

MASS PROPER SUNDAY 10.30AM

Introit

Gaudete in Domino (Phil 4:4-6; Ps 81:1)

sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men, the Lord is at hand: be careful for nothing, nor troubled; but in every thing, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving; but in every thing, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving; let your requests be made known unto God.

(Ps) O Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land: thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.

GLORY. Rejoice in...

Collect

O LORD Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight; who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

First reading

Isaiah 35:1-6,10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Responsorial Psalm (5pm Mass)

Psalm 145:6-10

Come, Lord, and save us.

Second reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and

Gospel Acclamation

See Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the LORD is upon me;

he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Prayer over the Offerings

WE beseech thee, O Lord, that the continual offering of this sacrifice of our bounden duty: may fulfil tine institution of this sacred mystery, and may accomplish in us the wondrous work of thy 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 *etc.*

Communion

Dicite: Pusillanimes (Cf Is 35:4)

Say to them that are of a fearful heart: be strong, fear not; behold, your God will come and save you.

Postcommunion

HAVE mercy upon us, O Lord, we beseech thee: and grant that the heavenly assistance of thy holy mysteries may so cleanse us from all our iniquities, that we may be made ready worthily to keep thy coming festival; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 14TH DECEMBER ADVENT THREE (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

In many ways the readings this Sunday are simply a continuation of last week ☐ Isaiah gives us more details about the work of the Messiah, and Paul invites us to continue to be patient until the Lord's Coming. What is slightly different is the voice of John the Baptist this week: last week in Matthew 3 he was proclaiming with utter confidence that "someone is coming". Now, in Matthew 11, he asks Jesus from prison: "Is it you?" For us, as we listen to these scriptures, we are being offered something very particular: the prophecies of Isaiah (and indeed the prophet John the Baptist) are pinned down firmly and securely in the person of Jesus, Son of Mary; in fact, Jesus himself, in his reply to John says as much: "I am the Messiah that Isaiah prophesied." Again we are invited to hold the images of the prophecies in our minds until Christmas, when we can look on the child in the manger and say "We know who this is: it is the promised Messiah: God who comes to save us!"

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

First reading

Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Isaiah stresses the need for courage in the face of uncertainty and doubt. Exile and loss had broken the hearts of many of God's people. Isaiah, however, saw that the Lord would remain faithful, and would visit his people once more and bring them rejoicing back home. The message of Isaiah reminds us that God will always be a true and faithful shepherd, who never abandons his flock, and that he will restore what is lost, heal what is sick, and bring the light of salvation to those in darkness and the shadow of death.

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

If the key word in our first reading is 'courage', then in the second it is 'patience.' The community James is addressing is restlessly waiting for the return of the Saviour. James cites the example of the promises of the prophets, which are fulfilled, but God's time, not ours. We too wait on God's time, to who a thousand years are like yester, no more than a watch in the night. And as we wait, we are called to lives of charity and good works, in service of God and neighbour.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist, languishing in prison, wants to know if Jesus is really the Messiah, or is the waiting to go on? Is this a momentary loss of hope, or a crisis of faith. We don't know. But Jesus responds in concrete terms: the deaf hear, the dumb speak, the dead are raised. These are the unmistakable signs of the Kingdom, and Jesus sends a clear message to the Baptist. Don't lose heart. Don't lose faith. Remain steadfast.

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 Ordinarariate!

Music at today's Solemn Mass:

Introit: Anon This is the day which the Lord hath made
Harold Darke Communion Service in E (K, Ag)
Henry Purcell Rejoice in the Lord always

Order of Malta Advent Recollection:

The Grand Priory's December Conventual Mass will take place Tuesday 16 December at the church of Our Lady of the Assumption & St Gregory, Warwick Street. It will be preceded by the customary Advent Recollection, with the spiritual conference preached by Fr Tristan Cranfield. All are welcome to attend.

Advent Carols & Benediction: Monday 22nd December at 7pm

Christmas Masses: Christmas Eve (24th) at 6.30pm Solemn Vigil Mass of Christmas; Christmas Morning: 10.30am Mass with Carols.

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 14 th December	ADVENT THREE	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 15 th December	<i>Advent feria</i>			
Tuesday 16 th December	<i>Advent feria</i>	12.45pm 6pm Rosary 6.30pm Advent Recollection		
Wednesday 17 th December	<i>Late Advent feria</i> O Sapientia	12.45pm 6.30pm Sung Mass (Latin)	Fr Patrick Hayward RIP	
Thursday 18 th December	<i>Late Advent feria</i> O Adonai	12.45pm	Private intention	
Friday 19 th December	<i>Late Advent feria</i> O Radix Jesse	12.45pm	June Celine Lloyd (Intention)	
Saturday 20 th December	O Clavis David Advent Four	12noon 6pm (Sunday Vigil)	Ally Rodrigues (Intention)	

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Collect

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First reading

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

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Responsorial Psalm (5pm Mass)

Come, Lord, and save us.

Second reading

Be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is

Phil 4: 4-5

standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the LORD is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

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'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Prayer over the Offerings

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Prayer after Communion

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.

See Lk 4:18

Matthew 11:2-11

Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Psalm 145:6-10

Cf. Is 35: 4

James 5:7-10