

FROM THE DIARY

Sunday 24th Dec 4th Sunday Advent/ Christmas Eve	6pm (Sat) <i>People of the Parish and Holy Souls</i> 7.45am <i>Christina Ellis (Ann)</i> 9am <i>Alice Murphy (RIP)</i> 10.30am <i>Liam Allen (RIP)</i> 12 noon <i>Peter Chan Nguyen (RIP)</i> Christmas Vigil Masses (Those Listed) 5.30pm (Sat) <i>Children's Vigil Mass</i> 7.30pm (Sat) <i>Vigil Mass</i> 11.30pm (Sat) <i>Carols & Midnight Mass - People of the Parish & Holy Souls</i>
Monday 25th Dec The Nativity of the Lord	7.45am <i>Those Listed</i> 9am <i>Those Listed</i> 10.30am <i>Those Listed</i> 12noon <i>Those Listed</i>
Tuesday 26th Dec St Stephen, The First Martyr Bank Holiday	11am <i>Altar Servers (Int)</i> <i>Church closes after Mass</i>
Wednesday 27th Dec St John, Apostle & Evangelist	9.30am <i>Eileen Cronin, John Nellie (Ann)</i> <i>Michael & Patrick Harrington (Ann)</i>
Thursday 28th Dec The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	9.30am <i>Rosann and Patrick McVeigh (Ann)</i>
Friday 29th Dec St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr	9.30am <i>Bridie Donaghy (RIP)</i>
Saturday 30th Dec 6th day in the Octave of Christmas	9.30am <i>Bridie Donaghy (RIP)</i>
Sunday 31st Dec The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Jo- seph	6pm (Sat) <i>Alice Birkett (Ann)</i> 7.45am <i>Volunteer Counters</i> 9am <i>Vincent George Fraulo & Mrs Mary Anne Fraulo (Ann)</i> 10.30am <i>Maureen Enright-Richards (Ann)</i> 12 noon <i>Liam Allen (RIP)</i>

MASS TIMES

Sunday (Sat 6pm), 7.45am, 9am, 10.30am, 12noon.

Mon-Sat : 9.30am (extra masses at 7am and 7.30pm on Holy Days of Obligation)

Morning Prayer: Weekdays 9.10 am Rosary: Weekdays after Mass & Sat 9.10am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Mon-Fri 2-3pm (except Bank Hol)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10.15-10.45am, 5.15pm- 5.45pm

St Monica's Church, Palmers Green

A parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster

Readings	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	24th Dec
<i>Parish Mass Bk</i> <i>Pg. 90</i>	The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.	2023

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

Loyola Press

1, Stonard Road, London N13 4DJ ☎ (020) 8886 9568

email: palmergreen@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.stmonica.co.uk

Live Streaming of all services: www.churchservices.tv/palmergreen

Parish Priest: Canon Mehall Lowry Assistant Priest: Father David Knight

Parish Sister: Sr Joyce Dionne 07752 050653

Youth Co-ordinator: Anna McMullan annamcmullan@rcdow.org.uk 07532 374291

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Graham Jordan palmergreengsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator & Secretary: Noreen Campbell

Parish Office hours: 9.30am-2pm Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri (closed Wed & Bk Hols)

PARISH NOTICES

We pray for all those who have died recently: Antonia Borzillo, Anna Upali, Yvette Walczak, Rosaleen O'Shea and for **those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Santana Sequeira, Thomas Obenga, Christina Ellis, Giuseppe Morreale, Crissoulla De Palma, George Dahlia, Daniel Notaro, Alice Birkett, Battista Noto, Stephen Angol-Nelson, Mavis Jaffrey, Audrey Munns, Leonard Gibson, Eleanor Rattray, Brian Breslin, Mary Cahill, John Margol, Mary Mulvihill, Angeline Lyons, Rita Wheeler, Vera Meehan. **Please pray for all sick and housebound parishioners, especially those in our care homes:** Anastasia Lodge, Beaumont, Brookwater House, The Conifers, The Hollies, Queen Ann Care, Woodlands and **hospitals:** North Middlesex, Chase Farm. Pat Swift, Stella Whittaker, Baby Joseph Osbourne, Eddie McCann, Arleen Riley, Norene Steel Hristov. Liz Panayi.

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16, Rom 16:25-27,
Luke 1:26-38

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Ecc 3:2-6, 12-14, Col 3:12-21, Luke 2:22-40

MESSAGE FROM FR MEHALL

On behalf of the parish team and myself we wish you a peaceful and joyful Christmas. Thank you for supporting St Monica's in your prayers and its outreach activities. We also want to thank everyone who has given their time and service throughout the year; special thanks to the cleaners, the counters, food bank volunteers, and those who take Communion to the housebound.

