



The Catholic Church of St Osmund, Barnes

Parish Priest: Fr Oladele Craig

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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.

Second Sunday of Advent (C) Sunday, 8 December 2024 Mass Book p 84

Date	Time	Intention	Feast
Sun 8 th Dec	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	Peter and Emma Whitehouse RIP For the repose of the souls of the Neate family RIP Mira Bebenek RIP	Second Sunday of Advent (C)
Mon 9 th Dec	10.00am Mass	Pro-populo	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tues 10 th Dec	10.00am Mass	Holy Souls	Our Lady of Loreto
Wed 11 th Dec	10.00am Mass	Holy Souls	St Damasus I
Thur 12 th Dec	6.30pm Mass	For the welfare of Jacqui Tatham	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Fri 13 th Dec	10.00am Mass	Brian McDonnell RIP	St Lucy
Sat 14 th Dec	10.00am Mass	Holy Souls	St John of the Cross
Sun 15 th Dec	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	For the deceased members of the Bonnon family RIP For the intentions of the Robertson family Pro-populo	Third Sunday of Advent (C)

Reflection

Amid the glittering lights, festive preparations, and endless to-do lists, it is easy to overlook the quiet call of Advent - a season designed to draw our attention to something far greater. The story of Christ's coming is one of extraordinary humility: God entered humanity unnoticed by most, save for a few shepherds, travellers, and a young mother. The world bustled on, oblivious to the arrival of its Redeemer.

The readings for the Second Sunday of Advent echo this sense of urgency. Baruch proclaims God's definitive promise to restore His people, while John the Baptist appears as a voice crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord." John reminds us that preparation is not abstract but tangible. We are called to level the mountains of pride, fill the valleys

of despair, and create space for Christ - not just in our hearts but in our homes, work, and relationships.

Augustine speaks extensively about the human longing for God and God's desire for humanity to seek Him. During Advent, we are invited to satisfy that divine longing by realigning our lives. Perhaps this means turning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where God's mercy dissolves the barriers of guilt, fear, or shame. Pope Benedict XVI beautifully described this sacrament as "a return to the embrace of God," a healing that clears space for His transformative presence.

Advent also beckons us to prayer, not as an obligation but as an encounter. Henri Nouwen reflects that prayer is not about length or perfection but about deliberately being present with God. In those moments, the noise fades, and we

rediscover the peace of Bethlehem's manger.

Advent is a time to centre Christ within our family lives. St. John Paul II emphasized that the family is "the first school of discipleship," where faith is lived and shared. Small acts - lighting an Advent candle, saying grace together, or serving those in need - become luminous signs of Christ's presence.

If we truly prepare, we will find ourselves transformed. Advent is not simply about waiting; it is about becoming. As we make room for Christ, we will shine as lights in the darkness, reflecting the joy and hope of the season to a world longing for redemption.

Let this Advent be a journey of preparation, not only for Christ's birth but for His dwelling within us.

Christmas Mass Schedule 2024

Sat 21 Dec: Confessions 1030 – 1130am

Tues 24 Dec Christmas Eve:

6.30pm: First Mass of the Nativity

11.30pm: Midnight Mass of the Nativity, with carols from 11pm.

Christmas Day, Wed 25 Dec:

8.30am: Dawn Mass of the Nativity

10.30am: Mass during the Day

Boxing Day, Thurs 26 Dec, Feast of St Stephen,

First Martyr: Mass 10am

New Year's Eve, Tue 31 Dec: Mass 10 am

Wed 1 Jan 2025 (New Year's day): Mass 10am

St Osmunds Jesse Tree

The Jesse tree arrives at St Osmund's to greet the season of Advent. As the world addresses the impact of the climate emergency we recognise the vital part trees play in preserving God's creation. Trees have inspired Judaism and Christianity from the Trees of Knowledge and of Life in the Garden of Eden to the redeeming Tree of the Cross. In the ancient Jesse tree we recall the history of salvation and also honour the oldest living things on earth. The children will decorate the tree as we move through Advent. Each image will represent a landmark in Christ's 'Family Tree', starting with King David, the son of Jesse, and ending with baby Jesus in the manger.

Art and Faith: A Series of Lectures, Thurs 12 Dec, 7.15pm, St Osmunds Church.

Join us as we enter into the spirit of Advent for a new lecture series "Art and Faith," with the inaugural lecture by Dr Teresa Lane, an esteemed art historian and professor who explores how artists of the Middle Ages and Renaissance interpreted the Gospel narratives surrounding Christ's Incarnation. Refreshments provided.

St Osmunds Christmas Carol concert, Fri 13 Dec

All welcome for a carol concert in the hall at 7.30pm on Fri 13 Dec with mulled wine. Please bring a box of mince pies to share.

Coffee shop St Mary's, Barnes, Sat 21 Dec

Join us for coffee and cake on Sat 21 Dec from 10-12. All proceeds will go towards Mary's Meals. There will be treats for the children too. See link below for you to decorate a Christmas tree and give as a card, as a fund raiser

(<https://donate.marysmeals.org/gb/christmas/christmas>)

A Ceremony of Carols

Thames Philharmonic Choir presents a carol concert on Sat 21 Dec 7.30pm at All Saints Church, Kingston KT11JP. See poster on the noticeboard or see: (www.thamesphilharmonicchoir.co.uk)

Operation Elf – Gifts for Prisoners' Children

Many thanks to those kind parishioners who have been Christmas elves and put something in the sacks at the back of church for prisoners' children. The sacks will be collected and taken to the prisons during the week of 9 Dec, in readiness for the family days being organised by Pact. If you would like to contribute, there is still an opportunity to do so. A reminder that Pact are asking for modestly priced and wholesome new books and toys. See the information sheets at the back of church for more details or contact Andy Keen-Downs on 07841 289 340 or (andy.kd@prisonadvice.org.uk) Thanks so much.

Free workshops from the Catechetical Institute

From today, every parishioner, as well as teachers and parents in our schools, has free and unlimited access to the workshops created by the world-renowned Catechetical Institute. From Scripture to parenting workshops, to catechetical training and mentoring, there is something for everyone. For information on how to register your free account: visit: (<https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan>)

QR code for DONA portal donations St Osmunds

Please use the QR code below to make a contactless donation to the parish. Thank you.



Sick List

For the sick and the suffering especially Janet Waddington, James and Audrey Smith, Teresa Cockburn, Mary Kelly, Andrew Brodrick-Ward, Joan Moore, Susan Kelsey, Maureen Carr, Eddie Henshaw, Charles Stiller, and Bridget Jabour.

In Remembrance

For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Michelle Gasperini, Michael Creighton, William Capstick, John Kemmis, Toby Jessel, Catherine Malcolm, David Robertson, Margaret Ventom, Kathleen Casey, Mary Carr, Oscar Chevallier, Frances Ogden, John Murphy and Lucy Elkins.

Alma Redemptoris Mater

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