High Wycombe Catholic Parishes

First Sunday of Advent [Year B]

29 November 2026

"A warm welcome to all parishioners and visitors joining us this Sunday."

Please take the Newsletter home with you for reference.

Parish Priest

Fr. Jonathan Hill,
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Priest in Residence

Fr. James Evans
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Deacons

Rev. Brin Dunsire (for St Augustine's)
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Rev. Paul Priestley (for St John H. Newman)
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St Vincent de Paul (S.V.P.)
(charity and support)

Viviane Gifford
07748 657729

***StAug** — St Augustine's Church, 24 Amersham Hill, High Wycombe HP13 6NZ.
***OLG** — Our Lady of Grace, 29 Squirrel Lane, Booker, High Wycombe, HP12 4RY.
***SW** — St Wulstan's Church, Hollis Road, High Wycombe, HP13 7UN.

MASS INTENTIONS: DATES & TIMES

Saturday 28 Nov — ***First Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass***
5:00 pm (OLG) – People of the Parish

Sunday 29 Nov – ***1st Sunday of Advent***
9:00 am (StAug) – Luigi Musci RIP
9:00 am (SW) – Martin McDonagh RIP
11:00 am (StAug) – Clive Grimshaw RIP
11:00 am (OLG) – Maria & Marina Schafer
6:00 pm (StAug) – Bill D'souza

Monday 30 Nov – St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland
9:30 am (StAug) – Martin McDonagh RIP

Tuesday 1 Dec
9:30 am (StAug) – Johnnie Clews RIP
10:00 am (SW) – Adam Kane, John, Kitty & Michael RIP

Wednesday 2 Dec
9:30 am (StAug) – Martin Hill (Birthday)

Thursday 3 Dec — St Francis Xavier, Priest
9:30 am (StAug) – Cibelle, Renee & Rhea Intentions
7:00 pm (OLG) – Carl Greaves (Intentions)

Friday 4 Dec — St John of Damascus, Priest & Doctor
9:30 am (StAug) – Anthony Samuel Intentions
10:00 am (SW) –

Saturday 5 Dec — ***Second Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass***
9:30 am (StAug) – Michael Thomas & Rosy Michael RIP
5:00 pm (OLG) –

Sunday 6 Dec – ***Second Sunday of Advent***
9:00 am (StAug) – Margaret O'Kane RIP
9:00 am (SW) – Peggy Priestley RIP
11:00 am (StAug) – Daniel Cheko + Rosy Daniel RIP
11:00 am (OLG) –
6:00 pm (StAug) – People of the Parish

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 63:16,17;64:1,3-8 Psalm 80:2,3,15,16,18,19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
And let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Psalm Response

Bring us back, O God;
Let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

Show us, O Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.

Eucharistic Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

CONFESSIONS

OLG Thursday 6:30–7:00 pm
StAug Saturday 10:15–11:00 am
SW Saturday 11:30 am–12:00 pm

MONEY MATTERS — Thank you! 😊

St AUGUSTINE'S: £1067.41 + Mary's Meals: £986.77 + standing orders: c.£696
St J.H. NEWMAN: £641.07 + Mary's Meals: £953.45 + standing orders: c. £550

TEA AND COFFEE

We warmly invite you to stay for a drink and a chat:

- After the 11:00 am Mass at St Augustine's (Upper Room)
- After Sunday morning Mass at both St Wulstan's and Our Lady of Grace Churches
- After the 5:00 pm Saturday vigil Mass at Our Lady of Grace on the second Saturday of each month
- On the second Tuesday of the month, after Mass, at St Wulstan's Church
- After Thursday Mass at St Augustine's (sacristy)

Christmas Flowers Collection: ***A retiring collection for Christmas flowers will be taken on 29 November at St Augustine's and on 6 December at the other churches. Thank you for your support.***

OUR LADY OF GRACE – GAMES DAY takes place on the **first Wednesday** of the month from **1:00 pm** onwards. Whatever your age (18–80+), you are welcome to join us for conversation, games, and refreshments. A contribution of £2 is requested to cover the cost of refreshments. All are welcome.

Advent Begins: A New Liturgical Year

By Fr James Evans

This Sunday we begin the holy season of Advent and a new Liturgical Year. As the Church enters Year B of the Sunday Lectionary, we journey with St Mark's Gospel and prepare once again to celebrate the coming of Christ. So perhaps I should also add, "Happy New Year!"

In this Sunday's Gospel (Mark 13:33–37), Jesus invites us to recognise the signs of the times. This is not about doom and gloom; rather, it is typical of Jesus' vivid way of speaking. In essence, there is no time to lose. Advent reminds us that we are not only looking back to Christ's first coming at Christmas but also preparing for His Second Coming.

