



St. Paul's Church, Cheshunt

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Parish Priest: Fr. Clement Nyarko

16/17 DECEMBER 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDATE) YEAR B



Saturday	16th	5.00 pm		For The Sick
Sunday	17th	9.00 am		People of the Parish
		11.00am		Angela Smith RIP
Monday	18th	9.30 am	Advent Feria	Eileen Foley RIP
Tuesday	19th	9.30 am	Advent Feria	Holy Souls
Wednesday	20th	9.30 am	Advent Feria	
Friday	22nd	9:00am	Benediction & Mass	

4th Sunday Advent Year B

Saturday	23rd	5.00 pm
Sunday	24th	9 & 11.00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-pm or telephone the presbytery for an appointment

We pray for the sick in our Parish especially, Mary Marah, Margaret Watson, Patricia Reilly, Mariesha McDonagh, Barbara Bassett, Barbara Alexander and for those who have no one to care for them. We pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed especially Benedict Clifford De Silver, Alexander Nicolaidis, Thomas Kilcommons and Rosalinda Zanre and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 The Messiah, guided by God's Spirit. This text describes Jesus' ministry

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 The spirit of fervour encouraged among the early Christians

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28 John the Baptist's testimony to Jesus

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK- In a spirit of joyful service

Today's readings are brim-full of joy and hope. Israel radiates as a joyful bride coming to her bridegroom adorned for a lavish, oriental wedding. Paul's words to the Thessalonians continue the theme of hope and joy in a community that lives by the life of Christ. And St John, in the gospel, pictures the work of John the Baptist, who came to witness to God's light upon this earth. This is not a joyousness without responsibility. It's a joy that is found when people find and carry out their true mission in life. Isaiah speaks of one anointed and sent to bring good news to the oppressed – words that were adopted by Jesus to describe his own life's purpose – just as they should also be made real in the life of every Christian. Those privileged to share in Jesus' spiritual life must also share in his concerns and desires.

PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION

As part of our preparations for this Christmas, an Advent reconciliation service will take place at the Parish on Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 7:30pm. You are all invited

ADVENT REFLECTION AT ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL; Tuesday 19th December at 2:30pm. You are all invited.

SAFEGUARDING; Achieving a culture of safeguarding in our Parish

To help create a safe space and build a culture of safeguarding, I would like to remind parishioners that, the parish has a Safeguarding representative in the person of Trevor Mills. Contact Trevor on 07954438606/cheshuntsg@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk. www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk.

www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding. The diocesan safeguarding coordinator can be contacted on: 02077989350.

CHRISTMAS MEAL

The Parish is hosting a Christmas meal for its Senior Citizens and the housebound on Saturday 6th January 2024 at 1.00pm with St Joseph's Church. If you would like to attend or know of anyone who would like to come along, please give names and details to the Parish Office. If you would like to help on the day with preparing, cooking or serving the meal, please contact the St Joseph's Parish Office-01992 623156.

CONFIRMATION COURSE 23/24

Parents and candidates are to note that the course begins with parents and catechists gathering on January 6, 2024 after the 5pm Mass. The course starts at 3pm on January 13, 2024. All must be present. Emails have been sent already. If you have not received one, cross check your email address with Fr. Clement

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

School admissions for a primary, junior or middle school place is open until 15 January 2024. If you would like to apply for a place at St Paul's Catholic Primary School, all you need to do is: make a new in year application via Hertfordshire admissions and complete a Supplementary Information Form which is available on the school website. If you would like to view St Paul's or have any questions, please contact admin@stpauls373.herts.sch.uk and we will be happy to help.

SUPPORT SVP

"The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of thermal socks, face flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support."

REPOSITORY

The Repository will be open after the 9.00 am and 11.00 am Masses this weekend. It is now stocked with Christmas cards and gifts. Please be aware that to pay, it is cash only.

URGENT APPEAL FOR WINTER CLOTHING- Supporting local refugees and asylum seekers

We urgently need clean winter clothes in good condition. No holes, broken zips or fastenings please. for men and women: Coats, jumpers, hoodies, joggers, long sleeved tops in S, M, L XL. For children: age 3-14 Coats, jumpers, hoodies, joggers, long sleeved tops. Sorry but we cannot accept summer clothing at this time of year.

KNOCK PILGRIMAGES

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

DIOCESAN JOBS

Are you looking for job opportunities? Westminster Diocese has some opportunities for you. For a list of current vacancies and further details, please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

CARITAS WESTMINSTER

Advent is a special season in the Church's year when we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ. However, with the cost-of-living crisis, many in our communities are facing difficulties. This Advent Giving Calendar is designed for you to use this season as a time to think about those who might need some extra support this Christmas. You can follow along each day and you can leave your donations for the Broxbourne Foodbank in the box by the Altar. To download the Advent Giving Calendar go to <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/food-security-918.php#AGC>.

APPRECIATION

Thank you for your continuous support to the Parish in these challenging times, especially to our stewards/volunteers and all of you, for your generous giving to the Parish.