



PRAYING TOGETHER FOR THE CHURCH, THE WORLD, THE PARISH & ONE ANOTHER

SICK & HOUSEBOUND: PC, Yee Wing, CPO, Gillian Gibb, Phyllis Coffey, Ann Hull, Margaret O'Hanlon, Chris, RC, Theresa Mulvaney, Jodie Clarke, Kieran Maher, Rose Knights, Mary Honey, Peggy & John Cox, Diego Campigotto, Edel Rickard, Polly Thompson, Jean McGrath, Antonio Rodrigues, Julie & Lawrence Hayes, Margaret O'Brien, Michael Rynne, Mary Geaghan, Annemarie Dax, Special Intention, Terry Highland, Colleen Thomas, Joe Nemeth, Helen Faria,, Margaret Callighne, Frank Hunt, Maggie Kirrane, Vera Hylton, Monica Wisniewicz, Geraldine O'Toole, Eileen Harrison, Ian Measham, David Colville, Josephine Smullen, Edward Reilly,, Betty Cain, Callum Stewart-Robert, Betty Hickey, Bernie Marren, Sadie Burgess, Shayanayaki Kaithampilai, Richard Howse, Mia Harrison, RK., Special Intention, Ann Nemeth, Marjorie Hoareau, Max Perera, Nick Holmes, Michael Howard, George McDermott, Michael Fahy, Victor Jude Booth, Mary E. Malone, Michael Griffin Snr., JK, Titus Fernandes, Sean O'Connor, Alan Parnell.

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Sally Walshe (formerly of Wood End Road), Shirley McCarthy, Maureen Hennessy, Erdal Cemal

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Florence Coomarewel, Gray Kennedy (Month's Mind).

INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR DECEMBER

Universal: That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

Evangelization: That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
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Pastoral Assistant: Peter Kingsley peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk
Secretary: Mrs. Toni Miles sudbury@rcdow.org.uk
Director of Music: Scott Price scottprice@rcdow.org.uk
Hall Bookings: via the office or sudbury@rcdow.org.uk
Address: The Presbytery, 970 Harrow Road, Sudbury, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 2QE
Tel: 020 8904 2552. Phone Options: 1. Mass Times; 2. Parish Office 3. Mgr Jeremy;
4. Fr. Tony; 5. Pastoral Assistant. Charity No: 233699
Email: sudbury@rcdow.org.uk Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/sudbury

Joseph heard the troubling news:
Mary was expecting!
What should he, a just man, do?
He sought God's directing.
Joseph thought to send her home
— leave her, without blaming;
Then an angel in a dream spoke of joy,
proclaiming:
"Go, take Mary as your wife; Joseph,
don't you fear it —
God has formed a precious life by the Holy Spirit!
Mary soon will bear a son;
you shall name him Jesus.
When the prophet spoke of him, he said,
"God is with us!"
God of love, we too may face times of doubt
and trouble.
May we know your daily grace,
even when we struggle.
Just as Joseph answered,
"Yes!" with new dedication,
We rejoice, for we've been blessed
by your Incarnation.

SANCTUARY LAMP
has been sponsored this week
FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL ROAD USERS
LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
has been sponsored this week
In memory of
**HILARION ALOYSIUS TOCTAN RIP
AND MARIA ELLUL RIP**



Sunday cycle
Readings Year A
Weekday readings
Advent week 4
Divine Office
Week 4

The Catholic Parish
of St George, Sudbury



Sunday 18th December 2016 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome to all at Mass today, especially to any visitors and particularly those who are here for the first time. Please take this sheet home with you which will tell you about this week's celebration and the activities during the week and also to remind you of our Liturgy today.

TODAY'S MASS



We enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the characters of Mary and Joseph, and hear of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child Jesus, and the reaction of Joseph. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the promise that the Messiah would come from that

line. Joseph, descendant of King David, is invited to take his place in the great story of God's relationship with the Chosen people. There is great sense of a timeless mystery reaching its focal point, as that which was promised long ago now takes flesh in the womb of Mary.

First Reading: *Isaiah 7:10-14*

Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel.

Second Reading: *Romans 1:1-7*

Paul greets the community at Rome and declares himself a servant of Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 1:18-24*

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"God's presence is not discerned at a time when it is upon us but afterwards when we look back at what is gone and over"
Blessed Cardinal Newman

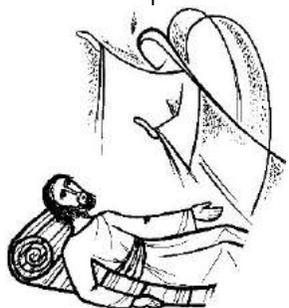
Sunday reflection

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed

to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.



