

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 5th DECEMBER 2021

SECOND 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 2

Divine Office
Advent 2

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

THIS WEEK

Sun 5 Dec 6.15pm (Vigil) 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT George Hillier RIP PJ Neylon RIP Kevin Durcan RIP Anthony Lett RIP THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Mon 6 Dec 9.30am 1.30am	S. Nicholas Rosaline & Emidio Perera RIP FUNERAL MASS Mary Steele RIP
Tues 7 Dec 9.30am	S. Ambrose Fernades Family ints.
Weds 8 Dec 9.30am	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY The Holy Souls
Thurs 9 Dec 9.30am 11.45am 7.00pm	Advent feria Ints. of Rehan Fernandes (Good Health) FUNERAL MASS Agnes Carr RIP Reception of the Body of Maire Crowley RIP
Fri 10 Dec 9.30am 11.00am	Advent feria Darren O'Sullivan RIP FUNERAL MASS Maire (Maura)Crowley RIP
Sat 11 Dec 9.30am	Advent feria Lola RIP
Sun 12 Dec 6.15pm (Vigil) 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	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



TODAY'S MASS



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

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 126:1-2,2-3,4-5,6

A song of praise for God's great deeds.

Second Reading: Phillipians 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

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk

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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.

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: Archie Ross, Dashedelle Fernandes, Dellia and Theodore Bose

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Mary Steele, Maura Crowley Agnes Carr

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Mgr Wilfred Purney (Parish Priest of St George's)

SANCTUARY LAMP

In memory of Darren O'Sullivan RIP

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

In memory of Kevin Durcan RIP

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.

To Our Lady, Mother of Advent

To Our Lady, Mother of Advent, O Mother of our Advent, be with us and see to it that he will remain with us in this difficult Advent of the struggles for truth and hope, for justice and peace: He, alone, Emmanuel.

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.

NEWS UPDATE



*So be strong in hope
For your God comes to save*

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. We know from mainland Europe that Covid 19 is still "out there" together with a new strain. There will 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.**

WEDNESDAY is the **SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**. Whilst not a "Day of Obligation" in this country it is a day when we should seriously consider coming to Mass.

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!

FUNERAL MASS of Mary Steele on Monday 6th December at 1.30pm followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of Agnes Carr on Thursday 9th December at 11.45am followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of Maire (Maura) Crowley on Friday 10th December at 10.00am followed by burial at St Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Rise. May she rest in peace.

HOLY MATRIMONY between Gregory Pinto and Michelle Fernandes on Saturday 11th December at 12.30pm. We wish them very much happiness.

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: - This week, in Session 8, the children will be reflecting on 'The Sacrament of Reconciliation' as some look forward to making their First Reconciliation and others give thanks for receiving it. Thank you for arriving promptly for the start of the session at 7pm. Parents/Carers will also receive some resources, including a video link, this coming week via email to make it as simple as possible for the children to practice their First Reconciliation at home as they look forward to this important moment in their life of faith.

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 peterkings-lev@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 / bush-rakhosla@yahoo.co.uk.

SIGNING SCHOOL FORMS in the parish centre: (*Secondary Schools is now closed*)

Primary Schools (and Nursery) 6.00-8.00pm **Friday 10th December** All in the parish centre. Please obtain the Certificate of Catholic Practice & a supplementary form from the back of church. **These must be completed beforehand.**

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.

VOLUNTEERS FOR FRIDAY HOSPITALITY: - We are hoping to restart Teas & Coffees in the Café Bar after the Friday Mass on Friday 3rd December. Following the COVID pandemic, a number of our generous volunteers have had to step down so we are seeking **new volunteers**. If you might consider helping please contact **Angela Traynor** at angelatraynor@btinternet.com

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 Thursday 23rd December—and all through the day. Can you help?

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

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)

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

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,
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 perception 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 produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation: *Lk 3:4,6*

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



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 nourishment,
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.