Christmas (and Easter) collections are your gift to your priests. The contributions make up the annual salary which does not come from parish offertories or Standing orders. Thank you for your generosity. **Fr Mehall**

Envelopes at the back of the Church. Online banking details: Bank: **HSBC**; A/c no: **41096176**; Sort Code: **40-05-20**; A/c name: **WRCDT Palmers Green**; Reference: Priest Gift.

Thank you from the Parish Team to parishioners for their cards, gifts and good wishes given during the Christmas season. Your prayers, support, encouragement and generosity are very much appreciated.

Special thanks to everyone who has helped with preparing the church &/or helped with services over Christmas.

Advent and Christmas Services. Leaflets are available at the back of the church. Please take one for your household, and share one with your neighbours.

Thank you to the Catenians for refreshments last weekend, £75.29 was raised and will be going to the Food Bank.

CRIB OFFERINGS

All your donations in the box next to the crib are for **The Catholic Children's Society** and go directly towards the charity's work helping children and families in need to support local families through mental health services, family centres and emergency grants for families in crisis. You can also donate online <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/>

YEAR OF PRAYER

2023-2024 Year of Prayer: Pope Francis' Catechesis on. Why the 'Year of Prayer?'

In preparation for the Jubilee Year "Pilgrims of Hope", 2023-24 has been designated the Year of Prayer by Pope Francis, with a particular emphasis on the Our Father. This presents our Church with a significant opportunity to revisit the basics of prayer, and for us to become even more a people of prayer. Each week there will be a reflection taken from some of Pope Francis' recent catechesis on prayer, linked to the readings. Please see **Fourth Week of Advent handout** in porch and on the parish website.

PARISH OFFICE

Is closed between Christmas & New Year and reopens at 9.00am on Tuesday 2nd January.

MASS INTENTIONS –FEBRUARY

Can be booked from 10am on Tuesday 2nd January. Please only book 1 Mass during the first week; extra Masses can be booked from 12th Jan.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism Preparation Course. The next course will take place on Sunday 4th February in the Newman Room, 3-5pm. Please contact the office to book.

PARISH GROUPS

200 Club December Draw Winners : 1st Barbara Edwards £137; 2nd Mary Brady £102.75; 3rd Anna McMullan £68.50; 4th Mary Anne Martin £34.25.

If you would like to join the 200 club for a subscription of £5/month per number, please contact the parish office.

Looking After Our Common Home. Remember to buy your drinks in bottles that can be recycled and wherever possible buy your food items from local suppliers. And be realistic about how much food is needed and use up leftovers where possible. It's wonderful getting together for Christmas and having those we love around the table. And our love will spread much further if we look after our Common Home. Please also read the 'Ways to Waste Not' this Christmas suggestions in the handout distributed recently with the CAFOD World Gifts Booklet in the porch.

The Legion of Mary will begin again on Thursday 11th January at 3.10pm in the Newman Room.

St Monica's Parish Quiz Night This popular event is on Saturday 20th January 2024 in the Large Hall and tickets are now on sale

priced at £15 each, to include a curry meal or vegetarian option. Teams of up to 8 and individuals are very welcome and so please book early to avoid disappointment, at parishquiz@yahoo.com or on 07484 134 848.

OTHER

Westminster Year Book (cost of £5 and £6) is now on sale in the repository, which will be open for 15 minutes after every Sunday Mass.

St. Monica's Catholic Primary School open afternoon Friday 5th January 2024, starting **promptly** at 1.30pm. It is essential that you call or email the school office to book a slot at one of the open afternoons – 020 8886 4647 or office@st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk.

Consultation information on Admission Arrangements and Policy for 2025-2026 can be found on the website.

St Michaels's Catholic Grammar School have **two** vacancies. Head of Religious Education (closing date Friday 26th January) and Physics Technician (closing date 15th January). Application forms are available on the school website. applications@st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk. Please also see adverts in church porch.

FINANCE

17th Dec Envelopes £436
Loose Plate £912.



To Donate—please scan the QR code. Giving by Standing Order, Bank: HSBC; A/c no:

41096176; Sort Code: 40-05-20; A/c name: WRCDT Palmers Green with your surname as a reference. If you pay income tax, click on [gift aid form](#) to complete & return. Thank you for your generosity.

Chair of Finance Committee.

COST OF LIVING

The **Healthy Start Scheme** provides help with buying healthy food and milk, and is open to people receiving Universal Credit or Child Tax Credits, who are pregnant or have a child under 4. Find out more here - <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

Those on a lower income and claim Pension Credit - with the onset of colder weather, the Warm Home Discount Scheme with your energy provider is now open. You are also entitled to a council tax discount and, if you are over 75, a free TV licence. Speak to Citizens Advice Enfield about what else you maybe entitled to.

