

St. Erconwald's Parish Newsletter

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PARISH HALL LETS: Suspended until further notice.

THE OFFICE: Closed.



FIRST OF ADVENT, YEAR B

29TH NOVEMBER, 2020

THEME: Lord, Let Us See Your Face.

During this Advent we are confronted with the question so vital for us Christians: what place are you giving Christ in your life? Are you close to him? One thing is sure: he is near to us. Do we try to see him, to recognise him in the many forms he is present among us: in our neighbour, in nature, in the events of life, even in our troubles and his own silence? We have to become vigilant to his presence, not only in our own little world but in the Church and in the wide world. This week we pray: come, Lord, show yourself; be visible among us.



THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – THE YEAR OF THE WORD

Meditate: God's interventions always happen under cover of darkness: creation happens in the darkness, the exit from Egypt in the middle of the night as the liberation of Peter and Paul from the dungeon. Night is God's favourite time, because when we are at our weakest he shows his might. Stay awake to see him acting!

Pray: God of all times who come to visit us when we least expect you, open our eyes to your arrival so that we may experience the liberating power of your presence.

Prayer: Living God, you walk alongside us and speak to us through the Scriptures. Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live for one another. Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world. Amen.
Your word is our path and your truth is our light. This day and every day.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The next parents' session will take place on Saturday 5th December at 10.00am. It will be followed by the Mass of Enrolment at 11.00am.

[Registration for First Holy Communion 2021 is now closed]

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

Universal - Artificial Intelligence

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.



ADVENT 2020 – JOURNEYING TO THE CRIB

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the birth of Our Saviour. Listed below are activities and devotions to help us prepare for the coming feast of Christmas and its true meaning.

THE ADVENT WREATH



The Advent Wreath [this can be a simple drawing to colour in, or something more elaborate], consisting of a circle of evergreens, symbolising the eternal nature of God and the continuing and everlasting life that comes from God through Christ. The four candles [3 purple – symbolising repentance - and 1 pink – 3rd week, reminds us that we are drawing nearer to Christmas Day], mark the four weeks of Advent, and attest to the truth of Jesus as the Light of the World [John 3. 17-21]. Please visit www.erconwald.org.uk to download the “Prayer of Blessing”.

THE JESSE TREE

The name Jesse Tree comes from a Bible passage describing the descent of the Messiah from Jesse in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot will come out of the stock Jesse, and a branch out of his roots will bear fruit." The Gospels in Luke 3:23-38 and in Matthew 1:1-17 have genealogies of Jesus Christ.



The symbols show some important figures and events from Creation to the birth of Jesus Christ. This year it would be nice if we could make our own version of a Jesse Tree. Please visit www.erconwald.org.uk to download the ornaments and colour in. Each week a description of the ornament will be given. [Adapted from: “Jesse Tree Ornaments” by Kathryn Marcellino. Abundant Life Publishing]

ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR



On 15th November we marked the fourth annual World Day of the Poor. Pope Francis has given us the theme “Stretch forth your hand to the poor”. This Advent Giving Calendar gives suggestions for items to collect each day, reaching out to those going hungry, making a food parcel. During the pandemic, this act of generosity will be needed more than ever, as we prepare for a Christmas like no other. Like previous years we will be supporting “The Larder” [formerly known as “St. Lawrence’s larder”]. *Details of when to bring the “food parcels” will be given later.* Please visit: www.erconwald.org.uk to download the Advent Giving Calendar.

REPOSITORY

We have Advent Calendars, candles, etc. Also Christmas Cards, Church Art Calendars, Cribs etc. available. Please phone: 020 8904 6031 [option 2] or email: wembley3@rcdow.org.uk to see the latest update on when the Repository can be accessed or arrange collection of items.

LIGHT OF LIFE - REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

Memorial Cards - available on-line or as you leave the Church. Please complete with the name of deceased loved one and return them – via email: wembley3@rcdow.org.uk or when you visit the Church, not later than Friday 18th December. These Cards will then be hung on the Christmas tree - placed in the porch. Mass will be offered on the feast of the Holy Family, on the weekend of 26/27th December.

OPENING OF ST. ERCONWALD'S

A big thank you to the Stewards and Cleaners without whom we could not stay open for Public Worship and now for Private Prayer.

