



SICK & HOUSEBOUND: Michael Fahey, Michael Griffin, Anne Hull, Gillian Gibbs, Catherine Kevill, Margaret O'Shea, Lionel Stonehouse, Edith Geissler, Marie Rego, Christopher Browne, Eileen Kidd, John and Angela McCarthy, Germaine Duffner, Patrick McDonagh.

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Sophie Barwinska, Cheston Dias.

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Sarah McCormack, Sandra Costella, Mabel Pereira.

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Frank Hunt, Mgr Wilfred Purney, Larry O'Toole, Ann Dooley, Mary McEnteggart (1st), Maureen Hennessy, Olivia Osorio.

INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS FOR DEC 2019
The Future of the Very Young
 That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.



MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

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 Tel: 020 8904 2552. Phone Options: 1. Mass Times; 2. Parish Office 3. Mgr Jeremy;
 4. Fr. John; 5. Catechetical Coordinator. Charity No: 233699
 Email: sudbury@rcdow.org.uk Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/sudbury

ADVENT PRAYER
Week 1, Hope
 Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.

SANCTUARY LAMP
 has been sponsored this week
 In Memory of
 OLIVIA OSORIO RIP

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF
OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
 has been sponsored this week
 In Memory of
 EMMANUEL RAJA BASTIAN RIP AND
 SINNAPPY AMIRTHANATHAR RIP

ROSARY AT HOME:
 This week the statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be at the home of
 JOANNA & ROBERT FERNANDES



Sunday cycle
 Readings Year A
 Weekday Readings
 Advent week 1
 Divine Office
 Week Advent 1

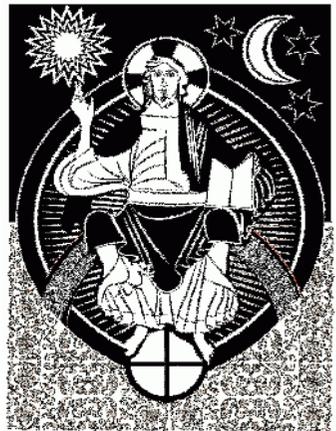
**The Catholic Parish
 of St George, Sudbury**



Sunday 1st December 2019
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



Today's Gospel speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know that Our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5
 Isaiah describes his vision in which all nations are gathered together by God in peace.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 122:1-2,3-4,4-5,6-7,8-9
 Rejoicing, let us enter the house of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14
 Be prepared, salvation is near.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:37-44
 Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son of Man will catch many people unprepared. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to always be ready for the day of the Lord.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"Open wide your door to the one who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace".
 St. Ambrose

SUNDAY REFLECTION

Today the Church throughout the world begins its keep of the Season of Advent – a very short period which prepares us in a twofold way: for the coming of Christ at Christmas and for that time when he will return in glory. Let us listen to the warning of St Paul: *“You know the time has come: you must wake now: our salvation is nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon!”*

The gospel of this Sunday puts us firmly on the alert. It emphasises the state of unpreparedness, the sense of false security developed with regard to the unforeseeable coming of the Son of Man. As in the days

of Noah, people are not troubled, they go happily about their daily business and chores. And then suddenly, the catastrophe comes! The comparison of the Lord to one coming in the night brings out clearly the need for constant watchfulness. *“Behold I stand at the door and knock”* (Rev 3.20); yet is there always a danger that we may not hear the one who is knocking in order to waken us to the call of the spirit?



A new Church year, is also a time of new beginnings and fresh starts. We have a short time now before Christmas, not just to do the necessary shopping but to put our lives in order so that we may truly welcome the Christ child when he is born for us in Bethlehem.

Throughout the Parish there are fresh signs of renewal both physical and spiritual. Whilst these are only symbols of a greater journey they remind us that we should always remain watchful acting that we may be generous in the service of God’s Kingdom and that we are to go about our affairs so as not to be surprised in the evening of our

lives and in the evening of the world by the judgement of the Lord.

Our Advent wreath has four candles, one for each week and a fifth for Christmas itself. The light increases as we get closer to Christmas, the birth time of the light of God. Let us pray that our Advent together, our new Church year, may be full of evergreen hope leading us out of darkness towards Christ who is the light of the world.

NEW ADULT SVP GROUP - Would you like to be part of a new SVP Group at the Parish? The **St. Vincent de Paul Society** aims to **turn concern into action** providing people in any form of need with a sense of dignity, worth, well-being & peace of mind. There will be an **Information Meeting** in the Parish Café Bar on **Wednesday 15th January at 7.30pm**. For further information please contact Theresa Frain at fraint@pladisglobal.com.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY AT 9.45AM FAMILY MASS—We are hugely grateful to our team of Catechists who generously provide a **Children’s Liturgy at the 9.45am Family Mass**. Please, however, note that the **Children’s Liturgy is ONLY for children from Reception to Year 2**. Older children are asked to remain in Church with their Parents/Carers.

FAITH CAFÉ - ‘Faith Café’ is a monthly opportunity to explore the Catholic faith. The next session will be taking place in the Café Bar on **Wednesday 4th December**. Teas and coffees at **7.00pm** is followed by a video presentation and discussion at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

FRIENDS OF JESUS - The Friends of Jesus Programme at St. George’s provides a little teaching on the Catholic faith to children not attending a Catholic Primary School in Years 1 & 2 (before they prepare for their First Confession & First Holy Communion in Year 3). Classes take place on Fridays during term-time from 5.30-6.30pm. If you are interested in enrolling your child on the programme in the Spring Term please contact Peter a.s.a.p. at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk or speak to any of the parish Team.

CHILDREN’S NATIVITY – The **Children’s Nativity** will once again be taking place at St. George’s at the **Family Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 6pm**. If your children would like to take part or you would like to help please contact Bushra on **07843 053 076** or bushrakhosla@yahoo.co.uk.

CONFIRMATION 2020 - In this Parish young people in **Year 10 and above** are welcome to join our Confirmation Preparation Programme which takes place from **January to June**. If you are part of the Parish and would like to be confirmed here in 2020 please join us, with a Parent/Carer, for the **Confirmation Information Evening on Monday 6th January at 7.30pm**.

SERVING AS A CATECHIST - Might you consider sharing your faith, serving the Parish as a Catechist? Teaching experience is helpful though not essential. If you would like further information please speak to one of the Clergy or contact our Catechetical Coordinator, Mr. Peter Kingsley, at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk.

FILM NIGHT: The film showing on Friday 13th December will be Frank Capra’s classic ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’. “This masterpiece has a lot to say about community spirit and is a film with much more to it than feel-good sentimentality”. Doors open at 6.45pm and the film commences at 7.15pm. All Welcome.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT—Sunday 15th December at 7.30pm.

CHRISTMAS CEILIDH on Friday 20th December at 8pm in the parish centre. All Welcome.

SUNDAY COUNTERS: We are looking for new counters to join our teams, to work in groups of three, for approximately 3 hours on Sunday afternoons. This will be on a rota basis. If you are

interested and think you are able to help please contact the parish team.

ST. GEORGE’S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR: On Friday 6th December at 3pm-5pm. All are welcome. Raffle tickets will be on sale after all Masses this weekend and next.

MASS INTENTIONS are booked into April 2020 and beyond. Remember to book your anniversary Masses early.

CHRISTMAS MASS Bouquet cards are available from the parish office.

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. There are still some free dates in January. Please see Toni in the Parish Office.

CHURCH CLEANING: If you are able to volunteer for Church Cleaning please contact Julia on 020 8904 5324 for details. If you are already on our cleaning rota and are no longer able to help PLEASE let Julia or one of the Parish Team know.

THE PASSAGE is raising funds through the Big Give from 12 noon Tues 3rd December – 12 noon Tues 10th December to support its work Helping Homeless People this winter. **Double your Donation, Double your impact.** This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921856 andrew.h@passage.org.uk Donate at <https://bit.ly/2KJ29Hh>

THE CARDINAL VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL, will be hosting a day of lectures and seminars focusing on *Outstanding Education in a Catholic School* on Monday 6 January 2020. If you wish to attend please complete the application form to be found at <https://www.cvms.co.uk/Teaching-School/CPD-courses/> and return this to the teachingschool@cvms.co.uk

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH for our local community who would otherwise be alone at Christmas. 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

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.wvme.org.uk

DIOCESAN AND SCHOOL VACANCIES please see folder in porch or School/diocesan website.

ST. GEORGES NURSERY DRAGONS has a vacancy for Early Years Educator and childcare Assistant. See website /folder in porch.

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

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 THIS WEEK

Sunday 1 December:

Teas/Coffees after 9.45am and 11.15am Masses

Tuck Shop open today

Monday 2 December:

New Confirmation Catechist Meeting 7.30pm

Tuesday 3 December:

Small Group 10.15am

Over 60's Group 1.00pm

First Reconciliation Service 7.00pm

Set Dancing 8.30pm

Wednesday 4th December:

Ladies Social Guild 2.00pm

Faith Café 7.00pm

Thursday 5 December:

Church Cleaning Group A 7.00pm

B+Attitude Meeting 7.00pm

Friday 6 December:

Teas/coffees after morning Mass

School Form Signing 7.00pm

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION EVENING: Saturday 14th December from 7.00-11.30pm in the Parish Centre. With Dinner, Live Band, Dancing, Bar, Raffle etc. Adults £17, Children (5-12 yrs) £7, under 5yrs free. Tickets available after Sunday Masses, from the Presbytery and Parish Office.

TICKETS AVAILABLE TODAY AFTER MASS.

PRIMARY SCHOOL form signing— **Friday 6th December** 7.00pm-8.00pm in the parish centre. **(NB:** Change of time to 7pm.)

THE FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER falls this year on Monday 3rd December. Mass at 9.30am with veneration of his relic.

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION falls this week on Saturday. Mass as usual at 9.30am.

ADVENT LEAFLET if you didn't get one last week please take one today.

ADVENT begins this Sunday when we follow Saint Matthew's Gospel on a Sunday. This is a special year that has been designated as the Year of the Word – "The God who Speaks". We will be marking it out by several events celebrating and learning about St Matthew's Gospel. Also at 9.45am & 11.15am will be beginning a Gospel Procession before the reading of the Gospel at Mass.

MARY'S MEALS sends a huge Thank You to St George's. Clothes together with cash donations came to £1339.64 which means they can feed 96 children at school for a year.

FUNERAL MASS of Sarah McCormack RIP will take place on Tuesday 4th December at 11am followed by committal at Breakspear Crematorium at 12.45pm. Reception into church on Monday 3rd December at 7pm.

FUNERAL MASS of Mabel Pereira RIP on Friday 6th December at 11am.

FUNERAL MASS of Sandra Costella RIP on Tuesday 10th December at 11am followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium at 12.30pm.

GOOD NEWS—CONSECRATION OF THE NEW ALTAR AND THE DEPOSITING OF THE RELICS OF THE SAINTS. The Cardinal has agreed to come and celebrate this important liturgy on Sunday 19th January at 11.15am. An important date for your diary!

HOLY BAPTISM: Information packs are available from the parish office. You can sign up there for the preparation course. Parents to be, i.e., before birth, are welcome to attend. **The date of the next baptism preparation course will be on Friday 31st January 2020 at 7.30pm** in the parish centre. Please let the parish office know if you are attending

THE REPOSITORY continues to be open after all Masses today with a selection of gifts and cards especially for Christmas and advent calendars too!

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

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is our parish preparation for those who want to become Catholics. If you know someone who would like to join this group or you yourself, please speak to one of the parish team.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - This coming Tuesday is the **First Reconciliation Service in Church at 7pm.** Parents/Carers are asked to **attend with their children.** Thank you for continuing to practice a little at home as the children prepare for this important moment in their journey of faith.

B-ATTITUDE ADVENT INITIATIVE - During Advent our B-Attitude young people are putting together **Vinnie Packs** to help the homeless this Winter. Each Vinnie Pack contains A pair of thermal gloves – preferably large ones for men * 2 pairs of thermal socks * A hat/beanie *toothbrush* A tube of toothpaste* A small pack of wipes* A pen * A small pad of paper. Our young people will be collecting these items during the **Morning Masses next Sunday 8th December.** For further information please contact Christine Cahillane (christinec58@hotmail.com /07881 400328).

'BAPTISED & SENT' SMALL GROUP - Our Small Group is meeting again in the Café Bar this **Tuesday 3rd December at 10.15am.** Reflecting on the lives of the Saints the group is exploring how, as Baptised Christians, we are called to share in Christ's mission for his Church in the world. All are welcome!

In this new Liturgical year, 2019-20, Cycle A, the Church meditates on the Gospel of Matthew and uses it for most of the Sunday readings from the Gospel.

About Matthew and his Gospel

Jesus chose one of the unlikelyst of men to be his apostle, Matthew the much hated tax-collector who worked for the Roman Empire (Matthew 9:9). Unlike most of the other apostles who were skilful fishermen, Matthew was skilled with the pen and with giving an account of facts and figures. Matthew the evangelist wrote some 1068 verses while the evangelist Mark wrote some 661 verses. Matthew wrote his gospel sometime in the last quarter of the first century, likely between 85 and 105 AD. Matthew's gospel is placed first in the order of the New Testament, not because it was written first, some of Paul's letters and the Gospel of Mark were written before, but because it is a bridge between the Old and New Testament.

Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew

In his Gospel, Matthew convinced the Jews that Jesus is their Messiah King, the Anointed One, the Christ, the Son of God and founder of the Kingdom of God. Matthew also shows Jesus' authority over nature by his miracles, his authority over sin by forgiving sins, and his authority over death by his resurrection

The Gospel of the Jews

Matthew writes as a Jew to his fellow Jews to present to them the evidence for Jesus' claim to be the King of the Jews. He quotes extensively from the Old Testament prophets to show how Jesus fulfilled all that was spoken about the Messiah who would come to establish the reign [or Kingdom] of God. He frequently writes, "as it is written in the prophet..." or "this was done to fulfil what was spoken by the prophets..." Nine times Matthew refers to Jesus as the "Son of David". The prophets had foretold that the Messiah would be a direct descent of David. Matthew's gospel begins with the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his ancestry back to David, King of Israel, and then to Abraham, the first Jew. Matthew traces Jesus' lineage through Joseph, his foster father, rather than through Mary, his biological mother [as Luke's account does]. Matthew, the observant Jew, notes that according to Jewish genealogy, the father's lineage counted legally for royalty.

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: Monday 10.30am.

ROSARY: Daily after Mass.

Sun 1 December

6.15pm (Vigil)

8.30am

9.45am

11.15am

5.30pm

Mon 2 December

9.30am

7.00pm

Tues 3 December

9.30am

11.00am

Weds 4 December

9.30am

Thurs 5 December

9.30am

Fri 6 December

9.30am

11.00am

Sat 7 December

9.30am

Sun 8 December

6.15pm (Vigil)

8.30am

9.45am

11.15am

5.30pm

ADVENT I

Ann Dooley RIP

Catherine Calnan RIP

Wally & Dorothy Watts RIP

Marita & Robbie Ledo RIP

Hermosinda Toucedo RIP

Frank Hunt RIP

PRO POPULO

Advent feria

Monica Malone RIP

Reception: Sarah McCormack RIP

S. Francis Xavier

Jack Murphy RIP

FUNERAL MASS:

Sarah McCormack RIP

S. John Damascene

Mgr Wilfred Purney RIP

Advent feria

Margaret McMahan RIP

S. Nicholas

Lenise, Bradley & Christine Andrado RIP

FUNERAL MASS

Mabel Pereira RIP

S. Ambrose

Mary McEnteggart RIP (1st Ann)

ADVENT II

Dee Kelly Loader RIP

Darren O'Sullivan RIP

Delphine De Lima RIP

Edward Johnston Snr RIP

PRO POPULO

TODAY'S MASS

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 25 (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 2:1-5

Theme: The Lord will gather all nations together into the eternal peace to form the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord

from Jerusalem.

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 121

**R/. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
"Let us go to God's house."**

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
"Let us go to God's house."
And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

2. Jerusalem is built as a city strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

3. For love of my brethren and friends I say: "Peace upon you."
For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Theme: Our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were con-

verted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Theme: Stay awake so that you may be ready

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed

awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings 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 85 (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.

