

MASS PROPER SUNDAY 10.30AM

Introit

Rorate caeli (Cf Is 45:8)

Drop down ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and bring forth a Saviour.

(Ps) The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament showeth his handiwork.

GLORY. Drop down...

Collect

RAISE up, we beseech thee, O Lord, and come among us, and with great might succour us: that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sorely hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, for ever and ever.

First reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

In those days:

The LORD spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

Second reading

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome, who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acclamation before the Gospel

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel—

which means, God with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel'—which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him:

he took his wife.

Prayer over the Offerings

WE beseech thee, O Lord, mercifully to look upon these our oblations: that they may be profitable unto us for our increase in all godliness, and for the attainment of everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preface

of Advent (Preface 4)

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God; because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; ever more praising thee, and saying: Holy, Holy, Holy *et cetera*.

Communion

Ecce Virgo (Is 7:14)

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name shall be called Emmanuel.

Postcommunion

OLORD, who hast her vouchsafed unto us to be partakers of thy bounties: grant, we beseech thee, that we may set forward the work of our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION AND ST. GREGORY WARWICK STREET, LONDON W1B 5LZ

A parish dedicated to the life of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham

Website: www.warwickstreet.org.uk; Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/warwickstreetchurch>



SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER ADVENT FOUR

Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the characters of Mary and Joseph, and hear of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child Jesus, and the reaction of Joseph. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the promise that the Messiah would come from that line. The link between the First Reading and the Gospel is quite explicit today, since Matthew actually quotes Isaiah. Joseph, descendant of King David, is invited to take his place in the great story of God's relationship with the Chosen people. There is great sense of a timeless mystery reaching its focal point, as that which was "promised long ago" (Second Reading) now takes flesh in the womb of Mary.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

Does your name have a special meaning? Today's reading tells us the special title, or name, of the Messiah. His virgin mother will call him Emmanuel, which means "God with us."

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Paul was a master letter writer who had a great gift for opening people's minds and hearts to God. In this opening of his letter to the Christians at Rome, he identifies himself and his mission. He is an apostle sent by God to preach the good news to all nations. The apostle reminds us that we are called "to belong to Jesus Christ." We are called "to holiness."

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

Although Saint Joseph usually remains in the shadows of the gospels, in today's reading he emerges into the sunlight. We can see him clearly as a man who clearly loves Mary. When an angel assures him in a dream that Mary's child was conceived through the Holy Spirit, Joseph dares to believe. Joseph's faith is richly rewarded. He becomes the foster father of Mary's child. And he receives the honour of naming the child Jesus, a name that means "The LORD saves."

SUNDAY MASS

6.00pm (Saturday Vigil), 10.30am (Solemn), 5pm

WEEKDAY MASS

12.45pm Tue-Fri

HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION

As advertised.

CONFESSIONS

Sat 5.15-5.45pm

SAFEGUARDING

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Dioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Dr Rose Cleary, who can be contacted on safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk.

NEWS & EVENTS

Our Website: www.warwickstreet.org.uk

Please visit our website for further information about our activities, for upcoming events, to access past newsletters, or to learn about the Ordinate!

Please pray for:

The Right Reverend Richard Moth, appointed by Pope Leo XIV to be the next Archbishop of Westminster. He will be installed on Saturday 14th February 2026. Further details to follow.

Music at today's Solemn Mass:

Hans Leo Hassler *Missa Dixit Maria*

24th December at 6.30pm – The Nativity of the Lord

Introit: Barry Rose Silent Night/ Plainsong *Puer natus*

Franz Joseph Haydn *Missa Sancti Nicolai*

arr. Pearsall *In dulci jubilo*

Advent Carols & Benediction: tomorrow at 7pm

Please note: there will be no 12noon Mass on Saturday 27th December, and no 6.30pm Sung Mass on Wednesday 31st December

Christmas Lunch

The annual Christmas Lunch will now take place after Christmas on Sunday 11th January 2026. It will be a bring-and-share lunch. Peter Sefton-Williams (peter@seftonwilliams.com) will co-ordinate the dishes so please, if you can, let him know what you intend to bring. To pay for the wine we would ask you either to donate £10 on the day or to bring a bottle of wine with you."

For your diary:

Sunday January 25th 2026: the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. There will be a Solemn Evensong at 3.30pm. It is a great joy to welcome back the Rev. Dr Robin Hill, Minister of Gladsmuir Kirk, near Edinburgh. There will be an opportunity to meet downstairs in the Chaloner Hall with ecumenical guests.

Ecumenical Marian Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Tuesday 10th to Friday 13th March 2026: the Ecumenical Marian Pilgrimage Trust's Pilgrimage to Walsingham. The accommodation will be at the Anglican Shrine, and the total cost will be £345, including a non refundable deposit of £60. There will be Mass at the Catholic National Shrine, daily Catholic Mass, as well as liturgies in the other traditions represented, including Anglicans and Orthodox. Further details on the leaflet at the back of Church.

Sunday 21 st December	ADVENT FOUR	10.30am (Solemn) 5.00pm	People of the Parish People of the Parish	<p>Please pray for:</p> <p>THE SICK Assumption Fernandez, Bernice Taylor, Flutura, Charlie O'Donnell, Kenny, Norma Skeggs, Paul</p> <p>FAITHFUL DEPARTED</p>
Monday 22 nd December	<i>Late Advent feria</i> O Rex Gentium	No Mass		
Tuesday 23 rd December	<i>Late Advent feria</i> O Emmanuel	12.45pm 6pm Rosary 6.30pm Advent Recollection		
Wednesday 24 th December	Christmas Eve	12.45pm 6.30pm Solemn Pontifical Mass of Christmas		
Thursday 25 th December	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	10.30am Mass with Carols		
Friday 26 th December	ST STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR	12.45pm		
Saturday 27 th December	ST JOHN, APOSTLE HOLY FAMILY	NO 12noon MASS 6pm (Sunday Vigil)		

WHO'S WHO AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Rector: Fr Mark Elliott Smith (resident at)

St James Rectory

22 George Street, W1U 3QY

Telephone: 0207 486 7026 or 07815 320761

markelliottsmith@rcdow.org.uk

Deacon:

Rev. William Lo

MASS PROPER SATURDAY 6PM

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

First reading

In those days:

The LORD spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

Responsorial Psalm

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

Second reading

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Cf. Is 45: 8 Acclamation before the Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia!
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel—
which means, God with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel'—which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

Prayer over the Offerings

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Prayer after Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Matthew 1:23

Matthew 1:18-24

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm 24: 1-6

Romans 1:1-7

Is 7: 14