Jesus tells us: "Stay awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come." These words are echoed in the Collect (Opening Prayer) of this Sunday's Mass. Advent calls us to be watchful, attentive and ready to welcome Christ into our lives. This season is a time of waiting, but it is also a time of hope and joy. As we prepare to celebrate the Lord's birth, we are invited to renew our faith, deepen our prayer, and live each day with greater purpose and expectation. The coming of Christ is not only a reminder of God's love for us, but also an invitation to live responsibly and faithfully in the present moment.

As we begin this Advent journey together, let us stay awake to God's presence, open our hearts to His grace, and look forward with confidence to the fulfilment of His promises.

May God bless our pilgrimage towards Christmas.

CONFIRMATION 2027

Applications for Confirmation close today, **Sunday 29 November**, for young people currently in Year 9 who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Application forms are available in the church porch and should be returned today.

The programme begins with a **Parents' Meeting on 9 January**, followed by sessions on **Saturdays from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the Upper Room**, starting **16 January**. The **Confirmation Mass** will take place on **Saturday 22 May 2027 at 2:00 pm**.

Full details are available on the parish website and will be provided at the introductory meeting.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR-SAVE THE DATE!

Get into the Christmas spirit and join us at our **Christmas Bazaar** on **Saturday 12 December, 11:00 am–3:00 pm**, in the **Upper Room at St Augustine's.** Proceeds will be shared between both parishes, making it a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some festive fun while supporting our parish communities. **See flyer for more details.**

We would be grateful for donations of **quality nearly-new items, fancy goods, bottles, toys in good condition, DVDs, and homemade produce** such as cakes and jams (please include a list of ingredients). **Bottle donations for the bottle stall should be handed directly to the Sacristy.** No books or clothes, thank you. Other donations may be left in the porch at St Augustine's or, if more convenient, at St Wulstan's or Our Lady of Grace Church, clearly labelled for collection. Freezable cakes may be stored in the freezer at St Augustine's.

There will be plenty of bargains, seasonal treats and Christmas cheer, so do come along and bring family and friends. **Extra weekend parking is available across the road behind the "Partners &" and IMO offices.**

SVP WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP GROUP The SVP Wednesday Friendship Group meets at St Augustine's after 9:30 am Mass each Wednesday. All are welcome for a chance to chat, play board games, and enjoy tea and biscuits – or even cake!

GROWING IN FAITH

MORNING PRAYER: Morning Prayer (Lauds) is usually said at 9:15 am, from Monday to Friday, at St Augustine's church. We use the *Universalis* App, which is available for smartphones and tablets. In the settings, select ***England – Northampton Diocese***.



EXPOSITION & ADORATION:

St Augustine's: Saturday after Mass, finishing at 11:00 am.

St Wulstan's: First Tuesday of the month after Mass until 11:00 am

Our Lady of Grace: Thursdays from 6:30–7:00 pm

HOLY ROSARY ON MONDAYS & FRIDAYS:

After the 9:30 am Mass at St Augustine's.

ONLINE ROSARY: All are welcome! Thursday evenings 8:00–8:30 pm *via* Zoom. For joining details, please contact Deacon Brin on 07931 607249.



LECTIO DIVINA *via Zoom* – Our Thursday morning sessions reflect on the Word of God for the forthcoming Sunday. They run on Thursdays from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, and you can join from 10:45 am. For details of how to join, please contact **Anne Freier** at **freier1961@gmail.com**, or **Kathy Russell** at **karussell143@aol.com**. All are welcome!

PRAYER GROUP at St Augustine's:

30 November	–	Upper Room, 7:30 pm
7 December	–	Zoom, 8:00 pm
14 December	–	Zoom, 8:00 pm
21 December	–	Zoom, 8:00 pm

For Zoom details, please contact Deacon Brin.

Second Wednesday Worship at OLG – The Source Community offers worship and Adoration at Our Lady of Grace on the second Wednesday of each month, from 7:30–9:00 pm, followed by coffee and cake. All are welcome. For more information or help with transport, call Dominic on 07754 051840.

GENERAL NEWS & INFORMATION

SICK & HOME VISITS – If you know of anyone who is ill or housebound, please ask them to call Fr Jonathan, so that a visit can be arranged and, if they wish, they can receive Holy Communion.

