

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, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading: *Isalah 35:1-6, 10*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 145*

R/. Come Lord, and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *R/.*

The Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. *R/.*

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. *R/.*

Second Reading: *James 5:7-10*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the

ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Allelula, allelula!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

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

Allelula!

Gospel: *Matthew 11:2-11*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 11th December 2022

GAUDETE

THE 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 A

Weekday Readings
Advent Week 3

Divine Office
Week 3

For children,
download a weekly sheet:
<http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/>

THIS WEEK

Sun 11 Dec
6.15pm
8.30am
9.45am
11.15am
5.30pm

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Denis David RIP
THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Alfonso Ledo RIP
Martin & Nora Driscoll RIP
Josef Chury RIP
& Zdenka Chura RIP

Mon 12 Dec
9.30am

Our Lady of Guadalupe
Edward Johnston RIP

Tues 13 Dec
9.30am

S. Lucy
Rubin Rajkumar & family ints.

Weds 14 Dec
9.30am

S. John of the Cross
Joe SCanlan RIP

Thurs 15 Dec
9.30am

Advent feria
Hannah O'Gorman RIP

Fri 16 Dec
7.00am
9.30am

Advent feria
Private intention
Amabel Christian Ints.
(Protection & good health)
FUNERAL MASS
Ivy Harvey RIP

Sat 17 Dec
9.30am

Advent feria
Susan Walsh RIP

Sun 18 Dec
6.15pm
8.30am
9.45am
11.15am
5.30pm

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Stefan Lazarus RIP
THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Maria Rozario RIP (4th Anniv.)
Edward Johnston RIP
Bernard Welikala RIP



TODAY'S MASS

In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

First Reading: *Isalah 35:1-6,10*

In the day of the Lord, all sorrow and mourning will cease.

Responsorial Psalm: *Ps. 146:6-7,8-9,9-10*

The Lord will save his people.

Second Reading: *James 5:7-10*

Be patient, and be ready; the coming of the Lord is near.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 11:2-11*

Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!"

-St. Catherine of Sienna

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

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

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Information 3. Mgr Jeremy; 4. Fr. Mike; 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, Dee Auriol, Allan Noronha, Fiona Power, SMR, Aaran Thayaparan, Jocalyn Almeida, John, Rowland Watts, Catherine Corcoran, Shaun Scoon and Helen Jordan, Sean Marren, George Beel

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Cora Connors

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Kathleen Crossan, Gerda Fernando, Ivy Harvey, Kathleen Bradley

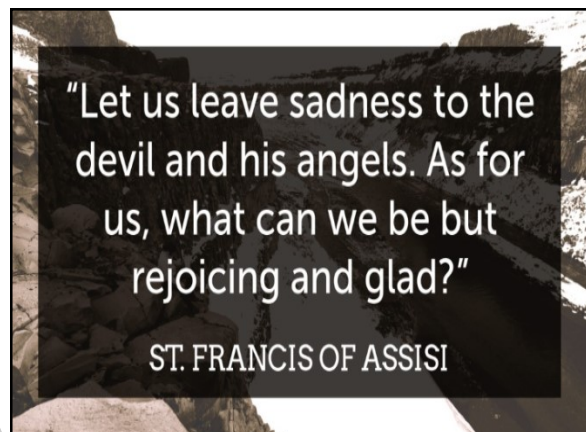
ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Martin & Nora Driscoll, Susan Walsh, Tom Ryan

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
George Hillier RIP

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
Mary Walsh RIP

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER
Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



When John the Baptist's disciples ask Jesus if he is the one who is to come, He answers, not with a simple yes and no, but by pointing out the manifestations that Isaiah spoke of in describing the true liberation of the people. *"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."* This response can be seen as a confirmation to John the Baptist that what he saw and heard the day he baptized Jesus in the Jordan River did indeed mark the beginning of the ministry of the Messiah. Jesus makes it clear to John that he is *"the one."*

After confirming who he is, Jesus goes on to confirm who John the Baptist is. He is the one sent to prepare the way for the Messiah. His rhetorical question, *"what did you go out to see?"* points out that there were those who were expecting a Messiah who would be high class, wealthy and a political leader. Jesus shows us that this is certainly not God's plan for the Redeemer. John the Baptist, in preparing the way for Jesus, does so in the same simple and humble manner as Jesus himself would do. There were those who were surprised, disappointed and unable to accept the thought that the Messiah would be a poor carpenter from an insignificant village who was very comfortable associating with tax collectors and sinners. As the ministry of Jesus continues and his identity becomes clearer, it is incomprehensibly for many to believe that the Messiah was also the Son of God - The word made Flesh. Why would almighty God humble himself to become a frail man? Very simply, because; *"God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son"*

This is a message that should bring great joy to our hearts. These last weeks of Advent are an appropriate time to recall all the good things God has done for us, and to rejoice. May we continue our journey to Christmas with renewed rejoicing in our hearts.



NEWS UPDATE



ADVENT FAIR

Lots of stalls and Christmas gifts after all the morning Masses TODAY.
EVERYONE—come and take a look!

WELCOME to all at Mass today and a big welcome back if you have not been to Mass for a while due to the Covid restrictions.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL The annual Christmas Celebration concerts at Westminster Cathedral will take place this year on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st December. For tickets, visit www.westminstercathedral.org.uk.

FUNERAL MASS of IVY HARVEY on Tuesday 16th December at 11.00am followed by burial in Paddington Old Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of KATHLEEN CROSSAN on Friday 23rd December at 10.30am followed by burial at Clomp Hill Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of GERDA FERNANDO on Tuesday 4th January at 11.30am. May she rest in peace.

