

LITURGY, CONFESSION & MASS TIMES

The daily 12noon Mass is also live-streamed. Everyone is welcome to join:

[WWW.HTTPS://WWW.CATHOLICENFIELD.ORG/LIVE-STREAM/](https://www.catholicenfield.org/live-stream/)

Sun 20 Dec	+ 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38</i> OLSG: 8am, 10am, 12noon Mass 3pm Virtual Carol Service www.catholicenfield.org/live-stream/	<i>Ps Wk 4</i>
Mon 21 Dec	Advent feria HFC: 8.30am Mass (celebrated with the Sisters only) OLSG: 12noon Mass	
Tue 22 Dec	Advent feria HFC: 8.30am Mass (celebrated with the Sisters only) OLSG: 11am-11.45am Confessions; 12noon Mass	
Wed 23 Dec	Advent feria OLSG: 12noon Mass	
Thu 24 Dec	Advent feria OLSG: 11am-11.45am Confessions; 12noon Mass CHRISTMAS SEASON <i>Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25</i> OLSG: 4pm, 6pm, 8pm Christmas Vigil Mass. 4pm & 8pm also live-streamed OLW: 4pm Christmas Vigil Mass	
Fri 25 Dec	+ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) <i>Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18</i> OLSG: 8am, 10am, 12noon Mass OLW: 10am Mass	
Sat 26 Dec	ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr OLSG: 12noon Mass; 5pm-5.45pm Confessions; 6pm Vigil Mass	
Sun 27 Dec	+ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY AND JOSEPH <i>Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11</i> OLSG: 8am, 10am, 12noon Mass OLW: 10am Mass	

OLSG: Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Saint George,
45 London Road

OLW: Our Lady of Walsingham, Holtwhites Hill
HFC: Holy Family Convent, 52 London Road

OLSG is open for private prayer: Monday-Friday 9.30am - 12noon, Saturday 11.30am - 12noon
and 5pm - 6pm unless otherwise stated.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Saint George

with Our Lady of Walsingham & the English Martyrs

A Parish of the Catholic Archdiocese of Westminster

Fourth Sunday of Advent

20th December 2020

God's Presence

Fr Daniel and I were taught in the Seminary by the same Scripture Professor - Fr John Hemer, and below is his profound Christmas story, which I would like to share with you.

'My first Christmas as a priest in Africa didn't start well. I went into the sacristy at 6am to prepare for the three Masses I had in different outstations, and realised to my dismay that I was completely alone. Normally two or three of the altar servers would accompany me, set up the altar, serve the Mass and pack everything away.

But on this the busiest day of the year, when at each Mass there would be well over a thousand people, I would have to do everything myself. I was angry with the servers for not thinking of me. I was angry with myself, because I should have reminded a few of them that I'd be setting off very early and would need extra help. I was angry that all these people would be having Christmas and enjoying it with their families and here was I...alone.

I had worked hard on my sermon that year and was pleased with it, so although I had Christmas well worked out in my head, it certainly was not there in my heart. So, sulking, I got all the things together for the Masses, hundreds of hosts, vestments, all the right books, and with a heavy heart walked to the car not looking forward to the long, lonely task ahead.

Leaning on the car were Edward and Michael, two lads in their late teens, good lads. "Happy Christmas Father, we've come to help you!" big beaming smiles on their faces. My heart lifted. I wasn't alone. It was at that moment that my Christmas began. They were the best present I could hope for. We set off, chatting and singing carols and had three very long, very crowded masses, at the end of which I came home tired and satisfied and quite happy to be alone for the rest of the day.

For me there was a great lesson there: despite all my preparations and all my theology, I needed the presence of these two young people to make me feel it was Christmas, to make it real, to make me feel God's presence. God knew that. All the words in the Old Testament, wonderful as they are, could not give us what we really need to feel the touch of God. He had to send us another human being. He had to come as one of us. *For there is a child born to us, a son given to us.* We didn't need more words, we needed the presence of a baby.'

May the presence of Christ, Mary's new born child, bestow on you a Christmas of deep communion and sharing in the warmth of God's love and a 2021 filled with his graces and blessings. Thank you for your cards, greetings and generous offerings. God bless you all. Happy Christmas in advance. **Fr Chinedu**

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For Catechetical Programmes: email: enfieldcat@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Reps: Deborah Thompson email: enfieldsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Samantha Seth email: enfieldsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Susi Thompson (Monday-Thursday)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The sick and housebound: Joseph Grachvogel, Liz Nunny, James Rowley, Paul Tanner, Emma Haynes, Betty Tindle, Liz MacKenzie, Francis Braganza, John Ward, Michael Horgan, Maria Horgan, Anne Marie Flynn, Carol Ennis, Linda Leepow, John McDonald, Olga Skinner, Charlie Watson, Barry Corbett and Antonio Ananayo.

Those who have died: Maureen O'Donoghue, Theresa Giwa, Genoveffa Vacca, Aldo Sidoli and Lydie Marie Mann.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Tony Hopkins, P. J. Weston, Julie Glennon, and Peter Gill.

