



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

SICK & HOUSEBOUND: Ann Hull, Michael Griffin Snr., Titus Fernandes, Mary Malone, Margaret Courname, 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, Ann Nemeth, Ken Fernandes, Michael Fahey, Marie Rego, Peter Bell, Antonio DiLiето Snr., Alan Woods, David Musgrave, Maria Nellie De Lima.

RECENTLY BAPTISED:

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Pamela Greenop, Susan Reynolds, Frank Hunt, Mary Bryant.

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Paul Dias, Jimmy Bonner (2nd Ann), Tom Lally (16th Ann), Jack Murphy.

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

SANCTUARY LAMP

has been sponsored this week

In Memory of

ROBERT KELLY RIP AND CLAIRE KELLY CURRAN RIP

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

has been sponsored this week

IN MEMORY OF GRAY KENNADY RIP

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 TO THE CHRIST CHILD

Divine Infant, after the wonders of Your birth in Bethlehem, You wished to extend Your infinite mercy to the whole world. You called the Wise Men, by heavenly inspiration, to Your crib which was a royal throne. You graciously received those holy men who were obedient to the Divine call and who hastened to Your feet. They recognized and worshiped You as Prince of Peace, the Redeemer of mankind, and the very Son of God. Show us also Your goodness and almighty power. Enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills, and inflame our hearts to know You, to serve You, and to love You in this life, that we may find our joy in You eternally in the life to come.

O Jesus, most powerful Child, I implore You again to help me:



**TURN OFF
ALL MOBILE
PHONES**



Sunday cycle
Readings Year B

Weekday Readings
Christmas Season

Divine Office
Week 4

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



Sunday 24th December 2017 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



**BLESSED ARE YOU
AMONG WOMEN *LK 1:28**

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we

prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

The Lord promises David that he will raise from his descendants a kingdom that will endure forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Paul praises God for making his revelation known.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Since we are not yet ready for the banquet of our Father, let us grow familiar with the manger of our Lord Jesus Christ"

St. Augustine of Hippo

Sunday Reflection

On this fourth Sunday of Advent our thoughts turn to Our Lady. The Gospel relates the encounter between the angel Gabriel and Mary. Although the story is a brief one it is very revealing. We discover so much about Mary. She is revealed as one highly favoured and blessed by God uniquely.

We learn a great deal about her character. Deeply disturbed she may have been by the sudden angelic presence but she remains calm enough to ponder the meaning of the greeting and to ask the right questions. When the



angel reveals God's purpose for Mary, she is able to respond and to question: *'But how that come about, since I am still a virgin.'* And when the angel explains further, Mary shows both decisiveness and faith: *'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me.'* Mary was a woman of faith and courage, able to ponder, pray, question and respond. The Gospel passage ends with five words: *'And the angel left her.'*

As the angel left, so the rest of Mary's journey lay before her. It would be a journey of faith and trust. Mary's discipleship would be a difficult one in many ways. She would had to cope with the questioning stares that a young teenage woman, suddenly pregnant, would have received in first century Palestine. She would have watched her son grow to manhood and embark upon his public ministry. Ultimately she would stand at the foot of the Cross, watching her Son die, with a sword of sorrow in her heart.

In these closing hours of Advent, Mary gives us an example of discipleship. She didn't know what was going to happen to her. She walked in the darkness of faith, pondering things in her thought and treasuring them, faithful to her initial obedience to God's will. Like her, let us believe that promises that God makes to us will be fulfilled.

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. The classes will resume on Friday 12th January 2018.

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.

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.

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 July 2018.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION EVENING raffle prizes remain uncollected. If you have green ticket numbered 136-140 or yellow ticket numbered 181-185 please call at the parish office in the new year to collect your prize.

ANNUAL MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES will be held at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 10th February at 2pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during Mass. If you will be attending in a wheelchair, please let the parish office know by 28th January 2018.

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

RETOUVAILLE—a lifeline for married couples.

WIDOWED YOUNG—support events.

CALIX CENTRE—A Catholic ministry to addicts.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION COURSES. —new information

VACANCIES:

Latest diocesan vacancies in folder in porch or go to website.

