



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

SICK & HOUSEBOUND: Ann Hull, Michael Griffin Snr., Titus Fernandes, Mary Malone, Margaret Cournane, Annie Phillips, Sadie & Tony Burgess, Mavis Hinton, Tom Fernandes, Cath Kervill, John Flynn, All in Copland Nursing Home, Gerard Perera, Margaret Macdonald, Gillian Gibb, Joe Nemeth, Frank Hunt, Ann Nemeth, Ken Fernandes, Michael Fahey, Marie Rego, Peter Bell

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Vivienne Lynch, Liam Lynch.

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Pamela Greenope, Susan Reynolds.

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Delphine De Lima, John O'Leary, Margaret Mary Walsh, Mgr Wilfred Purney, Larry O'Toole.

INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR DECEMBER

The Elderly: That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Word Search Puzzle

W M Y P A S S
I H E A V E N
L Z R W M E B
L A N O A A U
A W O R R R T
N A T D K T E
D Y N S W H Y

(Mark 13:31) Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Word List

HEAVEN WORDS EARTH WILL PASS MARK AWAY
NOT BUT AND MY

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead
Assistant Priest: Fr. Tony Thomas
Catechetical Coordinator: Mr. Peter Kingsley
Secretary: Mrs. Toni Miles
Director of Music: Mr. Scott Price
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PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
ever faithful to your promises
and ever close to your Church:
the earth rejoices in hope of the
Saviour's coming and looks
forward with longing to his
return at the end of time.
Prepare our hearts and remove
the sadness that hinders us from
feeling the joy and hope which
his presence will bestow, for he
is Lord for ever and ever.
Amen.

SANCTUARY LAMP

has been sponsored this week
In Memory of
JOE MYLES RIP

**LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF
OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM**
has been sponsored this week
IN MEMORY OF
KEVIN DURCAN RIP



**TURN OFF
ALL MOBILE
PHONES**



Sunday cycle
Readings Year B
Weekday Readings
Season of Advent
Divine Office
Week 1

**The Catholic Parish
of St George, Sudbury**



**Sunday 3rd December 2017
FIRST 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



**DO NOT LET HIM COME
SUDDENLY AND
CATCH YOU ASLEEP
MK 13:36**

Faced with the Second Coming of the Son of Man which can be neither predicted or prevented, during this long vigil through this worlds night, our only hope is to remain on the alert, fully conscious of our responsibilities towards each present moment, and investing it with the full weight of eternity.

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7

Isaiah prays for the Lord's forgiveness of the people.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Paul gives thanks to God for the faith of the Corinthians.

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:33-37

Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"True waiting means waiting without anxiety"

S. Francis de Sales

Sunday Reflection

We do not know when he will return. But Christ promised us that he would return in glory, “as light comes from the east” to bring God’s plan of redemption to its fulfilment.

In the early Church, Christians expected that Christ would come soon—any day. There was hopeful expectation. They were watchful—they looked to the sky in the east to wait for Christ. And because they did not know when he would return, they proclaimed the Gospel with urgency and enthusiasm, hoping to bring the world to salvation before Christ returned.

It has been over two thousand years now since Christ ascended into heaven. It has become easier to forget that he will come again to earth. It has become easier to forget that we must be waiting, we must be watching, and we must be ready.

In the season of Advent, as we recall Christ’s Incarnation at Christmas, we are reminded to be prepared for Christ’s coming. In the Gospel for the First Sunday of Advent this year, Christ tells us his disciples “to be on the watch.” ...“You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming,” Jesus says. “May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.”

We remember that Christ is coming whenever we celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. In the Holy Mass we are made present to the sacrifice at Calvary, and to the joy of Christ’s glory in heaven. But we also remember that Christ will return, and we remember to watch, to be vigilant, to wait for him, and to be prepared.

The Mass is rich with symbolism. The vestments of the priest remind us of the dignity of Christ the King. We strike our breasts, and bow our heads, and bend our knees to remember our sinfulness, God’s mercy, and his glory. In the Mass, the ways we stand, and

sit, and kneel, remind us of God’s eternal plan for us.

