

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 12th DECEMBER 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Welcome to all at mass today and especially anyone who is new. Please take this Newsletter home with you. You may wish to share it with family and friends. This newsletter can also be found via our website. We ask God's blessing on you and your loved ones this week and know that we pray for you all each day.

Sunday Cycle
Readings Year C

Weekday Readings
Advent 3

Divine Office
Advent 3

For children,
download a weekly sheet:
[http://www.sdc.me.uk/
sundayliturgy/](http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/)

THIS WEEK

Sun 12 Dec 6.15pm (Vigil) 8.30am	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Pam Allday RIP Santan & Rozario Santan Rodrigues, Nataline Rodrigues Fernandes Family Ints. Agnello Braganca-Birthday ints. THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Mon 13 Dec 9.30am	S. Lucy Piedade Santana & Anastasia Rebello RIP
Tues 14 Dec 9.30am	S. John of the Cross Gnanaathikham Chinnaiya RIP
Weds 15 Dec 9.30am	Advent feria Jack Traynor RIP
Thurs 16 Dec 9.30am	Advent feria Jerome Lynch RIP
Fri 17 Dec 9.30am	Advent feria Xaverina & Elizabeth Pereira RIP
Sat 18 Dec 9.30am 12noon	Advent feria Fernandes Family Intentions FUNERAL MASS Denis David RIP
Sun 19 Dec 6.15pm (Vigil) 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Martin Kelly RIP Margaret McMahon RIP Maria Rosario RIP Stefan Lazarus RIP THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH



TODAY'S MASS



In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday.

Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
A saviour is promised to Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6
A song of praise to God our saviour.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7
Rejoice always because the Lord is near.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:10-18
John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"To convert somebody go and take them
by the hand and guide them."*

St. Thomas Aquinas

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Fr. Julio Albornoz julioalbornoz@rcdow.org.uk
Catechetical Coordinator: Mr. Peter Kingsley peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk
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Hall Bookings: via the office or sudbury@rcdow.org.uk
Safeguarding Rep: Mrs. Mary Kugaswaran sudburysg2@rcdow.org.uk
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Telephone: 020 8904 2552. Phone Options: 1. Mass Times; 2. Parish Office/ SVP
Information 3. Mgr Jeremy; 4. Fr. Julio; 5. Catechetical Coordinator.
Charity No: 233699
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GOSPEL REFLECTION

DAILY MASS TIMES

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: Friday 9.00-9.30am, 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.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

SICK & HOUSEBOUND: Marie Rego, Eileen Kidd, Christopher Browne, Noel Gill, Tom Fernandes, Dee Auriol, Kathleen O'Brien, Allan Noronha, Fiona Power, SMR, Aaran Thayaparan Jocalyn Almeida,

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Ester Agnelina Da Silva, Tomasz Aleksander Kwiatkowski

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Mary O'Brien, Denis David, Fr Dominic Byrne,

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Thomas Ran, Bernard Welikala

SANCTUARY LAMP

Baptiste Fernandes Intentions

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Baptiste Fernandes Intentions


POPE FRANCIS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER:

Catechists: Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ADVENT FEATURE



GAUDETE SUNDAY



The Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday*, the day when we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath (hence the 'pink candle' Sunday). Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near.

Gaudete means "rejoice". This day reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, amid this season of penance, as a kind of 'break' when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Our Lord Jesus.

facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage

Why did thousands come out to hear John the Baptist? And what was so unusual about his message? John's message of repentance was very practical. He told the people three things: First, we must share our goods with one another, especially with those who lacked the necessities of life. Isn't that what it really means to love your neighbour as yourself? True love is sacrificial and generous.

Second, we must give every person their due and take no advantage of another because of their position or status. For example, those who have the duty to collect taxes from others must charge no more than what is rightfully due. (Tax collectors often made handsome profits for themselves by overcharging others.) Those who have authority over others must not demand more than what is just and right. Soldiers in the Roman army could compel any citizen to assist them whenever they wished, such as carrying their heavy supplies for them or giving them food and drink. They often, however, abused their position to force people to do more for them than what was necessary. John did not tell them to leave their profession, but to be good, honest, and respectful soldiers. And thirdly, John exhorted his listeners to be content with what they had and to avoid coveting what belonged to others.