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

H	T	R	I	B	D	R	E	A	R	BETROTHED	CHILD	HUSBAND
E	L	E	T	C	E	N	R	U	D	HONOUR	DIVORCE	ANGEL
H	F	W	H	O	H	O	I	I		DREAM	WIFE	BIRTH
M	E	I	M	P	T	N	V	S	V	SON	PROPHET	HOME
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E	E	R	S	C	T	O	P	M	E			
N	A	G	E	E	E	O	L	O	C			
A	N	D	N	A	B	S	U	H	I			
L	E	G	N	A	M	O	H	E	S			

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 closed 24th and 31st December and open again on 7th January 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 24 December 2017:

Teas and coffees after 9.45am and 11.15am Masses –

Thursday 28 December:

Church Cleaning **Group D** 3.00pm

ST. GEORGE'S CHRISTMAS CARD. Please take one today with all the times of our Christmas services. Maybe also one for a friend or neighbour too? Why not encourage some to come with you to church this Christmas?

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: The rota for Christmas Masses is on the noticeboard in the porch. Please sign up.

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.

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.

THE PARISH OFFICE is now closed. Normal service will resume the week beginning 8th January 2108.

CLOSURE OF REPOSITORY - The Repository will be closed from Christmas Eve until further notice for a general stocktake and reappraisal. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION -Please note that the next session, for **Parents & Carers Only**, is on **Tuesday 16th January at 7.30pm**. Thank you.

PARISH GROUPS: all are now finished until January. Prayer Group will be back on 11th January. Friends of Jesus will be back on Friday 12th January.

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.

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

HELPERS AT 9.45AM FAMILY MASS - We are extremely grateful to all who help the children read at the 9.45am Family Mass. We are **urgently looking for new volunteers** to help on a monthly basis. If you might be open to help or would like further information please speak to Marcia Taylor at the 9.45am Family Mass or email bumbletaylor@btinternet.com. Thank you.

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**.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS



PLEASE SEE THE POSTER IN THE PORCH FOR THE MASS INTENTIONS

CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday 24th December THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6.15pm *Saturday Vigil* Mass
(said) PRO POPULO
8.30am Ned McCormack RIP
9.45am Thanksgiving Rozario Fam
11.15am Fr. Michael Johnston Int

Christmas begins

5.30pm **Carols**
6.00pm **Family Vigil Mass for**
Christmas Peter Cronin RIP
11.30pm **Carols by candlelight**
12 midnight **MIDNIGHT MASS**
Richard O'Dwyer RIP

CHRISTMAS DAY Monday 25th December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8.30am Anastasia Johnston RIP
9.45am Margaret Ann McMahon RIP
11.15am Salvatore Cavaliere RIP,
Bert Pont RIP & Rolando
& Irma Nardone RIP

NB There will be NO evening Mass on Christmas Day

CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Saturday 23rd December 9.00 - 9.30am
or at any other time by appointment

St. STEPHEN Tuesday 26th December

12 noon Paul & Yolande Dias RIP

St. JOHN Wednesday 27th December

9.30am Tom Lally RIP (16th Ann)

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Thursday 28th December
9.30am Jimmy Bonner RIP (2nd Ann)

St. THOMAS BECKET Friday 29th December

9.30am Ned McCormack RIP

SIXTH DAY OF THE OCTAVE Saturday 30th December

9.30am Andrea Days RIP and
Auntie Dietrich RIP

THE HOLY FAMILY Sunday 31st December Saturday Vigil Mass (said)

6.15pm William O'Brien RIP
8.30am Ned McCormack RIP
9.45am Joan Emily Longuet RIP
11.15am Thanksgiving - Nicklen &
Sexton families
5.30pm PRO POPULO

MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD Monday 1st January

12 noon Edward McCormack RIP
Sung Mass

TODAY'S MASS

Entrance 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: *2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you

fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm: *ps. 88:2-5,27,29*

R/. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. *R/.*

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages. *R/.*

3. 'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him always; with him my covenant shall last.' *R/.*

Second reading: *Romans 16:25-27*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: *Lk1:38*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Gospel: *Luke 1:26-38*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne

of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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.