

Parish of St Anthony and Our Lady of Mercy
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Parish Priest: Fr Antony Chundelikkat
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Deacon: Rev Robert Shakesby
Tel: 470456

Sunday 18th December	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10.00 am Mass: People of the Parish Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers
Monday 19th December	of December 19th No Mass
Tuesday 20th December	of December 20th 8.30 am Adoration, Rosary 9.30 am Mass
Wednesday 21st December	of December 21st (St Peter Canisius) No Mass
Thursday 22nd December	of December 22nd 8.30 am Adoration, Rosary 9.30 am Mass
Friday 23rd December	of December 23rd (St John Kanty) 8.30 am Adoration, Rosary 9.30 am Mass
Saturday 24th December	CHRISTMAS EVE 6.00 pm Carols 6.30 pm Solemn Vigil Mass
Sunday 25th December	CHRISTMAS DAY 10.00 am Solemn Mass of Christmas Morning

Adoration from 8.30 – 9.30 am before Mass each weekday.

**Confessions are available before and after Mass,
or on request.**

Advent Wreath Candles

During each Sunday of the Advent Season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: **Hope, Love, Joy and Peace**, three purple candles and one pink candle.

The fourth and last candle, often called the 'Angels Candle', represents peace and is lit on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

The Lighting of the Fourth Candle

These living flames will be for us a sign of your life-giving grace,
a light in the darkness of this dying world,
as we announce the Good News of Salvation
and try and put your love into practice in our daily lives.

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
ever faithful to your promises, ever close to your beloved people,
we look forward with joy to our Saviour's coming at Christmas,
and wait in hope for his return in glory at the end of time.
Lighten the burdens that weigh us down,
and prepare our hearts to greet the Lord,
that we may rejoice in his loving presence, now and forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Notices

St Anthony's Christmas Parish Raffle

Prizes will be available after Mass today.

St Anthony's Parish Christmas Card

The cards are now available. Please give your donations for the cards to Jean Campbell. Donations can be given up to the end of January.

All proceeds will go to Embrace the Middle East, a charity which seeks to improve the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the Middle East. At present, on top of the winter weather, the people of Lebanon are struggling with a cholera crisis for the first time in 30 years. Please keep them in your prayers.

Hospital Chaplain

If you, or someone you know, is in hospital and would like a visit from the Chaplain, please contact Deacon Bob directly on 470456. This also applies over the holiday period - he will be visiting the hospital on Christmas Day.

Next World Youth Day

In August 2023, the Pope will meet young people in Lisbon for the next World Youth Day. It is hoped that a group from the Diocese will travel with Bishop Terry from 31st July - 7th August to join in this wonderful event. If anyone, aged 18 - 35 by August 2023, would like to go to Lisbon, please contact Fr Philip Cunnah to register your interest by email at: frphilip.cunnah@rcdmidd.org.uk, and to receive further details.

Ukrainian Winter Appeal

Bishop Terry has written to ask if, during the Advent and Christmas season, our parish would consider supporting the Emergency Winter Appeal.

“Ukraine is facing one of the severest air attacks it has been subjected to since Russia's full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022. Peaceful Ukrainian cities have been hit with deadly missiles, civilians have been targeted, and infrastructure destroyed leaving many without the basic necessities including electricity, heating, and water. Millions have been displaced internally or forced to seek refugee status outside their homeland.

Ukrainians remain resilient, but they know a harsh winter is ahead. For that reason, Patriarch Sviatoslav, Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, has launched a new Emergency Winter Appeal to provide food packages for the most vulnerable on the frontlines and in recently liberated regions in East and South Ukraine which are suffering from a severe humanitarian crisis because of Russian occupation and bombardment.

The Emergency Winter Appeal will be run in partnership with Caritas Ukraine, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church parishes in East and South Ukraine, as well as local NGOs.

The cost of one food parcel, providing enough food for two people for a week will cost approximately £16. Each package will contain the basics (grains, flour, pasta, meat and fish, preserves, oil, canned vegetables, sugar, tea, coffee, biscuits etc.) It is hoped to raise £160,000 allowing 10,000 food parcels to be supplied to those most in need.

Please send donations to:

Account Name: Ukrainian Catholic Church Central Fund

Account Number: 20927317

Sort Code: 20-92-60

or by cheque made payable to the Ukrainian Catholic Church referencing Winter Appeal in both cases.

Barclays Bank plc

36-38 Park Royal Road,

London, NW10 7JA.

Thank you.

Prayer for those affected by the Pakistan Floods

O Lord, in the goodness of your constant love,
be with the people of Pakistan
as they face devastating floods.

At this time of great loss –
loss of lives, homes and crops –
may we be filled with your compassion
and moved to reach out in love.

As we stand alongside our sisters and brothers, we pray that
they may find consolation in their sorrow,
strength as they seek shelter and safety
and courage to carry on.

Forgive us, O Lord,
for our part in the climate crisis,
and inspire us all to play our part
in protecting the earth, our common home.

So that together we may build a world
that reflects your glory,
where hope drives out despair
and all things are made new.

Prayer for Ukraine

(Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski of the Ukrainian Catholic Church)

God of peace,
your prophet Isaiah promised swords
would be turned into ploughshares,
and your Son's mother Mary
proclaimed the mighty would be put down
and the humble exalted.

Visit the people of Ukraine:
deliver them from fear, violence, attack,
injury, destruction and death;
and give them courage, solidarity,
and allies in their hour of vulnerability and sorrow.

Turn the hearts of those bent on war and invasion.
Strengthen the hand of all seeking to halt conflict,
restore order, and pursue justice.

And make this moment of peril an occasion
for your Holy Spirit to show your world the cost of conflict,
and our dependence on one another.

In Christ our Lord who went to his death
because of our hatred,
and rose again
because our hatred is never stronger
than your indomitable love.

Amen.

Prayer sent by Missio