



Year 74 No. 2943

Week of the Psalter 4

20 December 2020

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT year B

“Unplug. Connect. Try Alpha”. You might remember this motto of the Alpha Course flyer we published last September. 18 participants attended the course both online and in-person. Doing it online was quite challenging, I have to confess that I could not believe it would ever work out. But it did! Here is Eleanor Helsby’s feedback on her personal experience, that she agreed to share in this Newsletter:



“My first interactions with Christ the King have been through my parents and also by volunteering for CAFOD the last few months. I found out about the course through my parents who saw it in the Parish newsletter.

Attending the Alpha Course has been one of the positives for 2020 and I’m glad I signed up. It has been great being able to invest the time to consider my faith and debate some big life questions in a safe and encouraging environment. I feel like I’m on the start of a spiritual journey and I’m looking forward to seeing how it progresses.

Before I joined the Alpha Course, I felt like I was at a point where I’ve achieved quite a lot in my life but I felt like I had exhausted my own resources and wanted to explore my faith further. Since completing the course, I have found a lot more inner peace. Another positive, has been finding my creative spark again (something that I have lost the last few years due to lots of tough events happening in my life).

The point that stands out for me on the course is The Holy Spirit weekend. I didn’t think anything had changed but in the days that followed, I was very teary and emotional which was hard to go through at the time. I have since come to realise it was likely an experience of letting my guard down to let God and Jesus into my life, and an experience of emotional healing from the past.

When I reflect on the couple of months, one of the best aspects about the course is the lovely people I have met and getting to know them. I hope to stay in touch with them.”

Uplifting, isn’t it? I just thank God that this Course has been a reviving experience for all participants, sometimes in a very deep manner. As for myself, I also discovered how powerful – and demanding – is the possibility, for the Church, to lead such a mission online. Internet is not just a means to invite people, it has become the means to meet people and talk to them about Jesus. As the founder of Pro Church Tools Brady Shearer has it, “social media is a ministry it’s not a vehicle to promote ministry.” Hopefully, the pandemic could have an end in 2021. But very probably, online evangelization will be a new and important life of the Church of tomorrow.

**Fr Jean-Sébastien Laurent**

### **Please help us keep safe at Christmas**

As we welcome you to celebrate Mass at Christmas with the parish, we ask you all to please help with the following steps:

- please wear a face covering in Church
- sanitise your hands on entry
- sign a slip or use the QR code for track and trace
- remember to socially distance
- be aware that the open windows are to ensure the space is ventilated.
- follow the one way systems in and out of each space.
- wait for the stewards to direct you for communion - down the central aisle and back up the side aisles. Eucharistic ministers will bring communion to the hall and St Marks room.
- from the church please exit from the back doors
- from the large hall please exit through the doors to the garden
- from St Marks room please exit down through the entrance hall.
- for safety reasons we will not allow more than 200 people in the building.
- doors will be open 30 min before each Mass.



**The stewards of the welcome team have been asked to help with these measures so that the Joy of the Lord’s birth can be celebrated fully. Please follow their guidance.**

### ALFRESCO CAROLS SUNDAY 20th DEC 5.45PM

Come along and take this one opportunity to sing Carols with your Parish community and prepare for Christmas. In order to meet COVID rules/Guidance, we will be socially distanced on the lawn next to the Hall. Please note, the Church building will be closed, apart from access to the toilets. (Please wear your masks) Feel free to bring a torch and a flask with a hot drink to keep you warm. The Carols will last less than an hour – but will be cancelled if it is raining. There will be a collection for Fr Sebastian's mission with the street children in the Philippines.



### CHRISTMAS DRAW EXTRAVAGANZA

Thank you to everyone who participated in the draw - helping us to raise a **total of £1,105.00** for the Parish Day of Thanksgiving & Togetherness, which will be held when possible - hopefully in the Spring - Pandemic Regulations permitting.

The winners are as follows:-

- 1st prize - Christmas Hamper - Betty Daley
- 2nd prize - Christmas Cake - Mary Lyne
- 3rd prize - Italian Christmas Basket - M Murtagh
- 4th prize - Surprise Box of Christmas Goodies - Eileen Truran.