John's baptism was for repentance – turning away from sin and taking on a new way of life according to God's word. John said that the Messiah would "baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Fire in biblical times was associated with God and with his action in the world and in the lives of his people. God sometimes manifested his presence by use of fire, such as the burning bush which was not consumed when God spoke to Moses. The image of fire was also used to symbolise God's glory, his protective presence, his holiness, his righteous judgment, and his anger against sin. John expanded this image with the illustration of the process of separating wheat from chaff. A winnowing fan or shovel was used for tossing the wheat in the air. The heavier kernels of wheat fell to the ground, while the lighter chaff was carried off by the wind. The chaff was then collected and used for fuel. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Jesus Christ. Do you point others to Jesus Christ in the way you speak and live?

NEWS UPDATE



Thank you for wearing your face covering in church and for considering others

WELCOME to all at Mass today and a big welcome if you have not been to Mass for a while due to the Covid restrictions. You are no longer required to sign in though you can still choose to do so on the QR Code. Please continue, unless if you are exempt, to wear a face mask to protect yourselves and others. Under the present restrictions we are required to do so. There continues to be no required social distancing in Church. However the top left hand side of the church will be kept for those who wish to do so. We ask that you sanitise in and out of church but if you wish to sanitise before communion we ask you bring your own and do so yourself. **Above all be responsible to others, look out for each other and make sure if you feel ill or have been in crowded situations that you are tested.**

CHRISTMAS CARDS with details of the Christmas Services are available from today. Please take one for yourself and your family. Also might you take one to someone else to encourage them to come this Christmas.

FUNERAL MASS of Denis David on Saturday 18th December at 12 noon followed by burial in Carpenders Park. May he rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of Mary O'Brien on Thursday 23rd December at 11.00am. followed by burial in Carpenders Park. May she rest in peace.

THANK YOU to all who have worked as stewards over the past many months enabling us to come to Mass safely and securely. We are all so grateful to you all.

REPOSITORY will be open as of this weekend with Christmas cards and Christmas items on sale.

COFFEE & TEA AFTER MASS has now recommenced for those who wish and all the following Fridays. The café/Bar is looking very underused and we have a new updated coffee machine too. See you there! If you might consider helping please contact **Angela Traynor** at angelatraynor@btinternet.com

CHRISTMAS GIVING ENVELOPES: These will be available from next week. They are an opportunity for you to make a Christmas gift, not to the clergy, (if you wish to give anything to the clergy now you must do it in a private Christmas Card as they no longer receive anything from the Christmas Collection). The envelopes are for you to give to St George's, in thanksgiving for the blessings you have received in this Holy place over the past, challenging year.

A CALL TO LISTEN AND WALK TOGETHER: SYNOD 2022-2023 The questionnaires are out for you to consider and complete. If you didn't receive one last week please take one today. Maybe there will be time in the café/Bar when we can listen and talk to each other and

make our response—limited as it will be—to the diocese.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be open for booking Masses etc every Thursday and Friday after 10.00am—3.00pm.
REBUILDING OUR PARISH: as we get back together again after all these months of lockdown and subsequent restrictions we do need help, especially in building up the Sunday Liturgy. The 9.45am Mass needs singers and musicians. Could you help with that. The 11.15am Mass Choirs needs men and boys to sing together. Could you help with that? **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE THIS TO OTHERS**—if you do nothing will happen. Thanks!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - A huge thank you to our fantastic team of Catechists & Helpers and to St George's school for helping the children carefully prepare for their First Reconciliation. Thank you also to Parents/Carers for your invaluable support in these continuing challenging times. We look forward to welcoming back **Parents/Carers only on Tuesday 11th January** as we begin Part 2 of the FHC Programme.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY HELPERS: - The Children's Liturgy has started up again in the Parish on last Sunday at the 9.45am Family Mass. We are looking for new volunteers to help the younger children (4-7yr) reflect on Sunday's Gospel during Mass in a fun, creative & simple way. If you might consider helping once every six weeks, joining an established group of experienced Catechists, please contact Una Moran una@bfmconsult.co.uk or peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY (6.00pm VIGIL MASS): - All being well, the Children's Nativity will once again be taking place at St. George's at the Family Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 6pm. Commitment is required for rehearsals on Saturday 18th December from 10.30-11.30am & Sunday 19th December from 2.00-3.00pm. If your children (in Year 3 or above) would like to take part or you would like to help please contact Bushra on 07843 053 076 / bushrakhosla@yahoo.co.uk.

