

## 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: *Isalah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above. No, Ahaz answered I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said:

Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means God-is-with us.

### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23

R/. *Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.*

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. R/.

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. R/.

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. R/.

### Second Reading: *Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature

he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".*  
*Alleluia!*

### Gospel: *Matthew 1:18-25*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

### 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 and ever.

## ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUBBURY

Sunday 18th December 2022

## THE 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 A

Weekday Readings  
Advent Week 4

Divine Office  
Week 4

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

## THIS WEEK

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

Mon 19 Dec  
9.30am

Advent feria  
Maurice O'Grady RIP

Tues 20 Dec  
9.30am

advent feria  
Genovera Rosario RIP

Weds 21 Dec  
9.30am

Advent feria  
Ivy Dias RIP

Thurs 22 Dec  
9.30am

Advent feria  
Jim Curran RIP (1st anniv.)

Fri 23 Dec  
7.00am  
9.30am  
11.00am

Advent feria  
Private intention  
Daniel Daley Snr. RIP  
FUNERAL MASS  
Kathleen Crossan RIP

Sat 24 Dec  
9.30am

Advent feria (*Last of Advent*)  
Michael Johnston ints

6.00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE  
Family Vigil Mass for Christmas  
Peter Cronin RIP  
Carols by Candlelight  
MIDNIGHT MASS  
Richard O'Dwyer RIP

Sun 25 Dec  
8.30am  
9.45am  
11.15am

CHRISTMAS DAY  
Anastasia Johnston RIP  
Paul Dias RIP (10th anniv.)  
Baptiste Fernandes Ints.

## TODAY'S MASS



The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfilment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: "The virgin shall be with child and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]." Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's

plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

### First Reading: *Isalah 7:10-14*

Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel.

### Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 24:1-2,3-4,5-6*

The Lord is the King of Glory who established the earth.

### Second Reading: *Romans 1:1-7*

St. Paul greets the community at Rome and declares himself a servant of Christ Jesus.

### Gospel Reading: *Matthew 1:18-24*

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

## SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The Virgin Mary, who did not communicate to the world an idea but Jesus, the Incarnate Word, is an unparalleled model of evangelization. Let us invoke her with trust so that, in our time too, the Church may proclaim Christ, the Saviour". Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

## MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead [jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk)  
Assistant Priest: Fr Mike Guthrie [michaelguthrie@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaelguthrie@rcdow.org.uk)  
Catechetical Coordinator: Mr. Peter Kingsley [peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk)  
Secretary: Mrs. Toni Miles [sudbury@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:sudbury@rcdow.org.uk)  
Director of Music: Mr. Scott Price [scottprice@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:scottprice@rcdow.org.uk)  
Hall Bookings: via the office or [sudbury@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:sudbury@rcdow.org.uk)  
Safeguarding Rep: Hanna Gorgis [sudburysg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:sudburysg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)  
Tel 07751804978  
Address: The Presbytery, 970 Harrow Road, Sudbury, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 2QE  
Telephone: 020 8904 2552. Phone Options: 1. Mass Times; 2. Parish Office/ SVF Information 3. Mgr Jeremy; 4. Fr. Mike; 5. Catechetical Coordinator.  
Charity No: 233699  
Email: [sudbury@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:sudbury@rcdow.org.uk) Website: [parish.rcdow.org.uk/sudbury](http://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 Fernandez, Ivy Harvey, Joseph Bradley, Anne O'Connor.*

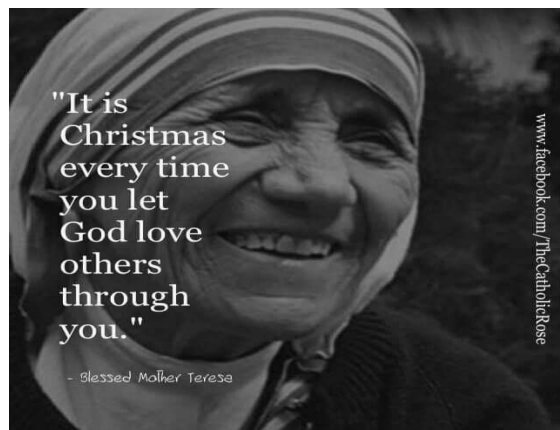
**ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED:** *Maria Rozario (4th), Jim Curran (1st), Bernard Welikala (2nd), Stefan Lazarus.*

**BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP**  
*Baptiste Fernandes Ints.*

**LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM**  
*Baptiste Fernandes Ints.*

**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.



Mary had to face an enormous challenge to her faith and trust in God and to the faith of her family and Joseph, the man she chose to marry. She was asked to assume a burden of tremendous responsibility. It had never been heard of before that a child could be born without a natural father. Mary was asked to accept this miraculous exception to the laws of nature. That required faith and trust in God and in his promises. Second, Mary was not yet married. Pregnancy outside of wedlock was not tolerated in those days. Mary was only espoused to Joseph, and such an engagement had to last for a whole year. She was asked to assume a great risk. She could have been rejected by Joseph, by her family, by all her own people. Mary knew that Joseph and her family would not understand without revelation from God. She nonetheless believed and trusted in God's promises.

Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to embarrass or punish his espoused wife, Mary when he discovered that she was pregnant. To all appearances she had broken their solemn pledge to be faithful and chaste to one another. Joseph, no doubt took this troubling matter to God in prayer. He was not hasty to judge or to react with hurt and anger. God rewarded him not only with guidance and consolation, but with the divine assurance that he had indeed called Joseph to be the husband of Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in Almighty God. Joseph believed in the divine message to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah. Like Mary, Joseph is a model of faith for us. He is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption. He calls us today to be ready to believe in the promises of God, even when faced with perplexing circumstances and what seems like insurmountable problems. God has not left us alone, but has brought us his only begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

So let us celebrate Christmas, the feast of the Incarnation, with joyful hearts and let us renew our faith and hope in God and in his redeeming work.

## NEWS UPDATE



**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](http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk).

**CHRISTMAS POSTERS** are available as usual. These are provided by the Knights and in the cost which is charged for them money is raised for various good causes. Last year donations were made to The John Foster Memorial Home (£1,000), Mary's Meals (£500), Action for Youth and Young People (£500), The Knights Ukrainian appeal (£1,000).

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

**FUNERAL MASS of GERDA FERNANDO** on Tuesday 4th January at 11.00am. Followed by cremation at Breakspear crematorium. May she rest in peace.

**FUNERAL MASS of JOSEPH BRADLEY** on Wednesday 5th January at 11.00am followed by burial in Greenford Cemetery. Reception of the body on the night before, Tuesday at 7.00pm. May he rest in peace

**FUNERAL MASS of ANNE O'CONNOR** on Monday 9th January followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium. 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 THIS WEEKEND towards Christmas flowers. Thank you in anticipation.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** we need foliage from gardens to decorate the church. Do you have fir, holly and/or ivy? Please bring it anytime between Monday and Friday. It can all be left outside the presbytery or church. Thanks so much.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES & TIMETABLE** are available this weekend. Why not take one also to a friend or neighbour?

**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.

**THANK YOU** to so many who helped with the Advent Fair which raised £2,915.37. What a tremendous effort on behalf of everyone. We can now move forward with our project of a defibrillator.

**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](mailto: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** - Parents & Carers should all have a copy of the dates for Part 2 of the FHC Programme. We very much look forward to the Video Evening, for **Parents/Carers Only**, introducing Part 2 of the Programme in the Parish Centre on **Tuesday 10th January at 7pm.**

**CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING** - Christmas Church Cleaning will be taking place on **Thursday 22nd December** after the 9.30am Mass. All are welcome to come and help make the church look beautiful for the Christmas celebrations.

**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](mailto: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. 0775 3654154 (Theresa). Email. [frain.home@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk) for further information.

**Confirmation 2023**  
**Information Evening**



Are you in Year 10 or above, regularly attend Mass at our Parish and wish to be confirmed in 2023?

If so, please join us, with your Parent/Carer, in the Parish Centre for the

**Confirmation Information Evening**  
**Monday 9th January at 7.30pm.**



**UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE 2022**

As we have done in previous years we will be collecting presents for children through the Catholic Children's Society. All you have to do is wrap them, name whether it's for a boy or girl and the age and tuck it under our tree in church. They'll be distributed after Christmas. *Thanks in advance!*

