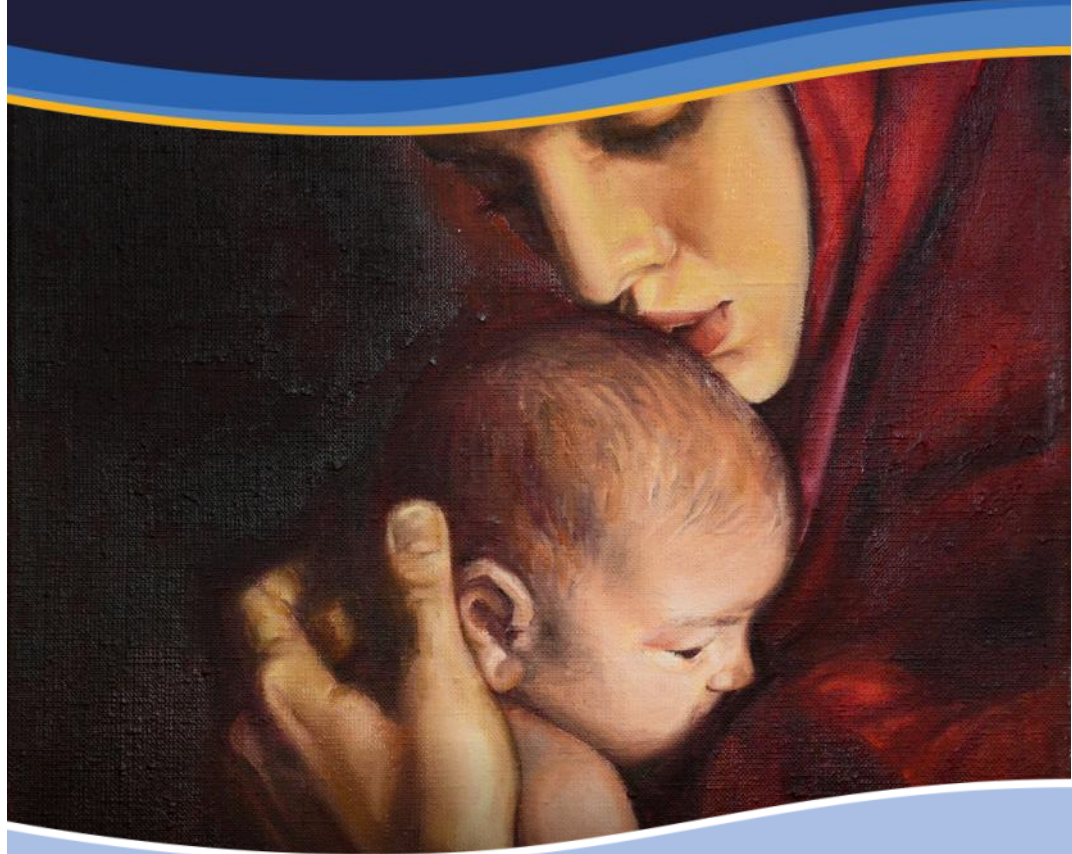




Our Lady
Lourdes
Wanstead

ourladyoflourdeswanstead.com



4th Sunday of Advent – The Epiphany

22 December 2024 - 5 January 2025

Parish Priest
Father Martin Boland

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GENERAL PARISH NEWS

God comes to us as a child: vulnerable, small, and human. He comes swaddled in the blanket of night, quietly, without swagger or cavalcade. He does not wish to overwhelm us by force but to love us into freedom. He will not crow bar His way into our lives. Instead, He waits for us to slip the bolts and swing open our hearts to Him. *Let Him enter the King of Glory.*

God has come among us and remains with us through the life of His Church, above all, in the Eucharist. God is now real and present to us in the forms of bread and wine. Our hands are the manger that hold His precious Body. He is our divine feed. The warm breath from our every “Amen” thaws all that is frostbitten in ourselves.

God has made His home with us, becoming a little child so that we might come to know our dignity as His adopted children. We are free men and women in Christ. Like the shepherds and kings before us, His light guides our way to the manger where we disable our cynicism and humble our sophistication by climbing down on our knees to worship Him.

And when He cries, He cries for all those who grieve and bruise and feel the hard edge of loneliness. The homeless find an eternal home in Him; the lost, a sanctuary; the weary and sick, a place to rest and heal. Tears dry. All that is broken, mends. Angels sing in the oratory of hope.

Christ is born this day. This knowledge swells our hearts and compel us to tell others that we have seen the Saviour.

Hodie Christus Natus est. Christ is born this day. May He bless and protect you, your families and friends during these coming holy days. May He strengthen your hope and give you the courage to play your part in His mission of salvation. *Let him enter the King of Glory.*

Fr. Martin ..

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tuesday 24th December

Christmas Eve Masses

5.00 p.m., 7.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.

Wednesday 25th December

Christmas Day Masses

9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

*Please note that there is no evening Mass on
Christmas Day .*

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS are your gift to the parish priest. For those who are tax payers and might wish to Gift Aid their offering, envelopes are available at the entrance to the Church. If you normally give your Sunday offering by envelope, you may wish to use the envelope in your box.

CRIB OFFERINGS will be donated to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) that works with the most vulnerable children and their families in Essex and the East End of London. You can also donate using the poster QR code or www.bccs.org.uk

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF AND TRUSTEES OF THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: We would like to wish everyone across Brentwood Diocese a very happy and blessed Christmas. As we come to the end of our 40th anniversary year, we would like to thank everyone who has supported our work by making a donation at one of the parish crib scenes across the Diocese over the years. This support has allowed us to give hope to thousands of children, young people and families by offering them the specialist care they need. Thank you all.

COVER IMAGE: Madonna and Child by the Ukrainian artist, Helena Vyshnevskva.

PLEASE PRAY for the soul of Carl Lopes who died recently. His Funeral Mass will take place on Monday 30th December at 10.30 a.m. May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

and for the soul of Mary Troy who died recently.

BIG CHURCH CHRISTMAS CLEAN A sincere thank you to everyone who came along to clean the Church for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE Tickets will be on sale after all weekend Masses for entry to the Grand Christmas Raffle. 1st prize £150, 2nd price £75, Fortnum & Mason hamper and more. £2 a ticket and £10 for a book. Draw will take place on 22nd December. Don't miss your chance for a Christmas win!

WHEN DOES CHRISTMAS END? In our secular culture the Christmas season begins around mid-September and winds up around December 27. However, in the Church, the season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (12th January 2025). It is for this reason that the crib in the church will remain on display throughout this time.

During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him including the fact that he was born to die for us.

THE CHALKING OF THE DOORS: AN EPIPHANY TRADITION Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of this tradition. The formula for the ritual – adapted for 2025 – is simple: take a stick of chalk and write the following above the entrance of your home: **20 + C + M + B + 25**

What does this strange equation mean?

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi – Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar – who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin

phrase, *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*: “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the Cross and the “20” at the beginning and the “25” at the end mark the year.

This equation is simply a humble request for Christ to bless our homes and that His protecting hand be over our families and friends in all the joys and challenges of the coming year.

Chalk will be available and blessed at all Masses on the Feast of the Epiphany. For more information www.onepeterfive.com/the-chalking-of-the-doors-an-epiphany-tradition-explained/

NEW PARISH WEBSITE www.ourladyoflourdeswanstead.com is now online.

JOURNEY IN FAITH Have you been worshiping with us, but never taken the step to become Catholic? Have you drifted away from the Church, and have now returned, but want to know more? Are you a baptised Catholic, but never received the sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist? Have you joined us from a different religious background or no religious background and would like to find out more about Jesus and His Church?

If you (or someone you know) answers “Yes” to any of these questions, you are invited to find out more through a process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) or the Journey in Faith.

There will be an informal meeting in the Parish Centre on 25th January 2025 where more information will be made available. For those interested please make a note in your diary.

MEDITATION GROUP resumes on Tuesday 7th January from 10.50 a.m.—11.50 a.m. The Group welcomes all new members.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will take place on Fridays from 9.30 a.m.—1.00 p.m. and 7.00—8.00 p.m. Please note, there will be no exposition on Friday 27th December or 3rd January, but will recommence on 10th January 2025 at the times listed above.

PARISH FINANCES PAYMENT METHOD

Contributions to the parish can be made online via the Diocesan website at

[www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?Parish=wanstead)

[Parish=wanstead](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?Parish=wanstead) or by scanning the QR code shown here with your smartphone and selecting “General Offertory.” You can also pay by

standing order or bank transfer. If you are a taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donations. Any queries, please contact Bob Fox at wansteadfinancegiftaid@brcdt.org



Pastoral Assistants

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Chair of Parish Council - Fiona Christison
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LOLO Site Manager - Bernie Dando
BernadetteDando@brcdt.org

Pastoral Centre Caretaker - Camille Mouquet
Tel: 07464 313389 (Text messages preferred)

To register as a new parishioner - Tricia Webb
wansteadregistrar@brcdt.org

Headteacher OLOL School - Ruth Boon
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Finance and Gift Aid Queries - Bob Fox
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WEEKDAY AND SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 22nd December

Fourth Sunday of Advent C

6.30 p.m. Vigil Mass—Edward & Carmel Benson RIP

9.30 a.m. Mass—Frances Daniels RIP

11.30 a.m. Mass—Heather de Silva RIP

6.30 p.m. Mass—People of the Parish

Monday 23rd December

NO MORNING MASS

Tuesday 24th December

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

5.00 p.m. Mass -Maura Boland RIP

7.00 p.m. Mass -Marie Francis RIP & Trevor Francis INT

10 p.m. Mass—Bernadette Peace RIP

Carols 9.30 a.m.

Wednesday 25th December

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30 a.m. Mass—Davis & Docherty families

11.30 a.m. Mass—Fr Patrick Sammon

No evening Mass

Thursday 26th December St Stephen

10.00 a.m. Mass—Maria Falco Smith RIP

Please note the later time of Mass

Friday 27th December St John

9.00 a.m. Mass—Pearl & Donie Donnelly RIP

Saturday 28th December Holy Innocents

NO MORNING MASS & NO CONFESSIONS

6.30 p.m. Vigil Mass—Dr Fortune Ezeah & family INT

Sunday 29th December
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

9.30 a.m. Mass—James Howard RIP

11.30 a.m. Mass—Lilian Peace RIP

6.30 p.m. Mass—People of the Parish

Monday 30th December

NO MORNING MASS

10.30 a.m. FUNERAL MASS FOR MR CARL LOPES

Tuesday 31st December

NO MORNING MASS

**Wednesday 1st January SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER
OF GOD**

10.00 a.m. Mass—James Kane & Maria Keen RIP

Please note the later time of Mass

Thursday 2nd January SS. BASIL & GREGORY NAZIANZEN

9.00 a.m. Mass—Evelyn Boland INT

Friday 3rd January—HOLY NAME OF JESUS

9.00 a.m. Mass—Nigel Davies RIP

Saturday 4th January

12.00 noon Wedding: Geraldine Ikeh & Raymond Okoye

5.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. CONFESSIONS

6.30 p.m. Vigil Mass—Francis, Anne, Michael & David Nolan RIP

Sunday 5th January—THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

9.30 a.m. Mass—Beth Nally INT

11.30 a.m. Mass—People of the Parish

6.30 p.m. Mass—Mary & Charlie Rawe RIP