

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

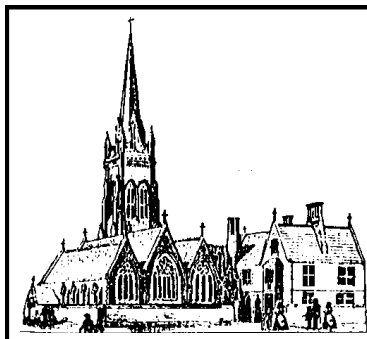
For Carol Norris, Seamus Daly and Breda Quirke who have died recently and also
Wieslaw Snakowski, Fr. Stanislaw Zysk, Antonio Arce, Fr. Ernesto, Sr. Angela,
Maria Koper, Ali Costelloe, Brendan Rossiter and all the faithful departed.

**OUR SATURDAY MORNING MASS IS OFFERED FOR
THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 7th	10.00 am	The Sick and Housebound
St Ambrose, Bp & Dr	10.30 am	Exposition and Benediction
	12.30 pm	Holy Baptism
	5.30 pm	Wieslaw Snakowski (RIP)
	6.30 pm	“St Thomas Friends” carols (No 62)
Sunday 8th	9.00 am	Seamus Daly (RIP - LD)
SECOND SUNDAY	10.30 am	The people of the Parish
OF ADVENT	12.00 pm	Fr Stanislaw Zysk (RIP)
	6.00 pm	Carol Norris (RIP - LD)
Monday 9th	9.30 am	Breda Quirke (RIP - LD)
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY		
Tuesday 10th	9.30 am	Antonio Arce (RIP)
	10.30 am	Tuesday Morning Prayer Group
	2.30 pm	St Anthony Prayer Group
Wednesday 11th	9.30 am	Fr Ernesto (RIP)
Thursday 12th	9.30 am	Sr Angela (RIP)
Friday 13th	9.30 am	Intentions of Edmund Berkmann
St Lucy, V & M		(protection & blessing)
Saturday 14th	10.00 am	The Sick and Housebound
St John of the Cross,	10.30 am	Exposition and Benediction
Pr & Dr	12.30 pm	Holy Baptism
	5.30 pm	Maria Koper (RIP - anniv)
Sunday 15th	9.00 am	Ali Costelloe (RIP)
THIRD SUNDAY	10.30 am	Ints of Angela & Paul Funk (get well)
OF ADVENT	12.00 pm	Brendan Rossiter (RIP - anniv)
	6.00 pm	The people of the Parish

**CONFESSIONS: AFTER MASS ON SATURDAY
OR BY ARRANGEMENT WITH Fr JAMES OR Fr LINFERD
THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 11 AM UNTIL 3 PM**



**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF St THOMAS OF
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Dear friends,

I listened to an excellent reflection for Advent this week on a website that I commend to you for good sense and usefulness: dynamiccatholic.com. This reflection, on how to keep Advent, made the odd suggestion that we should decide to fail, on purpose, in preparation for Christmas!! It sounds crazy in a culture that tells us to succeed at everything and cram in everything, the truth has always been: you can't do everything and you can't have it all. Last week there was an important church event I really wanted to get to, for some - if I admit it - selfish reasons, but it wasn't wise in my current condition. So I reflected on the disappointment and decided to fail, to let God sort out something else. How relieved I suddenly felt! I could concentrate on what at that moment was best to do.



In Advent, at the start of a new year for Christians, we have a privileged time to bring into focus again what really matters. I think this is why this is the true season of joy and of hope. At the heart of it is to choose to worship, to put this at the centre of life. The wonder of Advent is to realise that you can't have it all, but you can have God. His life and friendship are on free offer. But he doesn't push himself at us, so we can so easily choose a lesser but more dazzling joy...which can't last.

I found that invitation interesting: choose deliberately to fail, at things that are nice, but don't ultimately matter. Our faith, I further reflected, gives us a miraculous way to embrace failure and turn it into gold: the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In Advent, I urge every serious Catholic to renew his or her life of penitence. Reconciliation as a Sacrament works at many levels that can't be described in these few lines, but one way it works is that it helps us to shed the heavy burden of thinking we have to "have it all." More on this subject to come. Just that idea for now. Going along, I will provide more resources in church and online to help souls engage afresh or more deeply with what is at the heart of our faith: our need of what God freely offers, that is his mercy and love.

