

St. Philip the Apostle, Finchley Church End

Priests House, Gravel Hill, London, N3 3RJ
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Service Times this week

Sunday Masses: Saturday: **6:30pm**
Sunday: **8:30am**
10:00am (*Sung*)
12 noon (*Family*)
6:30pm (*Polish*)
Weekday Masses: **10:00am** (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri & Sat)
Confessions: Saturday 10:30-10:55am; 5:45-6:15pm.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Sat. 10:30-11am.

Last Sunday's Collection: envelopes: £622.28;
loose: £552.07; total: £1174.35.
Thank you. [WRCDT Reg. Charity no. 233699]

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Dear Parishioners,

The trees are shedding the last of their leaves before they remain bare for winter and await the coming of new blossoms in the spring. Those trees don't just undergo an endless annual cycle; they also experience growth from one year to the next, spreading branches to enable them to bear more fruit. It is equally true for us as we begin a new liturgical year this weekend. It is not just a question of beginning the whole routine all over again. It is rather a question of reflecting on the spiritual growth that we have experienced over the past year (or at least the opportunities for growth that we might have taken advantage of), and trying to be open to the graces that God is offering to each one of us through our celebrations of the coming year. May it be a year of spiritual fruitfulness and growth for each of us.

May God bless you all,

Fr John Dermody.

Advent and Christmas – Details of special services for Advent and Christmas are on the parish website – click on 'Stop Press.' The information is also on the red leaflets in the church porch. We have our parish Reconciliation Service on Monday 10th December at 7:30pm. Dates of Reconciliation Services in other parishes of the deanery are on the mauve posters. We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Thursday 13th December from 7:30pm. Volunteers to help will be welcome.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch – Next Sunday (9th December), 1:30pm. If you would like to attend this event, or know of someone who would like to come, please write your/their name and contact number on a form (available at both exits), place the form in one of the boxes and take the invitation with you. For further information, contact Christine on 07709 721957.

Edward Dutton R.I.P. – It was with sadness that we learned of the death of Ted Dutton this week. His funeral has yet to be arranged but details will be given next week. May he rest in peace.

New Sunday Mass times – From 6th January 2019, there will be only two Sunday morning Masses, the Sung Mass at 9:30 and the Family Mass at 11:30. Saturday evening and weekday Mass times will remain the same.

Advent Carol Service, All Saints Church, Durham Road, N2 9NH – 6:30pm, this Sunday (2nd December). Beautiful music & readings for Advent.

Children's Christmas Mass – There will be a Nativity Presentation by the children during the Vigil Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will take place in the church over the next three Sundays – 9th, 16th and 23rd December – at 3pm, and will last about 90 minutes. For further information, contact Christine on 07709 721957.

Planned Giving envelopes – If you are still using pink envelopes for your weekly offering, please collect a new box of envelopes and recycle the out-of-date supply. The new boxes are available in the weekday chapel on Sunday or from the Priests House any morning during the week. If you would like to start using envelopes for your weekly offering, please complete one of the salmon-coloured forms from the rack in the main porch. A simple alternative is to give by bank standing order - yellow forms are available in the main porch giving the necessary details. If you are a tax-payer, please also complete a Gift Aid declaration so that we can reclaim the tax you have paid on your offering.

Parish Centenary – We are looking for a photo of **Fr George Ingram** who was Parish Priest at St Philip's from 1957 to 1964 to include in the Centenary souvenir booklet. Can you help? Other photos of significant events in the parish's history would also be welcomed.

Fire Marshals – Thank you to those who have volunteered to act as Fire Marshals. There will be a training session at St Edward's Parish Centre in Golders Green this Tuesday (4th December), 7-9pm. (Walk around the right-hand side of the church to reach the entrance to the Parish Centre.) Please let Fr John know if you wish to attend.

Christmas Coffee Morning, Sun. 16 December, 9am-2pm. There will be refreshments (bacon butties), a tombola (prize every time) and a Christmas Stall. Proceeds will be given to the Jesuit Refugee Centre in East London. Please see the posters in the porches for more details.