REPOSITORY: Volunteers urgently required to assist in the Repository after all Masses. If you are able to help please contact Imelda on 07982683664.

VOTIVE CANDLE PRICES *LARGE CANDLES: £1.50, SMALL CANDLES 50p.*

PARISH CENTRE & CAFÉ: This will be slowly opening up for small groups and we hope to have it all up and running as usual by Advent Sunday. This is also an important date when the bishops have restored the Sunday Obligation to attend Mass. Please note there will be NO commercial lettings of the hall until 2022.

CONFIRMATION 2022: - Young people in Year 10 & above are welcome to join our Confirmation Programme to prepare to receive this Sacrament of Confirmation. If you are a young person wishing to be confirmed in 2022, please join us in the Parish Centre with a Parent/Carer for the **Confirmation Information Evening at 7.30pm on Monday 10th January 2022** when Registration Forms will be provided to those attending wishing to be confirmed.

CHURCH CLEANING: - Church cleaning takes place on **Mondays after the 9.30am Mass**. All are welcome! Thank you for all who are already helping out.

ALTAR SERVING: - If your child would like to help with Altar Serving at Mass please note that you must first complete an Altar Serving Form, providing Parental Consent. Blank forms are available for completion from the Sacristy. Only once this form has been completed can your child begin serving at Mass.

CHURCH LAMPS: These have now been rehung and the ship lamp at Our Lady of Walsingham has been restored. These can be booked each week in memory of someone. Just contact the parish office. We have several empty gaps!

RCIA—Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults. Do you know anyone (or it may even be yourself) who would like to explore what it means to be a Catholic Christian? If so, please speak or contact to Fr Julio.

SUPPORT WEEKLY FLOWERS AT ST. GEORGE'S: How you can help? Give a general donation in an envelope handed to Monsignor or one of the Flower Team (these can be found at the back of the Church). A special donation of arranged flowers for one week. Perhaps for a Wedding Anniversary, Birthday or in Memory of a loved one. An indication of costs follows:- Please place donations, name and words in an envelope and hand to Monsignor or one of the Flower Team. (Envelopes are at the back of Church).

A JOB OPPORTUNITY: Fr Tony Thomas (former assistant priest here at St George's) is looking to employ a part-time administrator at The Five Precious Wounds in Stonebridge, where he is now parish priest. The role involves day to day secretarial and administrative tasks, co-ordinating parish communications, and organising and supporting liturgical and other parish events. The hours will be 10.30am - 2.30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If you are interested in this role, please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/parish-administrator-bookkeeper-stonebridge-parish/>

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: details will be out from next week

CHRISTMAS CLEANING & DECORATION after mass on Friday 24th December—and all through the morning. Can you help?

ST. LUKE'S HOSPICE: Charity Santa Dash on Sunday 12th December. Please telephone 020 8382 8112. Details in church porch.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH For ANYONE who would be otherwise alone on Christmas Day this year we can arrange to deliver a traditional Christmas lunch, either turkey or vegetarian, to ANYONE, in our community, who would otherwise be alone. If you would like to avail of this, or know someone who would benefit, please Christine on 07881 400328 or email christmaslunch25@gmail.com

A CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING - FOR WHEN YOU PUT UP YOUR TREE! Lord God, we praise you for the light of creation - sun, moon and stars; we praise you for the light of Israel - Law, Prophets and Scripture; we praise you for Jesus Christ our Everlasting Light. As we light up our tree, may our hearts be filled with joy, and may all who delight in this tree, be brought to the light of knowledge and the joy of Salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Entrance Antiphon: *Phil 4: 4-5*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Collect

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
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: *Zephaniah 3:14-18*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes,
word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy
for you on a day of festival.
The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm-Canticle: *Isalah 12*

*R/. Sing and shout for joy for great In your midst
Is the Holy One of Israel.*

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. *R/.*

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. *R/.*

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds;
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. *R/.*

Second reading: *Phillipians 4:4-7*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation: *Is. 61:1(Lk4:18)*

Allelula, allelula!

*The spirit of the Lord has
been given to me.*

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Allelula!

Gospel: *Luke 3:10-18*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

Prayer over the Offerings

May the sacrifice of our worship,
Lord, we pray,
be offered to you unceasingly,
to complete what was begun in sacred mystery
and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: *Cf. Is 35: 4*

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Prayer after Communion

We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance
may cleanse us of our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord.