



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

Due to the new legislation on Data Protection Legislation (GDPR) each person who has their name on the newsletter (as in the sick list below) must give their consent to their names appearing. So once again we start a new list. If you would like your name or the name of someone who is sick who needs our prayers then you must supply the office with: 1. The name and, 2. Evidence of their or your consent.

**SICK & HOUSEBOUND:** Michael Dempsey, Michael Fahey, Michael Griffin, Anne Hull, Gillian Gibbs, Catherine Kevill, Margaret O'Shea, Lionel Stonehouse, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Edith Geissler.

**RECENTLY DEPARTED:** Ellen Cronk, Mary McEnteggart.

**ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED:** Martin & Nora Driscoll, Hugh Gilmartin, Kevin Durcan, John Tierney.

**RECENTLY BAPTISED:** Gavriana Boateng.

**INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS FOR DECEMBER**  
**Evangelization – In the Service of the Transmission of Faith** That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.



To love is to be transformed into what we love. To love God is therefore to be transformed into God.

~ John of the Cross

AZ QUOTES

### MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest:	Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead	jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
Assistant Priest:	Fr. Tony Thomas	tonythomas@rcdow.org.uk
Catechetical Coordinator:	Mr. Peter Kingsley	peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk
Secretary:	Mrs. Toni Miles	sudbury@rcdow.org.uk
Director of Music:	Mr. Scott Price	scottprice@rcdow.org.uk
Hall Bookings:	via the office or	sudbury@rcdow.org.uk
Safeguarding Representative:	Mrs. Mary Kugaswaran	sudburysg2@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. Catechetical Coordinator.	Charity No: 233699
Email:	sudbury@rcdow.org.uk	
	Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/sudbury	

### PRAYER FOR ADVENT II

Lord Jesus,

Through the darkness, I look for your wisdom. I want my heart to be open to you. But sometimes in these days, it seems that so many things come between us. Help me to be awake and aware of the radiance you bring to my life. Help me to be grateful each day for the blessings of family and friends. Let me be a peacemaker in my own life, and in the world. Let me pray especially for this difficult world and those who are so in need of an end to violence. My heart begs for this as my Advent prayer today. Amen.

#### SANCTUARY LAMP

has been sponsored this week  
In Memory of  
GEORGE HILLIER RIP

#### LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

has been sponsored this week  
In Memory of  
KEVIN DURCAN RIP

**ROSARY AT HOME:** This week the statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be at the home of Genie Sikdar



Switch mobile phones  
off or to silent



Sunday cycle  
Readings Year C

Weekday Readings  
Advent Week 2

Divine Office  
Week 2

The Catholic Parish  
of St George, Sudbury



## Sunday 9th December 2018 THE SECOND 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



In today's Gospel Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for

Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.

**First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9**

Jerusalem shall see the splendour of God's glory.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 126:1-2,3,4-5,6**

A song of praise for God's great deeds.

**Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6,8-11**

St Paul prays for the Philippians.

**Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6**

John preaches repentance and baptizes in the region of the Jordan.

### SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"The future starts today, not tomorrow."*

Saint John Paul II

# SUNDAY REFLECTION

St. Luke tells us that the "word of God came to John in the wilderness" (Luke 3:2). Who was John the Baptist and what is the significance of the message which he received and delivered to the people of his day? In dramatic fashion Luke tells us when John came on the world scene. The world's rulers paled in reference to this son of Zechariah, a priest who served in the temple at Jerusalem. John's mission was to prepare the way for God's Anointed King who would come to establish God's rule above all other kings and authorities.

John stood at a pivotal juncture in the history of God's dealing with his people. He bridged the Old and New Testaments, also known as the Old and New Covenants which God made with his people. John was a prophet, a spokesman for God. Luke tells us that "the word of God came to John" when he was dwelling in the wilderness of Judaea (Luke 3:2). John was pre-eminently the servant of the Word, the Word of God who became flesh for our sake and for our salvation (John 1:14). Why was John living in the barren wilderness of Judaea? John was called from an early age to devote himself to prayer and to the word of God. God led John into the wilderness, away from the noise and distractions of everyday life. There God taught John in the solitude of the desert and prepared him for a prophetic ministry that would turn the hearts of his people to receive their long-awaited Messiah. John is the last of the Old Testament prophets who pointed the way to the coming of the Messiah. He is the first of the new Testament witnesses and martyrs who suffered on account of his

testimony to Jesus as the true Messiah and "Lamb of God" who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

In the ancient world when a king decided to tour his kingdom, he first sent his courier ahead to prepare the way. John is the courier and great herald of the Messiah King who proclaims to all the peoples that the impending reign of God is now very close at hand. Isaiah had long ago prophesied the role of the Forerunner of the Messiah John undoubtedly took this word to heart as he searched the scriptures and reflected on the word of God in the wilderness.

How can we, like John the Baptist, prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus Christ and his everlasting kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy John the Baptist tells us that the first step is conversion and repentance – turning our hearts and minds away from sin, indifference, and unbelief, to a sincere trust in God and submission to his word. Luke's gospel emphasizes the universal call of the gospel to all peoples without distinction. He quotes from the prophet Isaiah that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God" John stood at the door of a new era of grace and salvation. He saw from a distance what Jesus the Messiah would accomplish through his death and resurrection – pardon for our sins, healing and restoration, and eternal life for all who would believe in the Lord Jesus. Let us as advent progresses be hungry for the Word of God and allow God's word to transform the way we view, think, and live our lives.



**PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD, SMOOTHEN THE PATH FOR OUR GOD**

come to attend. The date of the next baptism preparation evening, to be held in the parish centre in January is to be confirmed.

**ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** If parents were unable to attend the open evening at St George's last week, there will be another opportunity to visit the school on Monday 10 December at 2pm. This will be for parents/carers with children born between 01.09.2014 and 31.08.2015 who will be due to start school in September 2019. Please ring the school office if you wish to attend on 020 8422 1272.

**DIVINE MERCY** -The **Divine Mercy Chaplet** is recited in the church every Monday after the Rosary. All are welcome!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped, baked cakes and contributed in any way to the charity Christmas Card sale. Raffle prizes can be collected from the parish office.

**LOST PROPERTY:** All items left in church over the past weeks will be on display at the back of the church this weekend.. If you have lost gloves, umbrellas, glasses etc. please take a look.

**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.

**MASS INTENTIONS** are booked until April 2019. Remember to book your anniversary Masses early .

**CHURCH CLEANING-** Might you consider helping to clean the Church on a monthly basis. If so, please contact Julia on 0208 904 5324.

**MUMS & TODDLERS** - -A big **thank you** to all those mums in the Parish who have offered to help start a new Mums & Toddlers Group. Once all the necessary safeguarding documents have been processed we look forward to this new initiative getting up and running at the Parish.

**ANY OLD STAMPS?** There is a basket at the back of the church for old/used stamps. These will go towards the mission of the Church in Tanzania/Kenya. Thanks to those who have already contributed.

**KEEP FIT:** Come and join us in the Parish Centre 2.00-3.00pm on Monday afternoons. Gentle exercise (no special kit needed!). All Welcome.

**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.**  
**MARRIAGE/ENGAGED ENCOUNTER:**  
[www.wmme.org.uk](http://www.wmme.org.uk)

**DIOCESAN VACANCIES** please see folder in porch or diocesan website.

**LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT** required at St. George's Catholic Primary School. (C/date 12 noon 12th December).

**IT TECHNICIAN** required at St. Gregory's Catholic Science College.

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



**Friday 14th  
December 2018**  
 Refreshments  
 at 6.45pm  
 Film begins  
 at 7.15 pm



**The Nativity**

A BBC film

**"Simply a gentle, compassionate retelling of a very familiar story" - Daily Telegraph**

# NEWS & VIEWS

**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.** This is especially true if you have children using their worksheets. Please make sure they (or you) bring all the crayons back to the basket.

## PARISH DIARY FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday 9 December:

Teas/Coffees after 9.45am and 11.15am Masses.

Tuck Shop after 9.45am Mass

### Monday 10 December:

Keep Fit 2.00pm

### Tuesday 11 December:

First Reconciliation (In Church) 7.30pm

Set/Ceilidh Dancing 8.45pm

### Wednesday 12 December:

Knights of St. Columba 8.00pm

### Thursday 13 December:

Church Cleaning Group B 10.30am

### Friday 14 December:

Teas/Coffees after morning Mass in Bar/Café

Film Night doors open 6.45pm. Film 7.15pm

St. George's Neighbourhood Watch 7.30pm

**DETAILS OF ALL CHRISTMAS SERVICES** at St George's available this week. Please make sure you take a copy.

**CAROL SERVICE** next Sunday 16th December at 7.00pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the parish centre. All welcome.

**NEXT SUNDAY** after all Masses there will be a collection for Christmas Flowers.

**FUNERAL MASS** of ELLEN CRONK on Wednesday 19th December at 11.00am. Reception into church on Tuesday 18th December at 6.00pm.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S NATIVITY**—Once again, during the **Christmas Eve Vigil Mass** there will be a **Children's Nativity**. Are you in **Year 3 or above**? Would you like to **take part or help**? If so, please contact **Nicola Woods** at nicolamylles@hotmail.co.uk or 07989 963435.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**—Please note that the **Reconciliation Service** for those children making their **First Reconciliation (Confession)** this coming **Tuesday 11th December** starts at the earlier time of **6.30pm**.

**CONFIRMATION 2019**—An **Information Evening** will be taking place in the Parish Centre on **Monday 7th January at 7.30pm** for those young people in the Parish in **Year 10 and above** wishing to be confirmed at St. George's in 2019. **Enrolment Forms** will be provided at the Information Evening. Please note, as part of the enrolment process, candidates will need to provide a copy of their baptism certificate (and translation if not in English).

**PLEASE REMEMBER** when buying stamps for your Christmas cards to ask for Christmas postage stamps.

**SANCTUARY REORDERING:** please take a leaflet (in a basket in the porch) outlining proposals for the new project for reordering. Thank you to all those who have so positively responded with comments.

**HARROW DEANERY YOUNG ADULT TRIP TO TAIZÉ 2019** - Our Deanery is planning a trip to Taizé (France) for those **aged 18 to 29** from **10th to 19th August 2019**. The estimated cost is **£250**. To register your interest please contact Mr. Peter Kingsley at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk or call 020 8904 2552 (option 5).

**REPOSITORY UPDATE**—Work continues on the renewal of our Parish Repository. We hope to open the newly refurbished space after the **9.45am & 11.15am Masses** in the New Year. To make this possible we need some **willing volunteers** to serve the people after these Masses. If you would be willing to help please speak to one of the Parish Team or email sudbury@rcdow.org.uk.

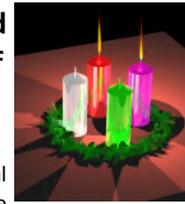
**FRIENDS OF JESUS** - The Friends of Jesus Programme takes place on Fridays from **5.30-6.30pm** providing a little **Religious Education** to children of primary-school age who are not attending a Catholic school and have not yet received their First Holy Communion. An information leaflet is available in the porch.

**FRIENDS OF JESUS** has now finished for the Christmas break and will be back on Friday January 11th at 5.30pm.

**SEARCHING FOR CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS**—Might you consider giving a few months to help our young people grow in their faith as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? If you might consider serving the Parish in this way please let us know. Next year's Programme will run from January to June 2019.

**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 wel-

## Meanings and Symbolism of the Advent Wreath



There are several explanations of the Advent wreath, so this is just one of them! The four candles of the Advent Wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four weeks of Advent, which themselves symbolize four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ. There are three purple candles and one rose candle. The purple candles represent the royalty and majesty of Jesus Christ as King; King of Kings. Purple also represents prayer, pertinence, and preparation. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, also called *Gaudete Sunday*, when the priest wears rose vestments (*robes, etc.*) at Mass. *Gaudete Sunday* represented by the rose candle is the **"Candle of Joy"** and rejoicing because the faithful, we are at the midpoint of Advent. We have been Preparing the Way for Christ, and we are close to Christmas for the Birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour! The weekly progression of the lighting of the candles symbolizes our preparation, prayer, penitence, our **Hope** and **Expectation** of Jesus Christ first Advent of coming into the world and the **Anticipation** of Jesus Christ's second Advent of coming to judge the living and the dead. The light that gets brighter each week and climaxes on Christmas day with the lighting of the **Christ Candle** which represents Jesus Christ as **The Light of the World**. The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."** (Jn 8:12)

