

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 19th DECEMBER 2021

FOURTH 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 4

Divine Office
Advent 4

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

THIS WEEK

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 Rozario RIP Stefan Lazarus RIP THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Mon 20 Dec 9.30am	Advent feria Holy Souls
Tues 21 Dec 9.30am	Advent feria Fernandes Family Ints.
Weds 22 Dec 9.30am	Advent feria Private Intention
Thurs 23 Dec 9.30am 11.00am	Advent feria Susan Walsh RIP FUNERAL MASS Mary Kathleen O'Brien RIP
Fri 24 Dec 9.30am	Advent feria Daniel Daley Snr RIP
	<i>Christmas begins</i> CHRISTMAS EVE
4.00pm 6.00pm 11.30pm	Private Intention Peter Cronin RIP Daley Family ints.
Sat 25 Dec 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am	CHRISTMAS DAY Richard O'Dwyer RIP Paul Dias RIP Sadie Logan RIP
Sun 26 Dec 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am	THE HOLY FAMILY Hannah O'Gorman RIP THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH Eric Duffner RIP <i>No evening Mass</i>



TODAY'S MASS



Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read

the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favour upon the people of Israel.

First Reading: *Micah 5:1-4*

The ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19*

A prayer for God's salvation.

Second Reading: *Hebrews 10:5-10*

Through his obedience to God's will, Christ consecrated all.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:39-45*

Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy." -St. Francis

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

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 Rep: Mrs. Mary Kugaswaran sudburysg2@rcdow.org.uk

Address: The Presbytery, 970 Harrow Road, Sudbury, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 2QE

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

Email: sudbury@rcdow.org.uk **Website:** parish.rcdow.org.uk/sudbury

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.

HOLYDAYS 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 Kathleen O'Brien, Denis David, Fr Dominic Byrne,

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Stefan Lazarus, Margaret McMahon, Martin Kelly, Susan Walsh

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Memory of Bernard Welikala RIP

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.

How easy it is for any of us to recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord Jesus in our life? Blessed are you if you see and recognize the Lord with the "eyes of faith"! The word "blessed" [*makarios* in Greek] literally means "happiness" or "beatitude". It describes a kind of joy which is serene and untouchable, self-contained, and independent from chance and changing circumstances of life. There is a certain paradox for those "blessed" by the Lord. Mary was given the "blessedness" of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. To be chosen by God is an awesome privilege and responsibility. Mary received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. Her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fuelled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises. Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away.

What is the significance of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth before the birth of Jesus? When Elizabeth greeted Mary and recognized the Messiah in Mary's womb they were filled with the Holy Spirit and with a joyful anticipation of the fulfilment of God's promise to give a Saviour. What a marvellous wonder for God to fill not only Elizabeth's heart with his Holy Spirit but the child in her womb as well. John the Baptist, even before the birth of the Messiah, pointed to his coming and leapt for joy in the womb of his mother as the Holy Spirit revealed to him the presence of the King to be born. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us to enable us to know and experience the indwelling presence of God and the power of his kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the way in which God reigns within each of us. One of the gifts of these final days of Advent is to recognize and then live in the joy and knowledge of God's indwelling presence with us through his Holy Spirit.



A Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of ADVENT

Mother Mary, pray for us, that we might be inspired by the way you received your life and God's. Draw us close to your Son, that we might trust Him with our lives, as He learned to trust His Father by His trust in you. Amen.

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.**

KEEP ST GEORGE'S COVID SAFE: If a member of your household has tested positive for COVID, even if asymptomatic (i.e. without symptoms), please refrain from coming to the church, in case you are asymptomatic yourself. Additionally, it may be helpful to know, that the Catholic Bishops have fully endorsed all aspects of the UK Vaccination Programme. The more people who are vaccinated, the less risk there is to us all.

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 Mary Kathleen 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 gave so generously to our flower collection. We look forward to the church looking wonderful. We have a splendid tree arriving.

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS will take place all Christmas Eve morning. Come and help if you have time.

UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE—as we do yearly we will be collecting gifts on behalf of the Catholic Children's Society. Please bring your gift wrapped and please state whether its for a girl or a boy and the appropriate age group.

IF YOU ARE GOING AWAY OR TRAVELLING THIS CHRISTMAS we wish you a happy and safe celebration of Our Lord's birth.

CHRISTMAS GIVING ENVELOPES: These are now available. 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. **IF YOU GIFT AID, PLEASE REMEMBER TO FILL IN THE RELEVANT PART ON THE ENVELOPE**—it benefits the parish hugely

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

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.

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

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

PLEASE, IT'S A KINDNESS when Mass has ended to ensure that your seat area is left clean and tidy, ready for the next Mass. It's particularly helpful to lift the kneelers so they are not walked on and so others can get in and out of the benches easily. Over the past two weeks, Newsletters, Mass sheets and spilt food have been left in this Holy Place for others to clear away. This is not helpful in the current climate. Let's look after our church

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: *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: *Micah 5:1-4*

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

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: *Hebrews 10:5-10*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: *Lk1:38*

Allelula, allelula!

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

Gospel: *Luke 1:39-44*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

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. Who lives and reigns for ever