The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "God saves." He will be the fulfilment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

FRIENDS OF JESUS - The Friends of Jesus offers Religious Education to those children of primary school age not attending a Catholic school. The Friends of Jesus meets during term-time for an hour at 5.30pm. If you are interested in finding out more about the Friends of Jesus please pick up an Information Leaflet from the back of church. Enrolment Forms are available from the Parish Office. The new term will begin on Friday 13th January at 5.30pm.

HOLY BAPTISM: Information packs are available from the parish office. You can sign up there for the preparation evening. Parents to be, i.e. before birth, are welcome to attend. Please note that our next baptism preparation evening will be on Friday 27th January 2017 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

SEEKING CATECHISTS & HELPERS FOR CONFIRMATION - If you would like to help prepare this year's candidates for their Confirmation in June next year we would be delighted to hear from you. If you would be interested in helping in any way please speak to Mgr. Jeremy or contact Peter, our Catechetical Coordinator, at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk. Thank you!

MEN'S BREAKFAST—Following our successful and enjoyable launch of the Men's Breakfast we will meet again on Saturday 28th January at 9am. As well as a fry-up we will have a guest speaker—Fr. John Hemer talking about his experience as a missionary priest in Pakistan. If you are interested please RSVP to Fr. Tony at tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk

CAFÉ/BAR NOW CLOSED until Thursday 12th January. If you would be interested in volunteering to help please contact Patricia on 07939 722 198

LADIES' KEEP FIT will be back on Monday January 9th 2017 at 1.30pm.

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT - A Night to Remember. In place of this year's pantomime, St George's Players are hosting a Quiz Night in aid of St Mark's Hospital Foundation on Saturday, 21 January 2017. Tickets are £25 for a table of four, including food. Tickets can be reserved by phoning Greg Birch, on 07990 566929, or Andrew Bell, on 07910 598880. The Parish Bar will be open. Tickets are limited and available now to reserve.

BEFRIENDING SERVICE - If you know of anyone in the Parish who might like to be befriended please

let us know as we have a small group of befrienders who would be only too happy to help.

CHURCH LAMPS: If you would like to sponsor the blessed sacrament lamp or the lamp by the altar of Our Lady of Walsingham with a particular intention, the cost is £10 for the week - Please see Toni in the Parish Office..

SET DANCING—now finished until January 10th 2017 at 8.45pm.

CHILDREN'S ART CLASS: now finished until Thursday January 12th 2017 at 5.30-7.30pm.

WHITE/YELLOW FOLDER INFORMATION FOR THE FOLLOWING: (See in church porch)

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE helps separated, divorced or widowed Catholics.

SMART LOVING SEMINAR for married couples.

CATHOLIC SINGLES information

RETROUVAILLE—a lifeline for married couples.

WIDOWED YOUNG—support events.

CALIX CENTRE—A Catholic ministry to addicts.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION COURSES.—new information.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA—led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, 24-27 April 2017. Further details in the folder in porch.

TEACHER TRAINING with Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School. Information evening on 15th January 2017 at 5.30pm— see notice in folder to book.

VACANCIES:

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT and **TEACHING ASSISTANT** required at St. George's School. (c/ date 6th Jan).

DIOCESAN VACANCIES:- Please see folder and website. for latest details

FOLDERS in the church porch: look for pilgrimages & retreats, job opportunities, schools & colleg-

DECORATING THE CHURCH IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS..



Can you lend a hand? We'll be in Church most of Friday 23rd and also Saturday the 24th in the morning. Come and give us an hour or more. If you have some seasonal greenery in your garden bring that too.

NEWS & VIEWS



UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE

This year we will be collecting for the **Catholic Children's Society**. Please bring your gifts labelled with age and gender. No consumables please. Many thanks!



WELCOME to all who have come to Mass today. Please stay on if you are able, for TEA & COFFEE after the 9.45am and 11.15am Masses, in the Bar of the Parish Centre.

NEW TO THE PARISH? If you are, please know you are very welcome. Please fill in one of the new parishioners forms at the back of church and we'll get back to you.

SECOND COLLECTION this Sunday for Christmas Flowers and trees. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

CAROL SERVICE by candlelight tonight (Sunday) at 7.00pm. All welcome!

PARISH DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 18 December:

Teas/coffees after 9.45am and 11.15am Masses
Carols by Candlelight followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. 7.00pm

Thursday 22 December:

Church Cleaning Group C 10.30am

Friday 23 December:

Teas after morning Mass

CHRISTMAS GIVING ENVELOPES: These are now available and they are an opportunity for you to make a special Christmas gift to the church at this time. This money is no longer an offering to the clergy. If you wish to give them a gift you must do that separately through a card or some other means through the parish letterbox.

CHRISTMAS CARDS with all the times of CHRISTMAS SERVICES are available today. Why not take one to a friend and encourage them to join us?

THE TUCK SHOP will be open again this week after the 9.45am Mass in the Parish Centre. Come and treat the kids and have a coffee too!

CHRISTMAS POSTERS are available this weekend from the Repository.

HELP NEEDED...

