

December 2025
2nd Sunday of Year A
Canon Shaun Lennard

Working with Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing people of all ages, to facilitate and enable them to participate fully in the life of the Church, sharing their own gifts.



'Prepare the way for the Lord. Make his paths straight.' Many times in our lives the path ahead seems to take twists and turns. Mary and Joseph faced many challenges, travelling to Bethlehem, no space at the inn, Jesus being born in a stable and then them having to flee to escape Herod. Not exactly a straight path! But at the heart of those twists and turns Jesus was born, the Saviour come world to save us all. May you all have a blessed Advent and a Happy Christmas when it comes. *Shell, Sarah, Nikki and Lottie*



Signs of Hope... Do you have a problem you would like to talk to someone about confidentially?



Deaf Counselling

Do you need some support through a difficult time in your life?

Do you find it difficult to cope with life sometimes?

Maybe counselling would help.

Counselling is fully confidential, Deaf-Aware and available in BSL, SSE, Deafblind Manual Alphabet or Spoken English (mini-loop available).

Contact: Nikki Dhillon Keane email: signsofhope@rcdow.org.uk sms: 07936 939522

Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN

Any counsellor working for Westminster diocese is fully qualified and either BACP accredited or eligible for BACP accreditation. All counsellors would follow the BACP Code of Ethic and Practice

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR DONATIONS LAST MONTH
Collection £84.25 Mary's Meals £16.75 ADVP £2.41

Want to donate online? <https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/deafservice/donate/>

CARITAS DEAF SERVICE

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Sarah Metcalfe SMS: 07936 939523 Email: sarahmetcalfe@rcdow.org.uk
St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, St Joseph's Grove, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4TY

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact a member of the team

Advisory Group:

Canon Norbert Fernandes, Chair wgc@rcdow.org.uk

www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/deafservice

www.facebook.com/wddservice



@CaritasDeaf



@deafservice5095



During Advent there will be Signed Masses...

Sunday 7th December 4.30pm at Westminster Cathedral Hall,
Ambrosden Avenue, Victoria SW1P 1QH

Sunday 14th December 10.30am at St Mary & St Michael,
2 Lukin Street, Commercial Road E1 0AA

OR

Sunday 14th December 12 noon at Our Lady Queen of Apostles,
141 Woodhall lane, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 3TP

Advent Solemn Blessing

Through grace, you put your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and his second coming, may almighty and merciful God sanctify you through the radiance of Christ's Advent and give you his blessing. **Amen**

As you race in this life, let God make you strong in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity.
Amen

With devotion, rejoice at our Redeemer's birth, so as Jesus comes again in majesty, God will give you the rich reward of eternal life. **Amen** (from CDA Sacramentary)



Africa Deaf Village Project Raffle - Deaf Community Mass - 7th December

We cannot accept clothes or electrical items as raffle prizes.

Any food or drinks must have a Best Before date of February 2026 or later. Thank you

There are other online signed Masses that you can watch. Please check on each website for full details

- Fr Paul Fletcher SJ, Jesuit Oratory, Manchester 8am

Watch live on Zoom details: Meeting ID 976 2057 9331 Passcode CDA-1971

Watch any time after 10.30am <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPp6JYixqJsWkiCQ2OdLzhg>
or follow the Catholic Deaf Association on Facebook

- Fr Patrick Devlin, Hannahstown Parish, Belfast (St Joseph's Church webcam) Sunday 11.30a.m.
<https://www.parishofhannahstown.com/copy-of-mass-times>



Bible Study Theme: Icons



The Jubilee Icon has been touring England and Wales
and is coming to Westminster
the first stop is Vaughan House so the Deaf Community will be the first group to see it

Join Bishop Paul and the team on
Tuesday 9th December 11.30am
Vaughan House 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN

Join us as we discover more



Deaf Lunch Club
Tuesday 16th December
11am - 3.30pm in the Hinsley Room
If you want to join this group please come and chat to Shell



On the day: - Please SMS before 9am

Shell or Sarah to let us know that you are coming so we can cater for the right number of people

Please don't come if you feel unwell, have Covid or flu symptoms,
or have an upset stomach



The Nativity of the Lord Solemn Blessing

(from CDA Sacramentary)

By the Incarnation, God's Son took away the darkness of our sinful world.
Jesus' birth today fills the world with God's glory.
Let your hearts become holy and shine with
goodness. **Amen**

God sent Angels to shepherds to tell them the good
news of his Son's birth. Let us also joyfully bring the
good news of Jesus to all. **Amen**

Through Jesus, the Word became flesh, united earth
and heaven. Let God give you peace with all the
Church in heaven. **Amen**



Thank you to everyone that gave their feedback.

The results are now available on the website in both BSL and English

<https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/news/deaf-service/caritas-deaf-service-consultation/>

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year. Shell, Nikki, Sarah and Lottie

The office will be closed from 23rd December and will reopen 2nd January 2026

Isaiah 11:1–10**Roman 15:4–9****Matthew 3:1–12**

John the Baptist came and began preaching in the desert of Judaea. John said, 'Repent, change your hearts, because God's kingdom is coming soon. The prophet Isaiah had already written about John the Baptist. In the book of Isaiah, it says: "Someone shouts in the desert: 'Prepare the way for the Lord. Make his paths straight.'"

John's clothes were made from camel's hair. He had a leather belt round his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. People went to hear John preach. They came from Jerusalem and all over Judaea. They confessed their sins and John baptised them in the river Jordan. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to the river to be baptised. But John saw them and he said, 'You snakes! Who told you that you could escape from the punishment of God? You must show you have changed your lives and stopped sinning. You must not think you can protect yourselves by saying, "Abraham is our father." I tell you God could take these stones and, from them, make children for Abraham. The axe is ready to cut down the trees. Any tree that does not give good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptise you with water to show that you have repented. But someone will come soon that is more powerful than me. I am not good enough to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He will separate the wheat from the straw and keep the good wheat. The rotten straw he will throw into a fire that will never go out.'

**Hidden in the word search are words from the Gospel reading above including one extra word.
See if you can find them!**

E	P	J	Y	F	S	Z	C	D	G	M	X	S	M	R
M	R	X	O	L	U	U	T	E	W	H	Z	N	Q	F
P	W	A	E	H	W	G	P	S	H	A	I	A	S	I
M	C	M	P	A	N	A	T	E	H	L	Z	K	H	O
Q	A	Y	T	E	B	B	F	R	G	I	U	E	T	H
C	F	E	U	R	R	O	A	T	R	N	K	S	A	E
J	R	D	A	N	J	P	F	P	K	I	I	P	P	Y
R	I	H	P	L	O	C	U	S	T	S	V	M	Q	Q
F	A	S	O	M	E	O	N	E	Q	I	Y	E	O	W
M	T	I	R	I	P	S	Y	L	O	H	S	H	R	C
Q	I	W	R	X	T	N	C	X	R	T	S	T	O	X

PREPARE	COMING	JOHN BAPTIST	RIVER	CAMELS	ISAIAH	PATHS
ABRAHAM	DESERT	HOLY SPIRIT	WATER	LOCUSTS	SNAKES	

The hidden word in November BLESSED