Since ancient times, Christians have often faced the east during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to remember to keep watch for Christ. Together, the priest and the people faced the east, waiting and watching for Christ. Even in Churches that did not face the east, the priest and people stood together in the Mass, gazing at Christ on the crucifix, on the altar, and in the tabernacle, to recall the importance of watching for his return. The symbolism of the priest and people facing *ad orientem*—to the east or orient—is an ancient reminder of the coming of Christ.

More recently, it has become common for the priest and the people to face one another during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The priest stands behind the altar as he consecrates the Eucharist, facing the people. The people see the face of the priest as he prays, and he sees their faces. These positions can have important symbolism too. They can remind us that we are a community—one body in Christ. And they can remind us that the Eucharist, at the centre of the assembly, should also be at the centre of our families, and our lives.

But the symbolism of facing together, and awaiting Christ, is rich, time-honored and important. Especially during Advent, as we await the coming of the Lord, facing the east together—even symbolically facing Christ together at the altar and on the crucifix—is a powerful witness to Christ’s imminent return. Today, at a time when it is easy to forget that Christ is coming—and easy to be complacent in our spiritual lives and in the work of evangelization—we need reminders that Christ will come.

THE LIST OF THE SICK has now been renewed. If you know someone who needs to be included please let the office know.

THANK YOU - The Quinn Family wish to thank all those who sent their sympathy and helped following Jim's death. The Holy Mass will be offered for their intentions.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AND READERS. To all who have supplied us with an email address –please check your emails this week for a communication from us.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - Might you be open to help with the Children's Liturgy at the 9.45am Family Mass? If you might consider joining our team of Catechists/Helpers please contact Una Moran on 07932 620 504. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT - The Information Evening for those wishing to enrol on the Confirmation Programme during the coming year will be on **Monday 8th January 2018.**

FRIENDS OF JESUS - The Friends of Jesus Programme takes place on Fridays from 5.30-6.30pm providing a little religious education to those children in the Parish not attending a Catholic school. An Information Leaflet is available in the porch.

ALTAR SERVING:

CALLING ALL EXISTING ALTAR SERVERS! We are refreshing our list of altar servers to bring it up to date. If you currently serve and would like to continue doing so, please email Rosy Fernandes (rosy.fernandes@talktalk.net) by the end of November (or ask your parent/guardian to if you are under 16). This will help us in putting together a new rota from January.

PLEASE NOTE that at a few Sunday Masses recently, no-one has arrived to serve. If you are not listed on the rota for a Mass you are attending, but you notice that no-one else has arrived to serve, please volunteer to help. Thank you.

CALLING NEW ALTAR SERVERS! Any young person or Adult can ask to become an altar server after they have made their first Holy Communion. If you would be interested in serving, please could you (or your parent/guardian) email Fr Tony on tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk. Training will, of course, be provided. Thank you.

EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - Might you be open to serve the Parish as an Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion? We are always grateful to those people who assist the Priest with administering the Sacrament at Mass and taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. If you are interested and like to be considered please speak to Fr. Tony

CALLING BAPTISM PREPARATION CATECHISTS -Might you consider helping to prepare Parents/Carers for the Baptism of their Infants If you are interested or would like further information please speak to Fr. Tony.

CEILIDH CHRISTMAS PARTY on Friday 15th December at 8pm in the Parish Centre. Music by “Luckpenny”. For more details please contact Pat on 07932008547.

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.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED to help with the **CHURCH FLOWERS.** You do not have to be professional just committed to coming to help on Fridays and at major celebrations. If you can help please contact the parish team.

BAR/CAFÉ OPENING TIMES: Fridays after morning Mass

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. We now have cards (akin to Mass Cards) for the sponsoring of the Sacrament lamp or Walsingham Lamp if you’d like to use these if you are sponsoring a lamp in memory of someone. They can be obtained from the parish office. PLEASE REMEMBER to book your anniversary Masses early. We are now booked up until end of May 2018.

DO YOU SUPPORT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for ‘Catholic Education’ in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH: ANYONE contemplating the prospect of spending Christmas Day alone has another option in our community. We arrange a traditional Christmas lunch and volunteers will provide transport to those in need of a lift. If you would like to attend as a guest and/or you know of someone who would benefit, please email us. We will need the help and support of volunteers on the day. Any queries email Christmaslunch25@gmail.com or telephone Catherine on 07985350181.

