



# Our Lady of Grace & St Edward's Chiswick and St Dunstan's Gunnersbury with St Joseph's Grove Park

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For even more regular news on parish life and activities, check the Latest News page on the parish website [www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org](http://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org) or follow the parish on Twitter @ourladychiswick or Facebook at Our Lady of Grace & St Edward, Chiswick, London W4

2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2022

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

Canon Michael Dunne  
Fr Daniel Herrero  
Sharon Bowden

Parish Priest  
Assistant Priest  
Administrator



### Fr Daniel writes:

This week, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, the Church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany, a word that means: Manifestation. A feast to celebrate the manifestation of Jesus to the pagan nations represented by the three magi/wise men.

There are lots of details about these men we don't really know. We don't know where they came from, how many they were, what were their names, if they travelled on camels... We don't even know what magi (μαγοι) actually means. However, there are other things we do know. They came from the East, to start with, and they were not Jews, both are important details. But perhaps even more importantly, they were not usual people. And they would certainly be even more unusual today. Not so much for the rather exotic garments we always imagine them into, nor because they ride on camels. But because they spent their lives looking up. I am quite sure that if Christ was born in our times and God put a sign in heaven for everyone to see, the result would be the same: no more than three would turn up.

We have built such a comfortable cocoon around us, and have been so successful at creating artificial light, warmth, food... that we often forget where everything actually come from. And perhaps that is where the wisdom of these (three) men was, they knew there must be more to life than the comfort and security of riches. So, they spent their lives looking up to God, the giver of all things, hoping that one day God would bring to earth something radically new, something different, something better. And their hopes were fulfilled: God himself came down to earth to bring with him something so radically new and different as Heaven.

So, this is a great feast and an even bigger reminder to us all that we need to look up. Unfortunately, the cost of our artificial comfort cocoon is that pollution will not allow us to see anything. But we can be quite sure that God is there. And if only we keep looking up to Him in hope, the time will come when our hopes will be fulfilled too. He will come down to us sooner or later bringing with Him to our lives a little bit of heaven.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

Sat 1/1 6.30pm 6.30pm	Vigil Mass <b>Grove Park</b>	James & Elizabeth Kiggins The Hagerty Family	RIP RIP
Sun 2/1 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD <b>Gunnersbury</b>	Jose Francis Fernandez People of the Parish Celmira Castano de Calderon Bridie Tuffy Easter Brown Margaret's Intentions	ANN INT ANN RD ANN INT
Mon 3/1 10.00am	Christmas Feria	Sean Quinn	1 <sup>ST</sup> ANN
Tue 4/1 10.00am	Christmas Feria	Pauline Kleiner	RD
Wed 5/1 10.00am 6.00pm	Christmas Feria (Comboni Convent)	Patrick & Theresa Dooley Frank Abberton	INT ANN
Thur 6/1 10.00am 7.30pm	THE EPIPHANY	Laurence Cooleen Iris Greatorex	ANN RD
Fri 7/1 10.00am 12.15pm 1.45pm 6.00pm	Christmas Feria <b>Gunnersbury:</b> <b>Chiswick:</b> <b>(PIME Convent)</b>	Margaret & Conor Hickey <b>Funeral of Theresa Vincent</b> <b>Funeral of Mark McLaughlin</b> Jimmy Ryan	ANN RIP RIP RD
Sat 8/1 10.00am 6.30pm 6.30pm	Christmas Feria <b>Grove Park</b>	John & Paul Lawlor Deceased members of the O'Sullivan Family Mansoure Sfeir	ANN/RD RIP RIP

### LET US PRAY

**For those who are sick:** Sandra Bocca, Cecil Pocock, Romeo Monthly, Eulalie Raymond, Mary Garrett, Fr. Eammon Conarty, Celine Duignon, Andy Cronin, Trish Williams, Hugh Caldin, Ben Okoro, Elizabeth Fagundez, Geraldine Brady, Alex Tuffy, Isabelle Ranle, Eileen McGuinness, Sa Wood, Mary Innes and all those suffering in the pandemic.

**For those recently deceased:** Brian John Waldron, John McManus, Theresa Vincent, Mark McLaughlin, Bridget Heaney, Ralph French, Melissa Hughes, Paul Myles, Mick Hayes, Patrick Doherty and Nancy Jennings. May they rest in peace.

