

St. Philip the Apostle, Finchley Church End

Priests House, Gravel Hill, London, N3 3RJ

Tel: (020) 8346 2459

Microsite: parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleychurchend

Website: www.stphilipsfinchley.org.uk

Email: finchleychurchend@rcdow.org.uk

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Service times this week

Sunday Mass: Saturday 6:30pm
Sunday 9:30am
11:30am
Weekday Mass: 10:00am
(Monday, Tuesday, & Saturday)
Christmas Eve: Vigil Mass: 6:00pm
Midnight Mass: 12:00 midnight
Christmas Day: 9:30am & 11:30am
Confessions: No Confessions this week

Last week's receipts: loose collection: £117.51;
envelopes: £213.50; candles: £80.87.
Thank you. [WRCDT Reg. Charity no. 233699]

4th Sunday of Advent – 20th December 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The transition to a higher Covid-19 alert level this week will not have an impact on our planned schedule of services, but it does reinforce the need for us to renew our efforts to keep each other safe. At the time of writing, the Christmas Eve Masses are nearly all booked, and the places for Christmas morning Masses are also disappearing steadily. If you have not booked a place, it is advisable not to come to the church for any of those Masses, as you will probably be disappointed. You can instead come to one of the Masses during the Christmas Octave – between Christmas and the beginning of January. Places for all of those Masses can be booked online via the parish microsite. If you are not able to access the microsite, you can also request a booking by email or by phone, but the booking will not go through if all the places have been allocated before your message is received. The earlier you book, the better.

This Christmas is going to be a time of unprecedented challenges for all of us. Today's Gospel reading is St Luke's account of the Annunciation to Mary [Luke 1:26-38]. That was a challenging moment for Mary, and a unique event in human history, but in the quietness of that dialogue with the Angel Gabriel, she accepted what God was asking of her, and her humble acceptance opened the way to salvation for all of us. In these days, we look to share that moment of stillness with Mary, so that we may come to a deeper understanding of God's plan for each one of us, and so share in the joy that he offers us through the Incarnation of his only Son.

May God bless you all,
Fr John Dermody.

Covid-19 Safety – As London moves into the Very High Alert Tier 3 level, it is even more important to keep to the following safety measures that have been put in place:

If you pick up a paper copy of this newsletter in the church, please make sure that you take it with you when you leave. Don't leave any used copies behind in the church.

- Make sure you book for each Mass you wish to attend, either on the online service or by email or phone;
- Wear a covering over your nose as well as your mouth while you are in the church (apart from when receiving Holy Communion);
- Use the hand sanitiser as you enter and leave the church, and after handling votive candles;
- Maintain a social distance from those outside your household group (or support bubble) at all times;
- Move quickly to your seat when you enter the church, and avoid unnecessary movement within the church;
- Leave the church as quickly as possible after Mass and avoid contact with those outside your household group as you depart.

Booking for Mass – Booking is now essential for all Sunday Masses and for other feast days. It helps us to maintain safety in the church, as well as to keep records which may be required by the NHS Test and Trace service. Visit <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleychurchend/events/> to access the online booking service. If you are unable to book online, you can also request a booking with a phone call to the parish number, or by email, saying which Mass you wish to attend and providing your contact details. The information supplied will be deleted 21 days after the date of the Mass for which you book. Those who come without booking will not be admitted if the building has reached its safe capacity. See <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleychurchend/mass-guidelines/> for up-to-date information.

Christmas Masses – Our Masses for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord will be on Christmas Eve at 6pm and 12 midnight, and on Christmas Day at 9:30 and 11:30am. We will not be able to accommodate the usual numbers for those Masses, so it is essential to book. We will have to turn people away when the church reaches its safe capacity, so advance booking will help to avoid disappointment. The obligation to attend Mass on Holydays of Obligation remains suspended, so you can choose to attend one of the other Masses during the Christmas Octave instead. They can all be booked via the Events page on our parish microsite. (See the previous paragraph for details.)

