

## **First Sunday of Advent, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

### **"You do not know the day"**

Accountancy might not seem like a profession concerned with the end of all things, but actually, it is the fundamental idea of accountancy. An accountant's job is to measure the value of a company, a charity, or some other association involving money. The question the accountant asks is this: "If this firm was to close, how much would it be worth at that time?" That is a question we should ask about our own lives and about every human institution that has come into being. What would it be worth when it ends?

But in this case, it is not a question about the financial worth, of course. The value we are concerned with is how much it is worth in the eyes of God.

Earlier in the chapter of Matthew from which today's Gospel reading is taken, the warning of Christ is this: "false prophets... will deceive many and, with the increase of lawlessness, love in most men [and women] will grow cold". So the accountancy of life is measured in love. You notice that Jesus does not say that there will be no love; instead, love will have grown cold, which means that it no longer reaches out to others. It is a fire that warms only a few and is not shared with the stranger. You might also notice that it is "lawlessness" that cools our love. Love and law are not opposites, but good law is the fuel of love.

Here is how you can make life interesting. All you have to do is pay attention. When we get bored with life, it is because we don't take the trouble to understand its meaning. Every moment of our life we are making decisions about how to live: the most important of all is the decision to look for God's purpose in every moment of our lives, or the decision to ignore God. When we get bored, we start looking for some dramatic change in our lives; we want to get away from where we are. We can be so concerned with being somewhere else that we end up not being anywhere.

Meanwhile life goes on. We are warned against looking for signs of the Lord's return. Then again, it would be foolish to think that anything on this earth lasts forever. So Jesus is telling us to concentrate on the ordinary things of life and to be at peace with our neighbour. He will come again, but he will come in his own good time.

**Welcome to Mgr Jim Overton who will be covering some of the Masses this weekend.**

**First Holy Communion 2020.** The administration meeting for parents will be on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.00pm** in the parish hall. Children do not need to attend this meeting.

**Ashford and Staines Joint Advent Penitential Service.** Please note that our Joint Service will be in St Michael's on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7.30pm.** Several confessors will be available.

**Monthly teas and coffees after 9.15am Mass next Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Christmas Carols 'Sing-a-long'.** The Parish Council would like to invite you and your families to a Christmas Carols 'Sing-a-long' evening in the parish hall on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm.** Wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be available (donations welcome).

**Family Carol Service and Tableaux.** Our Family Carol Service is on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm** followed by mince pies, mulled wine and tea or coffee in the Parish Hall. It is always a very lovely Service and so it would be good to see many of you there.

**Confirmation Mass 2020.** Applications Forms are now available and should be made online ONLY. Please go to <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/ashford/> to download and return the application form by **5<sup>th</sup> January 2020** to **ashfordconf@rcdow.org.uk** (do NOT send to ashford@rcdow.org.uk). On the parish website you will need to select Sacramental Preparation and then select Confirmation. The date of the Confirmation is Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 2:30pm and will be conferred by the Episcopal Vicar Canon Paschal Ryan.

**The God who Speaks** – Lee Gibson, Parish Catechist, has prepared a handout reflecting on the readings for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. Please do take a copy from the narthex.

**Choir Appeal.** The choir only have 4 choir members available for Midnight Mass, so are looking for people to join them for singing at the Mass. This is a not a recruitment drive for the choir, but simply asking for support for Midnight Mass. Practices will be on **Thursdays at 7.30pm in the organ loft** and should take about an hour. For more information please contact Shenda Holmes on 01784 252230 or ashford@rcdow.org.uk

**November Bucket.** Thank you for your donations of £65.48 during November for Crossroads Care Surrey.

*Fr Sidon Sagar FDP*

<p><b>Offertory Collection.</b> Last week's collection was £1,683.74 - Envelopes £589.50; Bankers Orders £600.00 (weekly average); Loose Plate £494.24</p>
--

<p><b>Emergency Exits:</b> In the event of an emergency, please note that the three fire exits from the church are the main church entrance, the side door to the left of St Joseph's Chapel, and the main entrance to the hall.</p>
--

***Dates for your diary in December***

<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Ashford and Staines Joint Advent Penitential Service, at St Michael's 7.30pm
<b>Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Antiques Fair 10.00am – 3.00pm
<b>Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Monthly teas and coffees after 9.15am Mass
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Christmas Carols 'Sing a Long' 7.00pm in the parish hall
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Family Carol Service with Tableaux 3.00pm
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	First Mass of Christmas 6.00pm Midnight Mass 11.00 with Carols 10.30pm
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Christmas Masses 9.15am and 11.00am (no evening Mass)
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Mass at 10.00am

**The Bucket Collection in December is for Crisis at Christmas.**

**Ladies Circle.** We meet in the Kings Fairway for our Christmas meal on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December** at 7.30 for 8.00pm.