Let's help Finchley Foodbank this Christmas: On 8th and 9th December we are hoping to have a bumper collection of food for Finchley Foodbank at St Mary's East Finchley. Please see the posters in the porches for the items needed – somebody will be very grateful for your kindness.

Helpers of God's Precious Infants – Processional Prayer Vigil, Saturday (8th December), St Margaret's Church, Twickenham, TW1 1RL. Mass at 9am; procession to BPAS facility; return for Benediction and shared lunch. See poster or www.helpersuk.org.

Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary, N12 0JP – Applications are invited for **Reception Class Sept. 2019** for children born 01/9/2014 to 31/8/2015. Deadline 15/01/19. Applications for **Nursery for Sept. 2019** for children born 1/4/2016 to 31/3/2017. Deadline 30/01/19. Download forms at www.olol.barnetschool.org.uk.

CAFOD World Gifts – Support those in need while letting your loved ones know you are thinking of them at Christmas. Pick up a leaflet in the porch or visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

Job Vacancies – Information about job vacancies in the diocese can be found via the following link: <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/>

Polish Services – Information is available on the Polish-language website www.finchleyparish.co.uk, or email proboszcz@finchleyparish.co.uk. The new Polish Chaplain, Fr Marek Gałuszka, may be contacted on 07984 293753.

If you are admitted to hospital, and you would like to see a Catholic Chaplain, data protection rules require you to tell the hospital staff, firstly, that you wish your details to be passed to the RC Chaplain and, secondly, that you would like the RC Chaplain to visit you.

School Governors - St Theresa's School has a need for committed Catholics to act as Foundation Governors. See the poster on the schools notice board in the church porch or use the following link to obtain more information:

<http://rcdow.org.uk/education/governors/recruitment-of-foundation-governors/>

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further info. visit www.catholicsingles.org.uk or tel. 0161 941 3498

Do you have old rosary beads that are no longer needed? The Catenian Rosary Group has been sending unused rosaries to Aborigines in Australia and to various countries in Africa since 2009, but there is always a demand for more. If you, or your family or friends, have unused rosaries hidden away in cupboards or drawers, you can help the cause by sending them to John Riley, 112 Lonsdale Road, Bolton, Lancs. BL1 4PN, or contact him on 01204 845094 or dor.jonriley@yahoo.co.uk.

Follow Me – This group is especially for adults wishing to participate in the Sacraments or simply to know more about the Catholic Church. It is taking a break now until after Christmas but normally meets every Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Meeting Room. Newcomers are welcome.

Parish Registration – Have you registered with the Parish? Have you changed your address since you registered? It is helpful, if you need any kind of reference, if you are already on our parish database. Our parish database is held securely on computer and contains only the information you provide to us. That information is never shared with any third party, unless you give your express consent. If you leave the parish, or no longer wish to be included on the database, you can let us know at any time and your information will be deleted. If you need to register, or update your details, or are not sure if you have registered, please complete a pink registration form available in the main porch. (Make a note on the top of the form if you are updating details.)

Marriage Care volunteers needed! – This Catholic organisation provides marriage preparation and relationship counselling services across England and Wales. The Barnet & Enfield Centre needs **Marriage Preparation Course Facilitators** (training is provided); an **Administrator** to help run the Centre's services; and **qualified Relationship Counsellors**. Visit www.marriagecare.org.uk for information or to apply, or email volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk.

Are you paying less tax? If you are no longer paying sufficient tax to cover your Gift Aid donations, HMRC may ask you to repay the shortfall. Please let us know if you are no longer able to Gift Aid your offerings to the parish and we will exclude you from our tax claim. If you are paying sufficient tax but have not yet completed a declaration for the money you give to the parish either by numbered envelope or by banker's order, please complete one of the Gift Aid forms available in the main porch. We can then reclaim the tax paid on those offerings. Claims can be backdated by up to four years.