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA (St Augustine's)

02 December	**:**	Pauline & Tony
09 December	**:**	Winston & Prem
19 December	**:**	Valentina & Kennedy
23 December	**:**	Liz

Advent Evening – Monday 30 November, 7:30 pm

Before the busyness of Christmas takes over, why not spend a prayerful evening listening to short, inspiring/thought-provoking readings and joining in lively or reflective music? Seasonal refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Do come!

Venue: Upper Room

EMMAUS – Opening the Scriptures – We are delighted to highlight the next session in this year's series, offered by the South Bucks Pastoral Area. These monthly talks provide an opportunity to deepen our love for Scripture and grow together in faith.

Wednesday 2 December – The Hope of Emmanuel – God With Us: The Gift That Changes Everything (Isaiah 7:14) — Speaker: Deacon Peter Collins

Venue: St Joseph's Church, Gerrards Cross (SL9 8RY).

Time: 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm.

All are warmly invited to attend in person or online.

Register: www.stjosephs.org.uk/Emmaus

Watch online: youtube.com/@Emmaussouthbucks

Save the Date: Advent Retreat – Join us on Saturday 5 December at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Great Missenden, for an Advent Retreat led by Fr Eamonn Mulcahy on the theme *"The Disturbing Freshness of Jesus"*. Further details and booking information to follow.

Wycombe Catholic Parishes Christmas Raffle

Support our parish this Christmas by taking part in the Wycombe Catholic Parishes Christmas Raffle. Tickets are just £1 each and are **available from the church porch**, with fantastic prizes including a Christmas Hamper, £150, £75, and more.

The draw will take place on Saturday, 12 December 2026, at St Augustine's Church. Please return all ticket counterfoils, monies, and any unsold tickets by Friday, 11 December 2026. Thank you for your support, and good luck! 🎄🎁🎅

West Wycombe Chamber Choir Christmas Concert 🎄

Celebrate the season at the Choir's 20th Anniversary Christmas Concert on **Saturday 12 December at 7.00 pm** in **St Lawrence's Church, West Wycombe**. Tickets: **£12 adults, £10 concessions**. Contact **Michèle on 07795 680253** or pay at the door ✨🎶

Christmas Services

Join us as we celebrate the joy of Christmas across our parishes.

Carol Services will take place on **13 December** at **3:00 pm at St Augustine's** and **4:00 pm at St Wulstan's**, including a children's Nativity presentation.

Children's Nativity Service will take place on **Christmas Eve, 24 December, at 10.30 am** in St Augustine's Church for our Children's Nativity Service. Shepherds, Angels, Kings, Donkeys... all welcome! Refreshments afterwards in the Upper Room

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses will be celebrated at **6:30 pm (Our Lady of Grace)** and **7:30 pm (St Wulstan's)**, with **Midnight Mass at St Augustine's**, preceded by carol singing from **11:30 pm**.

Christmas Day Masses will be celebrated at **9:00 am (St Augustine's and St Wulstan's)** and **11:00 am (St Augustine's and Our Lady of Grace)**.

All are warmly invited to a **New Year's Eve Mass at 11:00 pm in St Augustine's**, followed by refreshments in the Upper Room as we welcome the New Year together.

Walking with St Francis through Advent – Join the four-week online Advent retreat, which began on Thursday 26 November and continues on Thursdays at 7:30 pm until 17 December, exploring the life and spirituality of St Francis of Assisi. Register at https://northamptondiocese.org/advent-retreat-2026/

Walk with Me This Advent – Advent begins this Sunday. ***Walk with Me*** prayer booklets are now available for £1.50, offering a simple daily guide for prayer and reflection throughout the Advent season.

FOR OUR YOUNGER MEMBERS

YOUTH CLUB — Young people aged 9–15 are welcome at the Youth Club in St Wulstan's parish room on Saturday afternoons during term time, from 4:00 to 5:30 pm. To join or volunteer, please contact **Leticia** on **07506 421908** or email **ltcadenuga@yahoo.co.uk**. All are welcome!

For the latest news and upcoming events from Northampton Youth Ministry (NYMO) for teenagers and young adults in our diocese, visit **https://nymo.org/news-2/.**

Useful Website Links:

- **northamptondiocese.org**
- **northamptondiocese.org/donate**
- **catholicreadings.org**
- **cafod.org.uk**
- **cbcew.org.uk** - (Catholic Bishops' Conference for England & Wales)
- **walsingham.org.uk**
- **www.heavensroadfm.com**

Let us pray...

Prayer to St Michael



Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

(This prayer can be said by anyone not receiving the Eucharist at Mass.)

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and I unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Prayer for Peace of Pope Saint John XXIII

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, and who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace.

Make all people witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love. Banish from our hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters, that the longed-for peace may blossom forth. Amen.