

## **St. Philip the Apostle, Finchley Church End**

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Microsite: [parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleychurchend](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleychurchend)

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### **Service times this week**

Sunday Mass: Saturday 6:30pm (*Not 25/12*)  
Sunday 9:30am  
11:30am

*Mass in Polish: Sunday 6:30pm*

Weekday Mass: 10:00am  
(Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday)

Confessions: Saturday 10:30-11:00am

Last week's receipts: loose collection: £224.65;  
envelopes: £236.20; candles: £109.88.  
Thank you. [WRCDT Reg. Charity no. 233699]

### **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Dear Parishioners,

Our celebration of Christmas is a celebration of God coming to share in our human nature, to redeem us and draw us into an experience of God's infinite love for each one of us. Jesus' first experience of humanity was in the family of Mary and Joseph. They, no doubt, learned lessons from him as he was growing up, but Jesus would also have gained an insight into what it means to be human from the example of Mary and Joseph, and their interaction with the people around them.

Families are very important. For the second year running, we face limitations in our ability to share with loved ones because of the pandemic. Those restrictions cause us to reflect on just how important our families are to us, as we yearn for the chance to strengthen our family bonds more effectively.

Many children are deprived of those bonds of love and affection while they are growing up, which presents a handicap for them in trying to build relationships for the rest of their life.

As we reflect on the image of the Holy Family in the crib, we look for the grace to have Christ at the centre of our families. May we offer encouragement to young people growing up in the challenging environment that we face in this generation, that they may have the confidence to become the people that God has created them to be, ready to share his love for the benefit of those still to come.

May God bless you all,  
Fr John Dermody.

**Pastoral Letter** – Cardinal Vincent Nichols has produced a Pastoral Letter for the Feast of the Holy Family, in keeping with his tradition. It will be read at the Masses this Sunday morning. You can also read it, or listen to it, at <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/homilies/>.

**Crib Offerings** – To maximise the seating capacity of the church, the crib figures have again been placed in front of the tabernacle. There is a wall box in the pillar next to the crib in which you can place donations for the Catholic

**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, together with all your personal belongings. If you don't wish to take used sheets with you, please place them in a recycling box as you leave the church. Don't leave any used items behind in the benches.**

Children's Society. Donations can also be made online at <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/donate/>.

**Christmas Mass times** – Our Christmas Masses this year are at the following times:

Christmas Eve: 6:00pm - Vigil Mass  
12:00 midnight – Midnight Mass  
Christmas Day: 9:30am and 11:30am.

There is no Saturday evening Mass this weekend. From Sunday, Masses will resume their normal times each day, including the Bank Holidays.

**Face Coverings** – Face masks are now mandatory for all gatherings in the church, for everyone who does not have a legal exemption. They should cover both nose and mouth at all times while you are inside the building, apart from when receiving Holy Communion or proclaiming a reading. Please continue to use the hand sanitiser as you enter the church, to minimise any risk of spreading infection. You shouldn't come to the church if you have any of the Covid-19 symptoms. Regular testing is also recommended.

**Church offerings** – Donations for the parish may be placed in the wall box in the main porch, or in the wooden box at the front of the church. Cheques should be made payable to "WRCDT St Philip the Apostle Finchley." A preferred option is to make a transfer, or set up a standing order, 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.) For more information, see: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleychurchend/donate/>.

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

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 9:30am – Holy Souls  
11:30am – Dixon family RIP Anniv.  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December, 9:30am – Patrick O'Sullivan RIP Anniv.  
11:30am – People of the Parish  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00am – May & Dan Devine & family  
RIP Anniv.  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00am – Peter Torre – Intention  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00am – Val Costello - Intention  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December, 10:00am – Pat Costello RIP Anniv.  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January, 10:00am – Michael Ward RIP Anniv.  
6:30pm – Esther Whaley RIP

**CAFOD Afghanistan Crisis Appeal** - CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. You can still donate on the CAFOD website: [cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](http://cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal) and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

**Sunday Coffee** – There is no Sunday coffee this Sunday (26<sup>th</sup> December). Normal service will resume next week.

**Repository** – The shop at the back of the church is open before and after each of the Sunday Masses. Cards, books and other religious items are available to purchase.

**Funeral, Andrew di Palma RIP** – Andrew’s funeral will not now be taking place at St Philip’s. Due to a change in circumstances, it will be at St Edward’s Church in Golders Green, on a later date.

**Honouring Sunday** – Uncertainty about the direction that the coronavirus is going to take causes many people to hesitate about sharing in the Sunday Mass. The Bishops of England and Wales have acknowledged that fact, but encourage all Catholics to reflect on how we mark the Lord’s Day. You can read their recent statement at: <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/honouring-sunday/>.

**Gift Aid** – If you are a tax-payer, and haven’t yet completed a Gift Aid declaration for your contributions to the parish, it can now be set up very simply by email. See <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleychurchend/donate/> for more information.

**Lost Property** – Have you left personal items behind in the church in the past few months? The lost property basket in the church porch is now overflowing with clothing and other items that have been abandoned in the church. Have a look to see if there is anything belonging to you. If items are not claimed in the coming weeks, a new home will be found for them.

**Newsletter distribution** – You can read the last four issues of this newsletter on the parish websites. You can also receive the latest copy every week via email. Do that by clicking the ‘Subscribe to Alerts’ button, which is at the bottom of each page on the parish microsite, or simply let us know that you would like to receive the weekly email. You can unsubscribe at any time. You might also like to think about passing a copy of the newsletter to a neighbour or friend who is not able to get to the church or access the internet.

**Parish History** – A commemorative book was published to mark the Centenary of the parish in 2019. You can pick up a copy in the Repository at the back of the church, or we can arrange to post a copy. 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.

#### **Christmas Eve responses:**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: **Today a saviour has been born to us;  
he is Christ the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I bring you news of great joy:**

**today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.**

**Alleluia.**

**Christmas Day:** *see separate sheet.*

#### **Gloria**

Glorify to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

#### **This Sunday’s responses:**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: **They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Open our heart, O Lord,**

**To accept the words of your Son.**

**Alleluia!**

#### **Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things, visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven, *[bow]*  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.