Small grants programme for elderly people living on low incomes, offered by Friends of the Elderly, and as identified by Caritas, the Diocesan fundraising department. Grants are c£400, cost of living grants c£250 according to their guidance. [Grants For Older People | Grants for the Elderly | Friends of the Elderly \(fote.org.uk\)](#)

Grants to help pay off energy debts - People who are in debt to their energy supplier might be able to get a grant from a charitable trust to help pay it off. See <https://fuelpovertyresource.org.uk/focus-on/fuel-debt-and-trust-funds/>

Financial Resilience and Cost of Living Martin Lewis, the Money Saving Expert, provides information about the cost of living support package. Click on the following link for this and other topical issues [to https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/cost-of-living-survival-kit/](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/cost-of-living-survival-kit/)

The Heet Project is a charity providing free services to low income, aged and vulnerable people to help improve home insulation and reduce energy bills. If you live in the London borough of Enfield, Waltham Forest or Redbridge or know someone who can benefit, please see their website for further details <https://www.theheetproject.org.uk/> or telephone 0208520 1900.

JOB VACANCIES

Diocesan jobs - For further details, please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

OTHER

Vinnie Packs The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237 . Thank you so much for your support.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal. You can donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected which gets funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who are working alongside communities helping those most in need. Please see the poster in porch with the QR code. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Common Home Group. Ways to 'waste not' this Christmas. At this time of year around 30% more waste is generated. By following some simple suggestions we can ensure that Christmas isn't wasteful this year. Please see sheet with the CAFOD World Gifts Booklet.

DONA CONTACTLESS MACHINES. (Contactless Giving) If you would like to donate by card we have

two DONA machines and the **QR Code** on the newsletter. Machines are located in the church porch and in the parish office. For example: donations can be made for: **Sunday Collection; Votive Candles; Repository** purchases; and for **Mass Offerings**. Please select the option you want and then the amount you wish to donate. If you require assistance using the machine or the QR code then please ask any member of the parish team who will be happy to help you. Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

Would you be interested in joining the 200 Club to raise funds for the Parish? The subscription per entry is only £5/month. Please contact the parish office.

Marriage Preparation If you are planning to marry here or elsewhere, please contact the parish office to register for our course taking place in February 2024.

Parish Census .We have almost finished updating our census. Please could you reply **urgently** if you haven't already done so by email or by letter. There are also yellow census cards in the porch that can be completed.

St.Monica's Church Foodbank. Since the beginning of the year we have seen a 45% increase in the number of households we are helping. Add to this the current cost of living crisis and it is proving increasingly difficult to keep up with demand. We have had to restrict who we can help to those who live in the borough of Enfield or within 3 miles of the church hall. **More than ever we need your help to support neighbours who are struggling. You can do this by making a financial donation to parish bank account (see bank details below) using reference "food distribution". Or you could donate food to us directly on a Monday morning at the church hall.** Items like cheese; eggs; tins of corn beef; ham; long life milk; tea; coffee; cooking oil; washing up liquid; and toiletries would be most welcome.

The Legion of Mary have two statues of Our Lady for family Rosary and prayers in your home. Please contact Gloria 0208 360 3554. **Every Saturday** the Legion of Mary gather and pray the Angelus and Rosary at 12 noon at the Triangle in Palmers Green; all are invited to join them.

Laudato Si' Animators UK "Human beings must be recognized as a part of nature. Human life, intelligence and freedom are elements of the nature that enriches our planet, part of its internal workings and its equilibrium." (LD 26). "The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?" (LD 65). Join the [Laudato Si' Movement](#) by subscribing for online updates .[Laudato Si' Animators program to support your "ecological conversion" journey with fellow Catholics from all continents](#). Pope Francis Laudate Deum.

Do you know somebody who is interested in knowing more about Christianity and the Church? There could be somebody just waiting for you to invite them to be Baptised or Received into the church. Speak to Fr Mehall after Mass to find out more.

Irish Dancing Classes have resumed in the small hall. Beginners welcome. Contact Margaret on 07932056163 or email m.brennan@hotmail.co.uk.

The Mass explained by Bishop Robert Barron in 7 short videos that are currently available to watch for free <https://videos.wordonfire.org/themassepisode1> If you would like to get more from Mass, watch to discover what is happening and Who we encounter.

Proud to be the Pope's charity for world mission, Missio ignites God's love by helping local missionaries work alongside global communities who are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Whatever our missionaries need to help them share the joy of the Gospel, Missio strives to provide it. Visit www.missio.org.uk/about-missio St Monica's parish has a long history of supporting Missio—once your red box is full please return it to the presbytery and take an empty box from the church porch.