VIRTUAL CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 20th December, 3pm

Please join us for the Virtual Carol Service at:

www.catholicenfield.org/live-stream/

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS TIMES

Thursday 24th December

Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Saint George

4pm (LS), 6pm, 8pm (LS)

NO Midnight Mass

Our Lady of Walsingham, Holtwhites Hill

4pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES

Friday 25th December

Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Saint George

8am, 10am, 12noon (LS)

Our Lady of Walsingham, Holtwhites Hill

10am

Key: (LS) = Live-streamed

Seating is limited and is on a first come basis.

There will not be tickets.

Please be considerate and only attend one Christmas Mass to give others the opportunity.

All Christmas Masses will be similar & simpler.

Visitors to the Church. Please wear a face covering, use the hand sanitisers provided, observe social distancing, sign in for track and trace and follow the guidance of stewards. The toilet facilities are not available. Please do not come to the church if you or anyone in your household is ill.

Enfield Foodbank Collection. Thank you to everyone for your amazing response to the Enfield Foodbank appeal last week. We are very grateful for your support and generosity to help those in need. Thank you also to Christina from the parish Justice & Peace Group for coordinating the collection and all the volunteer parish stewards who helped to sort the donations into crates.

Confession Times this Week: Tuesday 22nd & Thursday 24th December, 11-11.45am in the St Anne's Chapel (church entrance). No confessions on Fri 25th Dec. Confessions on **Saturday 26th December 5pm-5.45pm** (no confessions in the morning). Please ensure that you wear a face covering. Your confession needs to be brief, so please arrive prepared.

Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church will pray for all those who live and work at sea. Without them, we would not have most of the items we see in our houses and shops. Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. It supports seafarers and fishers both practically and spiritually. On this Sea Sunday, please remember in your prayers all seafarers, who have been separated from

their families as a result of the pandemic and who will be away from home this Christmas. For more details, see: https://youtu.be/u_ZafU8j4PE. To donate please visit: <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate> or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Envelopes are also available in the porch.

Parish Office Opening Times: Mon-Sat, 9.30-1pm; Sun 10-1pm. However, if possible please call 020 8363 2569, or email enfield@rcdow.org.uk and only come to the presbytery if it is really necessary or you have an appointment. If you need to come, please wear a face covering & adhere to social distancing. No Reception on 25th & 26th Dec.

The Newsletter will not be published on Sun 3rd Jan 2021. The last edition this year will be Sun 27th Dec. All contributions need to reach us by 12 noon on Tues 22nd Dec for inclusion in this edition. Our first newsletter in 2021 will be on Sun 10th Jan.

Repository. The shop is stocked with items for Christmas, the new Westminster Year Book 2021, as well as other items. The shop is run by volunteers and usually opens on weekdays 10.30-11.30am, Saturday 11-11.45am & Sunday 12.30-1pm. Please note only two customers will be permitted in the shop at a time and must wear a face covering. Please limit the time spent there.

Crib Appeal 2020. This Christmas our Crib Offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society to support their work with disadvantaged children and families. Offerings for this may be placed in the candle box by the crib. www.cathchild.org.uk

Volunteer Stewards. We are very grateful to those who volunteer to help steward/clean the church to ensure it can be open and everyone is safe. If you would like to volunteer (aged between 18-70 with no underlying health conditions), please email enfield@rcdow.org.uk for Fr Chinedu.

- CATECHETICS -

Confirmation. We are delighted to be able to continue with the Confirmation Masses, which will take place Jan/Feb 2021. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, they may be subject to change. Parents of the Confirmation candidates have been emailed with details of their allocated Mass. If you haven't received this, please email: enfieldcat@rcdow.org.uk

- FINANCE -

Giving by Standing Order. Would you consider gifting your offering by Standing Order? If so, the payment details are: **HSBC Bank plc**, Sort Code: **40-05-20**, a/c no: **21309110** a/c name: **WRCDT Enfield**; your surname as reference. Please email the parish Gift Aid Coordinator to let her know: enfieldgac@rcdow.org.uk

Gift Aiding your donation and/or To Donate to the Parish. Details are on our Diocese website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/enfield/donate/> Thank you for your support.

- OTHER NEWS -

Please help **St George's School PTA** raise funds for a needed new Junior Playground. It's a fun, family virtual balloon race taking place from Lapland on Christmas Day. All family members can be involved in different households. For more details and to buy a virtual balloon please go to: <https://ecoracing.co/user/page/1079>

The St Vincent de Paul Society have assembled nearly 12,000 packs of winter essentials for the homeless and have distributed them throughout England & Wales. The contents of each Vinnie Pack cost around £3.50 and donations to sponsor packs would be most welcome. Donations can be transferred to SVP Vinnie Packs, a/c 46088237 sort code 60-60-04 or cheques payable to SVP & sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, SW1P 9EZ.