This week, we will open for private prayer on: **Monday: 11.00 to 12noon and Tuesday: 10.30am to 11.30am. Public Masses will start on Friday 4th December at 9.30am. Please visit the Parish website or phone the office to book a place.** Mass will continue to be live streamed on:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/wembley3>

Donations and Collection Money: Offertory Envelopes and other donations: there will be a Collection Box at the entrance of the Church - please put envelopes and donations as you enter the Church to facilitate the one way system. Please no coinage at this time. You can also visit:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/wembleyprestonroad/donate/>

You can also donate through Virgin Money Giving by visiting:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/wembleyprestonroad/donate/>

[If you are a tax payer, please Gift Aid your donation]



Please do feel free to share the information in this newsletter with other members of the parish with whom you have contact. With prayerful best wishes. Keep safe. [Fr. Anthony]

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION on FAITH ENGAGEMENT

The link to the online submission is: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence>

This call for evidence will run for a period of 4 weeks closing at 11:45pm on 11th December 2020. *Please engage in this important consultation.*

WEBINAR

The Catholic Union with Catholic Voices are organising a webinar on “how the government should engage with faith groups” on Wednesday 2nd December at 7pm. Colin Bloom, the Faith Engagement Adviser at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, will present and promote the government consultation on the issue. Link and registration:

<https://www.catholicvoices.org.uk/events/independent-faith-review>

PLEASE STAY AT HOME

If you are feeling unwell or if someone you have been in contact with is ill.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS FUND

The annual parish collection for the **Sick and Retired Priests' Fund** takes place on **Sunday 13th December**, and all the money that is raised will be used to ensure that elderly priests and those who are struggling with ill health receive the care and support that they need. You can also use the “QR Code” – found on the envelope or on the poster – by scanning with a phone camera, to give online. You can also visit: www.rcdow.org.uk/donations **If you are a tax payer, please Gift Aid your donation.** Thank you for your continued support.



LITURGY FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT, YEAR B

Private Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday

Public Mass: Friday and Sunday

All services can be followed online: <https://www.churchservices.tv/wembley3>

[Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 10.00am Masses are recorded]

Sunday 29th November: First of Advent [10.00am] **Readings:** 1st Reading: Isaiah 63.16-17, 64.1,3-8; Psalm: 79; 2nd Reading: 1Corinthians 1.3-9; Gospel: Mark 13.33-37. **Intention:** Bernard Wilson [RIP, A].

Monday 30th November: St. Andrew [9.30am] **Readings:** 1st Reading: Wisdom 3.1-9; Psalm 30; Gospel: Matthew 4.18-22. **Intention:** Holy Souls.

Tuesday 1st December: Advent Feria [9.30am] **Readings:** 1st Reading: Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm: 71; Gospel: Luke 10.21-24. **Intention:** In Thanksgiving

Wednesday 2nd December: Advent Feria [9.30am] **Readings:** 1st Reading: Isaiah 25.6-10; Psalm: 22; Gospel: Matthew 15.29-37. **Intention:** Lucy Mahoney [RIP].

Thursday 3rd December: **NO SERVICE.**

Friday 4th December: Advent Feria [9.30am] **Readings:** 1st Reading: Isaiah 29.17-24; Psalm: 26; Gospel: Matthew 9.27-31. **Intention:** Breda Moriarty [RIP]

Saturday 5th December: [11.00am] Mass of Enrolment: [Holy Communion].

Saturday 5th December: [5.30pm] Readings: 1st Reading: Isaiah 40.1-5,9-11; Psalm: 84; 2nd Reading: 2Peter 3.8-14; Gospel: Mark 1.1-8. **Intention:** Michael McMahon [RIP, A]

Sunday 6th December: Second of Advent [10.00am] **Readings:** 1st Reading: Isaiah 40.1-5,9-11; Psalm: 84; 2nd Reading: 2Peter 3.8-14; Gospel: Mark 1.1-8. **Intention:** Jozefa & Maria Zimmermann [RIP, A]; Lena & Jim Tiernan [RIP, A].

RECEPTION OF SACRAMENTS - REGISTRATION FORMS

for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults] are now available on the Church's website: www.erconwald.org.uk or from the office [0208 904 6031, option 2].

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

If you are looking for a way to engage your children in the gospel from home, join **CAFOD** for our virtual children's liturgy of the word at 10am GMT this Sunday. Register now to take part here.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5095942131288155403>

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

[based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori]