



The Catholic Church of St Osmund, Barnes

Parish Priest: Fr Oladele Craig

Parish Secretary: Cath Brizzell. Tel: 020 8748 5833 or barnes@rcaos.org.uk

Office Hours: 10:00am - 2:00pm Tues, Wed, & Fri.

79 Castelnau, Barnes, London SW13 9RT

Website: <https://stosmunds.parishportal.net/>

Mass Times

Sundays: 8.30am, 10.30am, 6.30pm

Weekdays: 10am Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri,
Thurs (6.30pm), Sat (**Latin**) 10am

Confessions: Friday 9-9.50am, Sunday 9:45am –
10:15am & 6pm - 6:20pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Fri 9-10am

Baptisms and Weddings: Contact the Parish Office.

First Sunday of Advent (A)

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Sunday 30 November 2025

Sun 30 th Nov	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	Susan Cuss RIP Leonora Messel RIP Raymond Hallet RIP	(p) First Sunday of Advent (A)
Mon 1 st Dec	10.00am Mass	Sheila Curry RIP	(r) Sts Edmund Campion, Ralph Sherwin and Alexander Briant
Tues 2 nd Dec	10.00am Mass	John Derek Ogden and Frances Ogden RIP	(p) Feria
Wed 3 rd Dec	10.00am Mass	For the deceased family and friends of Margaret Humphrys	(w) St Frances Xavier
Thur 4 th Dec	6.30pm Mass	Holy Souls	(w) St John Damascene
Fri 5 th Dec	10.00am Mass	Holy Souls	(r) St John Almond
Sat 6 th Dec	10.00am Mass	Thyra and George Kudzodzi RIP	(w) St Nicholas
Sun 7 th Dec	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	For the intentions of the Rallo Family For the intentions of all past and present members of the Neate family John Bialik RIP	(p) Second Sunday of Advent (A)

Advent; a period of waiting, expecting...

The signs are unmistakable, walk down any high street and the shop windows gleam with tinsel and fairy lights. Drive through our neighbourhood and you will notice that houses are already adorned with festive decorations. Turn on Classic FM and you will be treated to an almost uninterrupted stream of carols. There is no escaping it: the world is preparing for Christmas.

Yet we must ask ourselves: what exactly is the world preparing for? If we are honest, the "Christmas" celebrated in our shops and on our screens has become something of a market concept—a season of consumption rather than contemplation. It is all too easy to be swept along by the commercial tide and miss entirely the true significance of what we celebrate: that the God of all creation became a small, helpless child out of sheer love for us.

This is precisely why the Church, in her wisdom, directs our minds towards a period of preparation for this most significant event in history—the

Incarnation. Over the next four weeks of Advent, our readings and prayers take on the dimension of waiting and expectation. The Church offers us ample opportunity to prepare ourselves so that Christmas, when it comes, will not be just another indulgent day to endure, but rather the celebration of the happiest moment in history.

In this spirit, I encourage each one of us—whether as families, as couples, or as individuals—to take up some definite spiritual norm during Advent. Some might wish to deepen their understanding of the Incarnation through spiritual reading. Pope Benedict XVI's *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives* is a modern classic, as is Scott Hahn's *Joy to the World*. Catherine Doherty's *Donkey Bells* offers beautiful reflections for Advent and Christmas.

Others might enrich their prayer lives through Catholic devotional practices: the Rosary, the Angelus at midday, or the Marian antiphon *Alma Redemptoris Mater*. Others might consider praying a novena for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on 8 December. Perhaps, too, we might

approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation as our determined preparation for Christ's birth.

Online and on social media; there are excellent resources that can help prepare us for Christmas. Podcasts such as "10 Min with Jesus", "Come Away by Yourselfs," and the App 'iPray with the Gospel' can gently shape our daily prayer, or the Hallow and Ascension apps for richer content.

Here in the parish, each Friday of Advent, immediately after the 10:30 Mass, a prayer group gathers at the Priest House for meditation using the Sunday scriptures. All are welcome. We shall also gather for an evening when an art historian will guide us through classic representations of the Incarnation in art.

Whatever you choose as your way of preparing for the birth of Christ, may it bear much fruit for you and for all those around you.

Prayer Group meeting

You are warmly invited to join us for a simple prayer session to help prepare our hearts for the Advent season, guided by Sophie Saunderson who will lead us in praying with the Sunday readings in the Ignatian tradition. The group will meet on consecutive Fridays (5 and 12 Dec), after the morning Mass in the Presbytery at 79 Castelnau.

All who wish to take part are most welcome.

Friday 5 Dec: Advent - a season of conversion, return, love and light. How can we encounter the Christ Child today?

Friday 12 Dec: The Second Coming - what is it and why does it matter?

'Art and Faith Lecture' Series 2

Dr Teresa Lane, Art Historian and Lecturer, will deliver the second edition of our Advent Art and Faith series on Thurs 11 Dec at 7.15pm in the church hall. Her lecture, The Birth of Christ - through the eyes of classic painting and other works of art, will explore how master painters across the centuries have portrayed the mystery of the Nativity. All are welcome to attend, whether rooted in faith or simply curious. Refreshments will be served, and donations welcomed.

Catholicism for the Curious

Those who have already signed up will have received correspondence about the sessions, which begin on Monday 1 December, from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm. The invitation remains open to anyone who would like to explore the Catholic Faith more deeply, whether considering becoming Catholic or simply wishing to grow in understanding. A sign-up sheet is available at the back of the Church for those who would like to join the programme.

First Holy Communion Preparation Session

A reminder that parents who have registered their children for the First Holy Communion preparation will meet the programme co-ordinators on Thurs 4 Dec at 7pm in the Church Hall. **Attendance at this meeting is essential, and it is for parents only.** Children are not expected to attend. If you haven't yet registered your child, please use the link: (<https://forms.office.com/e/m09xvZzw67?origin=lpr> Link.)

Make Christmas magical for families affected by imprisonment

Every year more than 300,000 children are separated from one of their parents through imprisonment. PACT's 'Operation Elf' supports parents in prison to give their child a Christmas gift. Please bring a toy for a child. Do not include anything resembling a weapon (gun, knife, sword, bow & arrow, darts), wax crayons, playdough/ plasticene, kinetic sand, not anything with liquids in including perfume, or glue. Please drop gifts off from this Sunday.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 30 November at 7:30pm Parish Hall Confirmation Candidate Parents (First Sunday of Advent)

Monday 1 and 8 and 15 December at 6:30-8pm Parish hall "Catholicism for the Curious"

Thursday 11 December at 7:15pm Parish Hall Religious Art Lecture "The Birth of Christ"

Friday 19 December at 7pm Parish Hall Carol Concert

Saturday 20 December at 10:45-12pm Confessions

Wednesday 24 December at 6:30pm Christmas Eve Mass, at 11pm Christmas Midnight Mass

Thursday 25 December at 8:30am and 10:30am Christmas Mass

Sick List

For the sick and the suffering especially Paddy Grafton-Green, James and Audrey Smith, Phyllis O'Kelly, John Scott, Janet Waddington, Andrew Brodrick-Ward, Joan Moore, Susan Kelsey, Maureen Carr, Eddie Henshaw, Charles Stiller, and Bridget Jabour.

In Remembrance

For those who have died recently especially Susan Kelsey and Elizabeth Roach, and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Valerie Dixon, Rosa Maria Menghini Pranzo, Patricia Bradley, Robin Durie, John Pavry, Paul Murphy and Thomas Dolan.

Alma Redemptóris Mater

*Alma Redemptóris Mater, quæ pèrvia cæli
Porta manes, et stella maris, succúrre cadénti,
Súrgere qui curat pópulo: tu quæ genuísti,
Natúra miránte, tuum sanctum Genitórem
Virgo prius ac postérius, Gabriélis ab ore
Sumens illud Ave, peccatórum miserére.*

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