THE WALSH FAMILY wish to thank everyone for their support and prayers following the death of John Walsh.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: there will be a collection as you leave all Masses NEXT WEEKEND towards Christmas flowers (which, sadly, are not cheap these days!) Thank you in anticipation.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES & TIMETABLE should be out this week—if not next week with all the Mass times. Please take one.

CHRISTMAS GIVING ENVELOPES: These are now available and they are an opportunity for you to make a special Christmas gift to the church at this time. This money is no longer an offering to the clergy. If you wish to give them a gift you must do that separately through a card or some other means through the parish letterbox.

CHRISTMAS CARDS and CHURCH ART CALENDARS have arrived and can be purchased from the Repository after all Masses from this weekend.

FILM NIGHT this Friday 16th December, and appropriately the film is called "THE NATIVITY". Doors open to the café/Bar at 7.00pm—all welcome!

CATHOLIC EVENTS FOR YOUNG ADULTS - If you're a young adult at the Parish, why not sign-up to the Westminster Youth Ministry Newsletter, with lots of information about Catholic youth events in the Diocese? Visit <https://dowym.com/>.

SERVING TEAS & COFFEES AFTER 11.15AM MASS - Might you consider joining the hospitality team, providing refreshments to parishioners after the 11.15am Solemn Mass. The commitment is usually once every six weeks. Your help would be hugely appreciated. For further details please contact Julie Kidd at juliekidd21@gmail.com or 07918 130798.defibrillator for the parish (2 if we raise enough— one for the church, the other for the hall).

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION -FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - Congratulations to all our young people who made their First confessions last week. Thank you also to Catechists and Parents & Carers for helping to make the Reconciliation Service last Tuesday such a prayerful, positive & peaceful occasion. Parents & Carers should all have a copy of the dates for Part 2 of the FHC Programme. This begins with an introductory evening for Parents/Carers Only in the Parish Centre on **Tuesday 10th January at 7pm.**

CONFIRMATION 2023 - Those in Year 10 & above who would like to be confirmed at the Parish are asked to please attend the **Confirmation Information Evening** with a Parent/Carer in the Parish Centre on **Monday 9th January at 7.30pm** when registration documents will be provided. Please note that a copy of one's baptism certificate is also required for registration.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY ON CHRISTMAS EVE - We are delighted to announce that the Children's Nativity will be taking place, once again this year, at the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. Children are required to attend two rehearsals from 2.00-3.00pm on Wednesday 21st December and Friday 23rd December. To register your child's interest please contact Bushra at 07843 053 076 / bushrakhosla@yahoo.co.uk.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) : If you are feeling isolated and would like a home visit or a chat with a friendly person over the phone please get in touch. If you are struggling financially or would like other practical assistance please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are over 18 and are interested in becoming a member of the SVP you would be very welcome, just call the number below or drop in to our next meeting. Tel. 0 7 7 5 3 6 5 4 1 5 4 (T h e r e s a) . Email. frain.home@gmail.com

CALLING NEW CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS - Might you consider a new ministry at the Parish helping our young people prepare for their Confirmation in 2023? If you might consider helping, please contact our Catechetical Coordinator, Mr. Peter Kingsley, at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk for further information.

READING AT 5.30PM MASS - Might you consider reading at the **Sunday Evening Mass**? This ministry offers the opportunity to reflect a little more attentively on the Word of God whilst also serving the community at Mass. The commitment is just once a month. There are some gaps in our regular rota that we remain keen to fill. If you might consider helping, please contact our Catechetical Coordinator, Peter, at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk, for further information or speak to any of the Parish Team. Thank you.

ROSARY AT HOME - If you would be interested in becoming part of the 'Rosary at Home' initiative, where a statue of Our Lady of Fatima is brought to your home for a period as you say the Rosary each day, please fill in your details on the clipboard in the church porch.

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA: Next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th December at 8pm in the parish centre.

OVER 60'S: Next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th December at 1pm in the parish centre will be the last before Christmas. Open again on January 10th. **THE PARISH OFFICE** is open Thursdays & Fridays and from 10.30am until 3.00pm

JOB OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE DIOCESE: for details go to: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

SIGNING FORMS ETC. Please always make an appointment if you want school forms, passport forms, pension forms countersigned/witnessed by the clergy. The same if you want one of the clergy to act as a referee. Please don't just turn up at the door expecting it to be done immediately. Please also know if you want an English passport witnessed or naturalisation form we must have known you for a minimum of 3 years.

SPONSORING THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP & THE LAMP AT OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM is a lovely thing to do for a departed loved one or a particular intention. There are some possibilities in the coming months. Please contact the office.

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

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

FLOWERS IN CHURCH—if you'd like to make a contribution, especially in memory of a loved one there are envelopes at the back of church

MANNA SOCIETY - a day centre helping the homeless. All donations to the Manna Society, up to 28th December, will be matched £ for £ by the Aviva Community Service. If you are in a position to help and would like to donate, please click on this link <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/the-manna-day-centre>.

VACANCY - School Office Receptionist/Admin Assistant: Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School in Stonebridge is seeking to appoint a Receptionist/Admin Assistant for a January 2023 Start. If you are interested in the position, or would like further information please visit the school website www.lourdes.brent.sch.uk

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK 2023: A LIMITED NUMBER OF copies are hot off the press and are now available from the repository shop . The liturgical calendar for the year is included, together with every Catholic church, school, Bishop, Priest & Deacon, working in the diocese. This is an excellent reference book for Catholics, but possibly not a bedtime read... unless you are an insomniac!

THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP who visited our Parish to sell hand carved olive wood from the Holy Land , is going to have a Christmas day sale at St Joseph in Wembley this coming Thursday 15th December from 9 am till 9 pm all day, please visit and support their work and consider buying a special Christmas present for yourself or a loved one this Christmas."