ROOM TO LET –5 minutes walk from church. Please telephone 020 8904 7229/07504739081.

FAMILY LOOKING FOR 3-4 BEDROOM HOUSE to rent in Sudbury. Call Lency on 07954096398

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

JOB VACANCIES & DIOCESAN VACANCIES: St. Gregory’s Catholic Science College require an Expressive Arts Technician (c/d 4/12); . Details plus latest diocesan vacancies in folder in porch or go to relevant websites.

FOLDERS in the church porch: look for pilgrimages & retreats, job opportunities, schools & college.

NEWS & VIEWS

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 Café-Bar of the Parish Centre. THE TUCK SHOP will be open in the Parish Centre after the 9.45am Mass.

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.

PLEASE LEAVE THE PEW NEAT AND TIDY AS YOU DEPART CHURCH TODAY.

PARISH DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 3 December 2017:

Teas and coffees after 9.45am and 11.15am Masses –

Monday 4 December:
Keep Fit 2.30pm

Tuesday 5 December:
Over 60's Group: 1.00pm
First Holy Communion (in church) 6.30pm
Ceilidh/Set Dancing 8.45pm

Wednesday 6 December:
Ladies Social Guild 8.00pm

Thursday 7 December:
Café/Bar open 9-11am
Church Cleaning Group A 7.00pm
Prayer Group 8.00pm

Friday 8 December:
Teas after morning Mass
Friends of Jesus 5.30pm
Film Night 7.00pm

Saturday 9 December:
Advent day of Recollection 10.00am

ADVENT begins this Sunday. Please take our **Parish Advent Leaflet** as you leave today. Full details of Christmas services will be available soon.

THIS SUNDAY there will be a collection and raffle for flowers at Christmas.

THIS SUNDAY 3rd December is also the Feast Day of St Francis Xavier. His relic will be available for Veneration throughout the day.

THANK YOU again to all who responded to our Stewardship Campaign and renewed their commitment. There is still time to return your forms or to pick them up from the back of church if you have not yet done so.

SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS—Thank you for your very generous contributions to our second collection last week—so far £1295.41. If you were away last week it is not too late to donate as envelopes are still available in the church. Don't forget, if you are a standard tax payer, you can increase your donation by completing the gift aid portion on the envelope, or choose to make an ongoing contribution to this fund.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY, CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS - After the success of last year we are happy to let you know that there will once again be a Children's Nativity at the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass this year. If your **child is in Year 3 or above** and would like to take part (or you would like to help in any way) please contact Monica Mortali (Tel 07427 897787 or monicamortali@hotmail.co.uk). Thank you.

FIRST RECONCILIATION SERVICE - We are delighted the time has arrived for those children who have been preparing over the last few months to make their First Reconciliation. Please note that the **First Reconciliation Service this coming Tuesday 5th December begins at 6.30pm**. Please ensure you and your child arrive at the Church and are seated in good time. Thank you.

REPOSITORY - Please note that, from this Sunday onwards, the **Repository will only be open after the Saturday 6.15pm Vigil, 9.45am & 11.15am Masses**. Advent Calendars, Candles, Christmas cards, cribs & wreaths are all available.

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 9.30AM MASS will be said in memory of Miss Wilma Primmer, who died last year. Miss Primmer will be remembered by many as head teacher at St. George's First School from the early 1970's.

ADVENT SMALL GROUP - A small group will be meeting after Mass on the Mondays in Advent from 10.15-11.45am in the Parish Café Bar. All are welcome!

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING - Would you like to help contribute to making your Parish community safer for all? Until the summer of 2018 **free online training** is available through the Diocese. To register your interest please see the poster in the Porch for further details or email: safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk

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. The next baptism preparation evening will be on **Friday 26th January 2018 at 7.30pm** in the parish centre.

FILM NIGHT on Friday 8th December at 7pm in the café/bar. We will be showing "Shadowlands", a biographical film about CS Lewis - the author and Christian apologist, starring Anthony Hopkins and Debra Winger. "A deeply personal and moving story filled with many moments of beauty, joy and healing" - Frederick and Mary Ann Bruset, *Spirituality and Practice website*.

ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION on Saturday 9th December: — It is so easy to get caught up in the secular preparations for Christmas that we fail to reflect on the real meaning of this great feast. In order to help us prepare properly for Christmas the parish is holding a Day of Recollection on Saturday 9th December. This will include two talks based on the advent Mass readings, discussion and social time, and the recommissioning of our Eucharistic ministers. Our speaker will be Fr John Hemer, a scripture lecturer at Allen Hall seminary. The day will begin with Mass at 9.30am and finish with a light lunch at 1.00pm. RSVP to Fr Tony on tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION EVENING on Saturday 16th December 7.00-11.30pm. Tickets for this event are available from the Parish Office. Adults £15; Children 5-16yrs £7; under 5's free. 3 course dinner (English and Asian food), live band, dancing, bar, raffle with many great prizes. All proceeds to the parish to help raise money to automate our two bells so they can ring the Angelus every day.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE on Sunday 17th December at 7pm. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the parish centre. All welcome.

ADVENT BEGINS....

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

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.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Saturday 5.15-6.00pm.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 5.15pm - 6.00pm. *and any time by appointment.*

DIVINE MERCY: Tuesday 10.30am.

ROSARY: Daily after Mass.

Sunday 3 Dec 6.15pm (<i>Sat. Vigil</i>)	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Larry O'Rourke RIP
8.30am	Francisco S. Barretto RIP
9.45am	PRO POPULO
11.15am	Shirley McCarthy RIP
5.30pm	William O'Brien RIP

Mon 4 Dec 9.30am	<i>S. John Damascene</i> Margaret Nunn RIP
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Tues 5 Dec 9.30am	<i>Advent feria</i> John O'Leary RIP
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Weds 6 Dec 9.30am	<i>S. Nicholas</i> Eileen Brosnan RIP
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Thur 7 Dec 9.30am	<i>S. Ambrose</i> George McDermott RIP
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Fri 8 Dec 9.30am	<i>The Immaculate Conception</i> Joe Nash RIP
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Sat 9 Dec 9.30am	<i>Advent feria</i> Wilma Primmer RIP
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TODAY'S MASS

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 24: 1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be
put to shame. Nor let my enemies
exult over me; and let none who hope
in you be put to shame.

Collect

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty
God, the resolve to run forth to meet
your Christ with righteous deeds at
his coming, so that, gathered at his
right hand, they may be worthy to
possess the heavenly kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son, who lives and reigns with you in
the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

First reading: Isaiah 63:16-17,64: 1,3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from
your ways and harden our hearts
against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens
open and come down!
– at your Presence the mountains
would melt.
No ear has heard, no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with
Integrity and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were
sinners; we had long been rebels
against you.

We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy
clothing. We have all withered like
leaves and our sins blew us away like
the wind. No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of
you.

For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our
sins. And yet, Lord, you are our
Father; we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:2-3,15-16,18-19

**R/. Lord of hosts, bring us back; let
your face shine on us and we shall be
saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **R/.**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.
R/.

3. May your hand be on the man you
have chosen,
the man you have given your
strength.

And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your
name. **R/.**

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ send you grace and
peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the
graces you have received through
Jesus Christ. I thank him that you
have been enriched in so many
ways, especially in your teachers
and preachers; the witness to Christ
has indeed been strong among you
so that you will not be without any
of the gifts of the Spirit while you
are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ
to be revealed; and he will keep you
steady and without blame until the
last day, the day of our Lord Jesus
Christ, because God by calling you
has joined you to his Son, Jesus
Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation: Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!**

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Be on
your guard, stay awake, because you

never know when the time will
come. It is like a man travelling
abroad: he has gone from home,
and left his servants in charge, each
with his own task; and he has told
the doorkeeper to stay awake. So
stay awake, because you do not
know when the master of the house
is coming, evening, midnight, cock-
crow, dawn; if he comes unexpect-
edly, he must not find you asleep.
And what I say to you I say to all:
Stay awake!

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offer-
ings we make, gathered from among
your gifts to us, and may what you
grant us to celebrate devoutly here
below gain for us the prize of eternal
redemption.

Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 84: 13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and
our earth shall yield its increase.

Prayer after Communion

May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated,
profit us, we pray, for even now, as
we walk amid passing things,
you teach us by them to love the
things of heaven and hold fast to
what endures.

Through Christ our Lord.