The candles of Advent I see as lights that grow as other noises fall away. Don't do everything. Do worship more. Be still. Savour those closest. Do something sacrificial for someone. And don't be burdened by our fear of failure...bring it to God.
Fr James

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN GIVING

Don't forget you can also make an offering via the 'Touch & Tap' at the door. Furthermore, a number of parishioners have asked for details re the Parish Bank account; please find them below.

PARISH BANK DETAILS: HSBC

Sort code: 40-05-20 Acct. No.: 11263137

Acct name: WRC DT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY FULHAM

ST THOMAS - FRIENDS FOR FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL CAROLS

Come and join our "Friends for Friends" Group to sing international carols before Christmas. At No. 62 after the Saturday evening Mass TODAY - 7th December. See you there!!

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: At the doors of church today please take a leaflet giving all the times of Mass for the period 19 Dec—1 Jan. *Note, there are some changes from regular times, especially on Sunday 29 Dec.* The leaflet also details times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the last two weeks of Advent.

A SERVICE OF READINGS AND CAROLS IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS: THURSDAY 19TH DEC 8.00PM. WITH BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Come to sing some carols, meditate on the readings and adore the Lord in preparation for the beginning of Christmas. With music by our choir and organist.

CARITAS FOOD DISTRIBUTION: We are all deeply aware of the needs of so many in our society and these needs will only increase over the winter months. This Advent we want to affiliate our parish outreach with the foodbank run by Our Lady of Fatima, White City. You can pick up an **ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR**, and any donations both now and during the season of Advent may be brought to the Sacristy or the Presbytery before being taken to Our Lady of Fatima, White City for use and distribution. **DO CONSIDER BECOMING PART OF THIS INITIATIVE**

"WALK WITH ME" A book of daily meditations and prayers for Advent is available today alongside the familiar booklets. Price £1!

DIOCESAN ANNUAL REPORT: For 2023 is available online at rcdow.org.uk/annual-report-and-accounts-2023. There's a copy also in church.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR THE ELDERLY: LAST CALL TODAY After a gap of a few years, we have decided once again to hold a Christmas lunch for the elderly who are isolated, and those usually housebound with support. The lunch will be on Sunday 15 December and is limited to a capacity of 50 people. So if

you or you know some in the parish who would like to come please see Deacon Wayne, so that he can compile a list.

ALSO, this work will need a band of volunteers to make it happen, so please if you think you can help please let Fr Linferd or Deacon Wayne know.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL:

Tickets are now on sale for the annual Christmas concerts which celebrate the mystery of Christ's Incarnation in carols and readings performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers, on 18 and 19 Dec. at 7.30pm. Tickets from the Cathedral Gift Shop or from Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.co.uk and type in Westminster Cathedral when prompted.

SUNDAY MISSALS ON SALE: Following the introduction of the new translation of the scriptures used in Mass, we now have some stock of the new edition of the Catholic Truth Society Sunday Missal. £19.95 from the Parish Office or from the Sacristy after Mass.

"THE NUNNERY AT HAMMERSMITH" 13 DEC 7.00pm (doors open 6.45pm) A talk about new research into the truly extraordinary history those who have lived and worked on the site of Sacred Heart School from 1669 to the present day. refreshments after and chance to view the cloister paintings and some historical artefacts. A new discovery will also be announced! Fuller details and tickets call: 020 8748 7600 x219

WORD ON FIRE UK BIBLE CONFERENCE FEB 2025: Join Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK for *Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible*. Come to the Excel Centre in East London to gain a deeper appreciation of the Bible and its relevance to the Church's mission today. 21-22 Feb 2025. SEE POSTER IN CHURCH. For more info. and to register, please visit: wordonfire.org/the-bible-event.

HOLY YEAR OF JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMAGE TO ROME: 1-5 Dec 2025. Price £1290 per person sharing half board. Single room supplement. Price includes air fares, accommodation, transport, guide etc. Excellent itinerary for a traditional Rome Holy Year pilgrimage. Brochures and booking forms in the Parish Office. Ask Fr James for more info. Deposit of £300 needed by 1 Feb 2025. Poster in church also. To make this more affordable we are joining with Enfield parish.

BEWARE OF SCAMMERS!: We have been advised of a concerning rise in scam emails targeting parishioners across the diocese. These emails impersonate the parish priest, often using a similar email name and masking the real email address. They typically request the recipient to purchase Amazon or other gift cards as gifts for the priest, but end up losing money from your own account. **PLEASE IGNORE ANY SUCH MESSAGE!** Never act based on an email request, and if you receive a message, contact the Office.