5th prize - Christmas Hamper donated by Mr & Mrs E Herlihy - Jaynee from Chintu Newsagents. God Bless & once again, thank you to everyone for making the Draw the success it was.

Maria & Mary - BT Club & CWL

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

Please collect a Christmas programme from the entrance hall or look on the website.



### HELENE & ROBERT

The parish would like to thank Helene and Robert for all the good work they have done. At the beginning of next year they are returning to Canada where Helene will be in charge of the Chemin Neuf community. We are pleased to welcome Ted and Nancy, who will be part of the team within the parish.



### BT CLUB UPDATE



### CHRISTMAS ZOOM SING A LONG

A great time was had by 25 of us on Sunday afternoon. We were treated to a delightful duet from Fr Christophe and Fr Jean Sebastian! And a BIG thank you to Jo Collins who led us in festive song.

**BT CLUB BITE SIZE** - Please check out the Parish's face book page to find a list of Religious Programmes on TV and Radio over the festive period that do not require internet access.

**BT CLUB ONLINE** will be taking a break until the New Year so until then please Take Care and Keep Safe.

**Wishing you all a Peaceful Christmas  
Love From the BT Club Volunteers**



### ZOOM PRAYER GROUP

Last week Fiona Castle spoke so memorably about the run up to Christmas and how we can make a difference to someone. At **2.30 pm on Saturday 19th** the actress Charis King will act The Nativity for us! A real treat! We are not meeting on Boxing Day but plan to continue on Zoom for the foreseeable future and have outside speakers lined up for many weeks. The Zoom meetings work well and everyone loves them. Newcomers are of course most welcome - just ask for a link.

[peterkrau@aol.com](mailto:peterkrau@aol.com)

### KINSHASA APRONS

Will be on sale after 11am mass this weekend.



**FRESH APPLE JUICE** from Schlerder Abbey, Cornwall will be on sale after all masses this weekend. £3.00 per bottle / £30 for 12 bottles.



The **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** have assembled nearly 12,000 packs for the homeless and have distributed. Each Vinnie Pack contains a thermal hat, thermal gloves two pairs of thermal socks, toothpaste, toothbrush, wet wipes, Pavement magazine, pen and information sheet and 5,000 of the packs have a reusable face mask included. The contents of each Vinnie Pack cost around £3.50 and donations to sponsor packs would be most welcome. Donations can be transferred to **SVP Vinnie Packs, a/c 46088237 sort code 60-60-04** or cheques made out to SVP can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ**. Any assistance is really appreciated.



Sunday 20 December	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT year B Masses: 9.00am & 11.00am Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16. Ps. 88:2-5. 27. 29. Romans 16:25-27. Lk. 1:26-38.	Thursday 24 December	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> Masses: 4.00pm, 7.00pm & 10.00pm Readings: Isaiah 9:1-7. Ps. 95. Titus 2:11-14. Lk. 2:1-14.
Monday 21 December	Advent Feria Mass: 11.00am Readings: Numbers 24:2-7. 15-17. Ps. 24:4-9. Mt. 21:23-27.	Friday 25 December	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> Masses: 9.00am & 11.00am Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10. Ps. 97. Hebrews 1:1-6. Jn. 1:1-18.
Tuesday 22 December	Advent Feria NO MASS Readings: Zephaniah 3:1-2. 9-13. Ps. 33:2-3. 6-7. 16. 18-19. 23. Mt. 21:28-32.	Saturday 26 December	<b>ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr</b> Masses: 11.00am & 5.30pm Readings: Judges 13:2-7. 24-25. Ps. 70:3-6. 16-17. Lk. 1:5-25.
Wednesday 23 December	Advent Feria Mass: 11.00am Readings: Isaiah 45:6-8. 18. 21-26. Ps. 84:9-14. Lk. 7:19-23.	Sunday 27 December	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH</b> year B Masses: 9.00am & 11.00am Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16. Ps. 88:2-5. 27. 29. Romans 16:25-27. Lk. 1:26-38.