**Sunday Friends.** Throughout Advent Sunday Friends will be telling the children the traditional and delightful story of Christmas using their colourful Advent calendar which holds 24 beautifully illustrated pull out story books. The story of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus will be told over the 4 weeks of Advent.

**Repository.** Westminster Year Books 2020, £4.50, are now available.

**Antiques, Arts, Crafts and Collectors Fair on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December,** 10.00am – 3.00pm in the parish hall – plenty of Christmas Stalls available. More information from Anna Hogan on 01784 254462

**Free Christmas lunch for local pensioners.** The Ash Tree public house is inviting 25 local pensioners to a free Christmas lunch on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019** 1.00pm for 1.30 start. The lunch will start with a free drink on arrival followed by lunch. Please fill in your name and food choice on the sheet in the narthex. If you need further information, please call Moya Hogan on 07791 641456.

**Christmas Food Bank Collection on behalf of Trussell Trust.** One of our parishioners is hosting this event in the parish hall this **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December** from 4.30pm - putting together different parcel and hampers which will all be donated to the local foodbanks. A collection team will be in the narthex after Masses this weekend. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

**Job vacancy at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School, Staines - Lead Play Co-ordinator** (lunchtimes), term-time only, 11.30am- 1.00pm, required immediately, salary £3660 per annum (£305 per month, paid over 12 months). More information on the poster in the narthex or contact the school on 01784 453539 or admin@ourlady.surrey.sch.uk

**Readings for 8<sup>th</sup> December, Second Sunday of Advent**

*Isaiah 11: 1-10; Romans 15: 4-9; Matthew 3: 1-12*

## PLEASE PRAY

for all the sick and housebound in our parish.

for anniversaries in December since 2012. Marie Bouquet, Anthony Connell, Michael Cowan, Harold Crowley, Elizabeth Daley, Kathleen Day, Marion Field, Michael Horan, Otilia Jenkins, Maureen Malloy, Vincenzo Mingoia, Mary Monahan, Beryl Nicklette, Julie Pichler, Hazel Robinson, John Sheridan, Mary Stevens, Anthony Storer, Mary Stuart, Bernard Ward.

for Fr Nigel Griffin and the parishioners of St Edmund's Whitton in the Upper Thames Deanery.

for the Holy Father's Prayer Intention that every country determines to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority,

---

### Mass Intentions 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Vigil Mass Saturday, 6.00pm</b> A special intention (BO & UO)
	9.15am Aileen Parisi RIP
	11.00am A special intention (FB & GB)
	6.00pm The people of the parish
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15am A special intention (JH)
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15am Francisca Maria Barretto RIP
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am A special intention (JS)
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Eric, Marie and Maureen Walters RIP
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am A special intention (CC)
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Vigil Mass Saturday, 6.00pm</b> Matilda Saparamadu RIP
	9.15am Mabel Corry RIP
	11.00am Maria Alves de Jesus RIP
	6.00pm The people of the parish

---

### Sunday Mass

(Vigil) Saturday, 6.00pm

9.15am Family (Folk Group, Children's Liturgy of the Word)

11.00am Sung (First Sunday, Ordinary of the Mass sung in Latin)

6.00pm

### Holy Days of Obligation Mass

9.15am and 7.00pm

### Weekday Mass

9.15am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

### Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

Saturday 9.45 – 10.15am

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10.15 – 10.45am (and at any time by appointment)

### Sacrament of Baptism

Normally celebrated on a Saturday once a month. To arrange a Baptism contact Baptism Catechist Lee Gibson on 07713 760281 or lee.gibson.2na@btinternet.com

---

### St Michael's Catholic Church

112 Clarendon Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2QD

Telephone: 01784 252230; Email: ashford@rcdow.org.uk

Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/ashford>

This parish is part of the Westminster Catholic Diocese Trustee Charity no. 233699

Parish Priest: Fr Sidon Sagar FDP; Assistant Priest: Fr Carlo Mazzotta FDP

Parish Secretary: Mrs Shenda Holmes

---