⇒ Before and after the Carol Service for preparing mulled wine and mince pies

⇒ Before and after the Christmas Eve Masses for the giving out of the same above!

⇒ Cleaning and decorating the church for Christmas.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY AT VIGIL MASS - There will be a final rehearsal for those participating in this year's Children's Nativity at the Christmas Vigil Mass in the Church on Saturday 24th December at 10.30am.

GOOD NEWS...

* in that there is now new lighting in and outside the church porch which finishes are refurbishment of the whole of the outside area;

* The church lighting is now finished giving a remarkable improvement throughout the building;

* The Baptistery (which was in a terrible state) has now been completely redecorated.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:

Please sign up for the 6pm Family Mass and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

FUNERAL MASS of **SHIRLEY MCCARTHY RIP** will take place on Wednesday 21st December at 11.00am at St. Joseph's Church, Bull Lane, Gerrards Cross. Reception on Tuesday 20th December at 6.00pm.

FUNERAL MASS of **ERDAL CEMAL** on **Friday 30th December at 12 noon**

TAMIL PRAYER MEETING every Saturday evening after 6.15pm Mass. All Welcome. Contact: Edward on 07976 487 313.

SCHOOL FORM SIGNING for **Primary Schools on Friday 6th January 2017 at 7.00pm-8.30pm** in the parish Centre. This year the new 'Certificate of Practice' is in force which means you must be very regular in attending Mass. Please also note that this is the primary time for the parish priests to sign your forms.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY MASS: 6.15pm (Saturday Vigil), 8.30am, 9.45am (Family) & 11.15am (Solemn), 5.30pm, **WEEKDAY MASS:** Monday – Saturday 9.30am, **HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION:** 9.30am, 8.00pm, **EUCARISTIC ADORATION:** Saturday 5.15-6.00pm **RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS:** Saturday 5.15pm - 6.00pm and any time by appointment, **DIVINE MERCY:** Tuesday 10.30am, **PRAYER GROUP:** Thursday 8.00pm **FRIENDS OF JESUS:** Friday 5.30pm.

V	Sun	18 Dec	ADVENT IV	<i>Sat. Vigil</i>	6.15pm 8.30am 9.45am	Tom and Mary Higgins RIP Richard O'Dwyer RIP Wally & Dorothy Watts RIP Marita & Robbie Ledo RIP Hermosinda Toucedo RIP Edward Johnston RIP
					11.15am 5.30pm	PRO POPULO
V	Mon	19 Dec	Advent feria		9.30am	Michele Costella RIP
V	Tues	20 Dec	Advent feria		9.30am	Florence Coomarewail RIP
V	Wed	21 Dec	Advent feria		9.30am	Dee Kelly Loader and Tom Kelly RIP
V	Thur	22 Dec	Advent feria		9.30am	Anthony Mutukisna Intentions
V	Fri	23 Dec	Advent feria		9.30am	Sharan Mutukisna Intentions
V	Sat	24 Dec	Advent feria		9.30am	Michael Johnston Intentions

CHRISTMAS EVE

			<i>Carols</i>		5.30pm	
Gd			Family Vigil Mass		6.00pm	Christine Kilker RIP
			<i>Carols by Candlelight</i>		11.30pm	
Gd			MIDNIGHT MASS		12 midnight	Peter Cronin RIP

CHRISTMAS DAY

Gd	Sun	25 Dec	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD		8.30pm 9.45am 11.15am	Anastasia Johnston RIP Special Intentions PRO POPULO
R	Mon	26 Dec	S. Stephen		12 noon	Daniel Daley RIP
W	Tues	27 Dec	S. John		9.30am	Paul Dias RIP
R	Wed	28 Dec	The Holy Innocents		9.30am	Tom Lally RIP (15th Ann)
R	Thur	29 Dec	S. Thomas Becket		9.30am	Jim Bonner RIP (1st Ann)
W	Fri	30 Dec	The Holy Family		9.30am	Pat DeCorcey RIP
W	Sat	31 Dec	Seventh Day of the Octave		9.30am	Joan Emily Longuet RIP (4th Ann)

CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Saturday 17th December 5.15 - 6.00pm;

Monday 19th – Saturday 24th December 9.00 - 9.30am

or at any other time by appointment



HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!

TODAY'S MASS

Introit Antiphon *Cf. Is 45: 8*

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First Reading: *Isaiah 7:10-14*

Theme: The maiden is with child.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above. No, Ahaz answered I will not put the Lord to the test.

Then Isaiah said:

Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 23*

R/. Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. *R/.*

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. *R/.*

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. *R/.*

Second Reading: *Romans 1:1-7*

Theme: Jesus Christ, descendent of David, Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the

order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us". Alleluia!

Gospel: *Matthew 1:18-25*

Theme: Jesus is born of Mary who is betrothed to Joseph, son of David

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,

because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Prayer over the Offerings

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon *Is 7: 14*

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Prayer after Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.