**For those whose anniversaries are at this time:** Sadie Myles, Louis Suruim, Jose Francis Fernandez, Celmira Castano de Calderon, Easter Brown, Sean Quinn, Frank Abberton, Laurence Cooleen, Margaret & Conor Hickey, John Lawlor. May they rest in peace.

### THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.111:

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: **Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12**

Psalm: **147:12-15, 19-20**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: **Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18**

Gospel: **John 1: 1-18**

### NEXT WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURE READINGS, Mass Book p.120:

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: **Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**

Psalm: **103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: **Titus: 2:11-14; 3:4-7**

Gospel: **Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22**

### PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The Parish Office having been closed from 4.00pm 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec will re-open at 12.00 Noon, Weds 5<sup>th</sup> Jan.

## COVID SAFETY IN CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON:

- FACE MASKS ON, even when singing, unless exempt
- SOCIAL DISTANCING where possible
- HOUSEHOLD MIXING to a minimum
- HAND SANITIZER / HAND-WASHING
- GET BOOSTERED / VACCINATED
- LATERAL FLOW TEST BEFORE MASS is recommended
- ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID/FLU, please stay home!

**THANK YOU from Frs Michael and Daniel** - Parishioners have been extraordinarily kind to the priests over Christmas. The Priests' House is so lavishly stocked with wine (some 50 bottles!), cakes, biscuits, panettone, chocolates and many other rich provisions, that Christmas fare will continue in abundance though with due observance in Lent, possibly till Easter! Thanks, too, for the many cards of greeting and the assurance of prayer; for the generous offerings enclosed with many cards. The Christmas collection itself, which is a major part of the priests' annual income and is paid to them via the parish over the following year, was also very generous. From Fathers Michael and Daniel, *Thank you!*

**FOODBANK COLLECTION 8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> Jan – Next weekend** we will have our monthly collection of non-perishable items of food which may be brought and left at the Sacristy door. Cash donations are welcome also in envelopes marked 'Foodbank' through the letterbox. There will be a cash collection after all Masses.

**BAPTISM** – The next Baptism Preparation Course for those seeking their first baptism for a baby or infant is on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Jan in the church and St Edward's Room. Apply via the Parish Office **after 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022** or the parish website: <http://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org>

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION and YOUTH CONFIRMATION 2022

The registration for both sacramental programmes has now closed. **First Holy Communion** begins with the Enrolment Mass on Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Jan at 9.45am Mass. **Confirmation** begins 5.30pm Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Jan with Introductory Talk for applicants AND parents.

**LAST CALL for ADULT CONFIRMATIONS & RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) or THINKING ABOUT CATHOLICISM?** – If you know of anyone who is considering exploring Catholicism or if a Catholic has missed out on any of the sacraments, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the course to follow. Full details are now available on the parish website and from the Parish Office. If possible contact the office to arrange a conversation with Fr Michael; otherwise, simply turn up 15 minutes early for the first meeting which is at **7.00pm Weds 12<sup>th</sup> January in the St Edward's Room** and the subsequent Weds evenings of the term. The meetings will begin in person but if social distancing or lock down were imposed, we'd move to zoom.

**THE SYNODAL PROCESS** – of last term mainly in November concluded with the great majority of participants having enjoyed both the sessions and the sense of renewal and direction discerned. For this month of the New Year with the deadline of 21<sup>st</sup> January for submission of the parish report to the diocese we are rather constrained in contemplating further synodal opportunities.



The last 'new' session, which will be a stand-alone session of one and a half hours comprising all three of the fuller sessions, will be at **4.00pm to 5.30pm Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January, NEXT SUNDAY, in the Parish Centre**. Although this session would be aimed at those who have not yet attended any session, those who have attended before are also welcome, other than they should remember the will be looking at the same questions as before. Beyond that, **the final session will be at 4.00pm to 5.30pm Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January also in the Parish Centre**, which will be aimed at all those who *have participated* in previous sessions, and will be reflecting on the whole parish process and helping to prepare the parish submission to the diocese with any last contributions. Fr Michael and Clare Muldoon, the Parish Synodality Rep, will then write up the submission to be in by 21<sup>st</sup> January.

**WESTMINSTER ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUST** – The Annual Report & Accounts 2020 are available to view at <https://bit.ly/DowAccounts2020> or you can scan the QR code on the poster at the back of the Church.

## GUNNERSBURY NOTES

**The late Theresa Vincent RIP** – Requiem Mass for this long-standing parishioner will be at St Dunstan's, 12.15pm Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 22

## GROVE PARK NOTES

**THANK YOU** for the generous Christmas collection. As the priests are provided for by the parish of Chiswick & Gunnersbury, the Christmas collection is recategorised becoming parish income and remaining with the parish for parish use.

**CHISWICK & GROVE PARK BRIDGE CLUB** – meets every Tuesday at 7.00pm in the Parish Room of St Joseph's Church, 1 Bolton Rd. A friendly group who play duplicate bridge and usually finish around 10.00pm. There's a table fee of £3.00. For info call Phil Tait on 07860575135 or email [philliptait@btinternet.com](mailto:philliptait@btinternet.com)

**CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE** - You are invited to place the names of your deceased relatives and friends whom you would like to remember during these days of Advent and Christmas, or any other prayer intention, on the Christmas tree at St Edward's Chapel. Please remember to sanitise your hands before and after using both pens and cards, and/or kneeling in front of the crib.

**CRIB OFFERINGS** - The Crib Offerings as by custom will go to the Westminster Catholic Children's Society to help disadvantaged children and families locally. This will help provide mental health services, family support and emergency grants for vulnerable children in our Diocese. Offerings can be made in the Crib Offering marked candle safes beside the crib. Offerings for the candles at the crib should also be placed in the Crib Offerings boxes.

**SCHOOL APPLICATIONS** - To obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice, *if your Catholic practice allows for it*, you should contact the Parish Office **after the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022** to request an appointment. Please ensure you also complete a self-assessment form by obtaining a copy from the Parish Office BEFORE meeting Fr Michael. If you are a Catholic but not a *practising* Catholic, coming to Mass *habitually*, over the last *several years* (therefore including before the pandemic) it is likely that it will be impossible for Fr Michael to issue a Certificate.

**BEREAVEMENT GROUP** - The next meeting is on Tues 4th Jan in the Parish Centre Rm 1 at 7.00pm.

**CENTERING PRAYER (CP)** – The group is convening weekly via the Zoom, Mondays at 7.30pm. Next meeting takes place on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. Contact John O'Brien: 07747611616 or [john@jobrien.co.uk](mailto:john@jobrien.co.uk)

**AFGHANISTAN APPEAL: D.E.C. (DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)** – Finally charities are able to assist with this winter in Afghanistan with 22 million hungry, 8 million on the brink of famine and one million children under the age of five at risk of dying of malnutrition **over the next three months**, with children dying now. The Disasters Emergency Committee [www.dec.org.uk/](http://www.dec.org.uk/) comprises 15 leading UK charities, including CAFOD, at work in Afghanistan. Funds given now to DEC are match-funded by the UK Government up to the first £10M. Thus **we the parish have sent DEC £2,200 from the World Hungry Box collected over 2021, which will provide £4,400 in aid**. It isn't clear or even mentioned on CAFOD's website whether funds given to CAFOD are UK Government match-funded, thus the parish donation was to DEC.

**TEA AND COFFEE MORNING** – The **Tuesday morning** post-Mass coffee morning at 10.30am will re-commence on Tues 11<sup>th</sup> January in the St Edward's Room and the Friday coffee morning in the Parish Centre will re-commence on 14<sup>th</sup> January – if Government regulations allow! All are very welcome!

**RECYCLE YOUR RELIGIOUS ONLY CHRISTMAS CARDS** – If you would like to recycle your religious Christmas cards please do drop them any time through the Priests' House letterbox or hand them in to the Parish Office **after 5<sup>th</sup> January**. Either the whole of the card or just the picture half can be given in and then over the year they can be turned into the prayer cards used next Christmas on the Christmas Tree, through the kind labours of volunteers. The prayer cards on the tree enable parishioners and visitors to the church to remember their loved ones and commend them to God and/or bring their intentions to Jesus, Mary and Joseph at the crib.

## Collections for last two weekends:

OLOG & St Edward's and St Dunstan's Chiswick  
&  
St. Joseph's Grove Park  
will be in next weekend's Newsletter.