helps to maintain it for the generations to come.

- **Offertory Envelopes:** If you are using box number 6 please contact us with your details. [www.wembley2@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:wembley2@rcdow.org.uk) Thank you

- **A big thank you to Catalin** for his carpentry work in the church porch.

- **Parish Finances:** Offertory Envelopes £865 Loose Plate £976 Contactless: £177. **THANK YOU!**

- **Food Fest next Sunday 4th December after the 11 a.m. Mass.** We will be serving food from Goa, Nigeria, Philippines, India, Ireland, Portugal and China. If your country hasn't been mentioned here and you'd like to provide a dish please let Mary know on 07484680296. Homemade cakes and mulled wine will also be available. If you would like to be involved in any way, please give your details to Fr Albert or Mary. A huge thank you to the people who are preparing the food. There will be a nominal charge for the food and drinks. **Hall will be open from 10 a.m. to 10.45 for food donations.**
- **Senior Parishioners Christmas Lunch** will be on Saturday, 10th December at 1.30 p.m. Please pick up your invitation today.
- **Drivers for Saturday 10th:** If you can help provide transport for the Christmas Lunch please contact Mary on 07484680296