Church offerings – Donations for the parish may be placed in the wall-box marked for that purpose in the main porch. Cheques should be made payable to "WRCDT St Philip the Apostle Finchley." Envelopes may also be placed in the wooden box at the front of the church. A preferred option is to make a transfer to the parish bank account. The account name to use is 'WRCDT Finchley Church End', sort code 40-05-20, account number 11094599. (It is classed as a 'business' account.) Debit and credit card donations can be made via the parish microsite, using the following link: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleychurchend/donate/>.

NHS COVID-19 app – Use the app to check in at the church, by scanning the QR code in the porch. The code is on posters displayed on your left as you enter the main door. This does not replace the need to book for Mass.

Mass Intentions – Mass will be celebrated this week for the following intentions:

Saturday 19th Dec, 10:00am – Arturo Rapaciolo RIP (Anniversary)

6:30pm – People of the Parish

Sunday 20th Dec, 9:30am – Francis D’Costa RIP (Anniversary)

11:30am – Joan & Joseph Bowe - Intention

Monday 21st Dec, 10:00am – Alfonso Corbo RIP (Anniversary)

Tuesday 22nd Dec, 10:00am – Joan Ballinger - Intention

Thursday 24th Dec, 6:00pm – Caroline Swift RIP (Anniversary)

12:00am (midnight) – People of the Parish

Friday 25th Dec, 9:30am – Esther Rechowicz RIP (Anniversary)

11:30am – Patrick Carroll RIP (Anniversary)

Saturday 26th Dec, 10:00am – Patrick O’Sullivan RIP (Anniversary)

6:30pm – Bridget Dermody RIP

Crib Offerings – To maximise the seating capacity in the church, our crib figures have been placed in front of the tabernacle this year. There is a wall box in the pillar to the left of the crib in which you can place offerings for the Catholic Children’s Society. You can also help this charity with their work supporting disadvantaged children and their families by donating online at <http://www.cathchild.org.uk/donate/>.

Confirmation – It is still not possible for us to plan dates for the Confirmation ceremonies that were postponed this year. We will see whether circumstances improve in the New Year to enable us to celebrate this Sacrament.

Charities – Many charities have been struggling this year as they have been unable to raise funds in their traditional ways. A selection of the charities that we have supported over the years are listed on the Charities page of our parish microsite, together with information about how you can help them now. Please consider choosing one to support. See <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleychurchend/charities/> for more information.

Mary’s Meals – It was not possible to have the usual Rags to Riches collection of clothing and fabrics for Mary’s Meals this year, but you can donate to the charity online, and from now until the end of January 2021 all donations will be matched by the UK Government. Find out more or donate at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove>

Sea Sunday – The annual collection for the Apostleship of the Sea had to be postponed in July, but this Catholic charity will be supporting seafarers of all faiths and none who will be far from loved ones at Christmas. You can support their work with an online donation at <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/>.

Offertory envelopes – New boxes of Planned Giving envelopes are available for those who have been using them recently. Those who have been using envelopes with a number greater than 100 have been allocated a new, lower number. If you wish to continue using envelopes, and have not yet received your new box, please let us know.

Gift Aid – If you are a tax-payer, we can reclaim the tax you pay on the money you donate to the church. A Gift Aid declaration can now be completed by email. See

Polish Community – Information about Polish services is available on the Polish-language website www.finchleyparish.co.uk or email mgaluszka2@gmail.com. The Polish Chaplain, Fr Marek Gałuszka, may be contacted on 07984 293753.

Vacancy – St Michael’s Catholic Grammar School has a vacancy for a **Caretaker**. For more information, see the poster in the church porch or visit the school website at <https://www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk/school/vacancies/>.

Parish History – A commemorative book was published to mark the Centenary of the parish in 2019. We can arrange to post a copy to you. Whilst there is no charge, a donation to cover costs would be appreciated.

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.

This Sunday’s responses:

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: **I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, [*bow*]
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.