# 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.

**HOLYDAYS 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.

<i>Sun 9 December</i>	<b>ADVENT II</b>
6.15pm ( <i>Sat. Vigil</i> )	John Tierney RIP
8.30am	Darren O'Sullivan RIP
9.45am	Kevin Durcan RIP
11.15am	Martin & Nora Driscoll RIP
5.30pm	PRO POPULO

Mon 10 December 9.30am	<b>Advent feria</b> Edward Johnston RIP
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Tues 11 December 9.30am	<b>Advent feria</b> Bowe Family Intentions
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Weds 12 December 9.30am	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> Margaret Fallon Intentions
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Thurs 13 December 9.30am	<b>S. Lucy</b> Lucy O'Neill RIP
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Fri 14 December 9.30am	<b>S. John of the Cross</b> Hugh Gilmartin RIP
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Sat 15 December 9.30am	<b>Advent feria</b> John McDaid RIP
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# TODAY'S MASS

## Entrance Antiphon: *Cf. Is 30: 19, 30*

O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice  
heard  
in the joy of your heart.

## Collect

Almighty and merciful God,  
may no earthly undertaking hinder those  
who set out in haste to meet your Son,  
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom  
gain us admittance to his company.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

## First reading: *Baruch 5:1-9*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow  
and distress,  
put on the beauty of the glory of  
God for ever,  
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God  
around you,  
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal  
on your head:  
since God means to show your splendour  
to every nation under heaven,  
since the name God gives you  
for ever will be,  
'Peace through integrity, and honour  
through devotedness.'  
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights  
and turn your eyes to the east:  
see your sons reassembled  
from west and east  
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant  
that God has remembered them.  
Though they left you on foot,  
with enemies for an escort,  
now God brings them back to you

like royal princes carried back in glory.  
For God has decreed the flattening  
of each high mountain,  
of the everlasting hills,  
the filling of the valleys to make  
the ground level  
so that Israel can walk in safety under the  
glory of God.  
And the forests and every fragrant tree will  
provide shade  
for Israel at the command of God;  
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of  
his glory  
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

## Responsorial Psalm: *Ps. 125:1-6*

*R/. What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.*

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from  
bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. *R/.*
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What  
marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. *R/.*
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. *R/.*
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back,  
full of song, carrying their sheaves. *R/.*

## Second reading: *Philippians 1:4-6,8-11*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with  
joy, remembering how you have helped to  
spread the Good News from the day you  
first heard it right up to the present. I am  
quite certain that the One who began this  
good work in you will see that it is finished  
when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and  
God knows how much I miss you all, loving  
you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is  
that your love for each other may increase  
more and more and never stop improving  
your knowledge and deepening your per-  
ception so that you can always recognise  
what is best. This will help you to become  
pure and blameless, and prepare you for  
the Day of Christ, when you will reach the  
perfect goodness which Jesus Christ pro-  
duces in us for the glory and praise of God.

## Gospel Acclamation: *Lk3:4,6*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*Prepare a way for the Lord,*  
*make his paths straight,*  
*and all mankind shall see the salvation of*  
*God.*  
*Alleluia!*

## Gospel: *Luke 3:1-6*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's  
reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of  
Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his  
brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of  
Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of  
Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas  
and Caiaphas the word of God came to  
John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.  
He went through the whole Jordan district  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for  
the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in  
the book of the sayings of the prophet  
Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley will be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
winding ways will be straightened  
and rough roads made smooth.  
And all mankind shall see the salvation of  
God.

## Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble  
prayers and offerings,  
and, since we have no merits to  
plead our cause,  
come, we pray, to our rescue  
with the protection of your mercy.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Communion Antiphon: *Bar 5: 5; 4: 36*

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the  
heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you  
from God.

## Prayer after Communion

Replenished by the food of spiritual nour-  
ishment,  
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,  
that, through our partaking in this mystery,  
you may teach us to judge wisely the  
things of earth  
and hold firm to the things of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

