

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 24: 1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Collect

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.
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 63:16-17,64: 1,3-8*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!
- at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with Integrity and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

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: *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.
I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation: *Ps 84:8*

Allelula, allelula!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.
Allelula!

Gospel: *Mark 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: *Ps 84: 13*

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Prayer after Communion

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 3rd December 2023

FIRST 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 B

Weekday Mass Readings
Week Advent 1

Divine Office
Advent 1

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

THIS WEEK

Sun 3 Dec 6.15pm (vigil) 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Moran Family Intentions Margaret McMahon RIP Francesca Rozario Intentions Frank Hunt RIP THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Mon 4 Dec 9.30am	Advent feria Private intention
Tues 5 Dec 9.30am	Advent feria Mgr Wilfred Purney RIP
Weds 6 Dec 9.30am	S. Nicholas Jimmy Greaney RIP
Thurs 6 Dec 9.30am	S. Ambrose John Gormley RIP
Fri 7 Dec 9.30am	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Kevin Durcan RIP
Sat 8 Dec 9.30am	Advent feria Bridget Mary Howard RIP
Sun 9 Dec 6.15pm (vigil) 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Eugene Bradley RIP Darren O'Sullivan RIP Margaret & Thomas Ryan RIP Eileen Ryan RIP THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

TODAY'S MASS



Faced with the Second Coming of the son of Man which can be neither predicted or prevented, during this long vigil through this worlds night, our only hope is to remain on the alert, fully conscious of our responsibilities towards each present moment, and investing it with the full weight of eternity.

First Reading: *Isalah 63:16b-17,19b; 64:2-7*
Isaiah prays for the Lord's forgiveness of the people.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*
St. Paul gives thanks to God for the faith of the Corinthians.

Gospel Reading: *Mark 13:33-37*
Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"True waiting means waiting without anxiety"
S. Francis de Sales

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Fr Mike Guthrie michaelguthrie@rcdow.org.uk
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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 **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, SMR, Christopher Browne, Noel Gill, Dee Auriol, Allan Noronha, Fiona Power, Aaran Thayaparan, John, Shaun Scoon and Helen Jordan, Sean Marren, George Beel, Anne McShine-Jones, Marian Lynch, Shane & Paul, Martha Conway, Jean Lurshay, Patrick, Gerry & Corrine Gilbert, Edward Granger, Chris Sweeney, Marjorie Hoareau, Catherine Corcoran, Barbara Gill,

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Amaya Maria McLeod-Saunders

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Michael (Timothy) O'Leary, Elaine Kent, Mary Friel, John Edwards

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Mgr Wilfred Purney, Frank Hunt, Denis David, Kevin Durcan

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Rowan Family Intentions

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
In Memory of Kevin Durcan RIP

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS for December 2023

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern.

— Mother Teresa —

AZ QUOTES



On this first Sunday of Advent the Church begins a new liturgical year. This year is called B, which focuses on Mark's Gospel. The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin word 'Adventus', which means arrival.

Adventus was the term used in Roman time to refer to the ceremony by which the emperor was formally welcomed into a city, this was normally after a military campaign; but also common on his return to Rome. With the number of military campaigns throughout Roman history, the Adventus was rather commonplace. Ceremonies welcoming Caesar were a way to show both loyalty to the Empire's leader, as well as the man that was the link between them and their deities. With the incarnation, passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ (*true God and true man*) into heaven, the Church recognizes in him the true Lord who has brought us into a new and an everlasting Kingdom.

The liturgical season of Advent then prepares us not only for Christmas but also reminds us to practice what the Church professes in the Creed. In it we profess our belief in the final and triumphant Coming of Jesus, who will come to Judge the living and the dead. This aspect is highlighted from this Sunday until 16th of December. In between these days the Church will bring our attention of two prophetic figures Isaiah and John the Baptist. From the 17th December to Christmas, the readings of the liturgy focus our attention into the events that surround the incarnation Jesus Christ, as a humble and fragile child in the manger, the first coming and the mystery of the God made man: the Emmanuel. The main figure leading to this is Mary the mother of the Lord.

However, in between these two comings of Jesus: as humble child in the incarnation and his glorious coming at the end of time, the Church recognises a third coming. This is made present, through the daily events and daily liturgies; which is summarised on the antiphon that the church recites everyday throughout the year in the Divine Office: *Oh, that today you would listen to his voice harden not your heart!* This is invitation calls us to have a constant attitude of conversion, by turning our heart to the Lord. It is made more strongly in today's Gospel where the Lord calls us to stay awake and vigilant, being ready at the door of our heart to recognise his coming.



NEWS UPDATE

WELCOME to all at Mass today and a big welcome to anyone who is new or a visitor.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? It always helps us to get to know you and also your family if you register with us. We can then send you information about the parish and opportunities. Registration forms can be found at the back of Church (underneath the picture of Pope Francis).

WEEL DONE & THANKS to all those who worked so hard last weekend for our ADVENT FAIR. Thanks to those who created stalls and those who spent money. We raised a wonderful total of £2702.09. All this will go towards us improving or Health and safety Mapping throughout all the areas and buildings of the parish.

DURING ADVENT ... At the Holy Mass, The Gloria is omitted (with the exception of feast days). We save this beautiful song, sung by the angels in heaven, for the great celebration at Christmas. We also move to the new liturgical Year B for Sunday Mass readings and Year 2, for weekday Mass readings. During this Holy time of preparing, why not spend some additional time in prayer, in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction is every Friday before the 9.30am Mass. The gentle Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) is available on Saturday evenings from 5.15pm and by arrangement along with a further time of Eucharistic Adoration until 6.00pm.

ADVENT MORNING OF RECOLLECTION—A date for your diary to get away from, the busyness of pre-Christmas with talks by Fr Neil Ferguson OP and also opportunities to make your confession in preparation for the great feast. Saturday 16th December beginning with the 9.30am and finishing at 12.30pm. A date to fix now.

FUNERAL LITURGY for Michael O'Leary Known as Timothy Service at Golders Green Crematorium Wednesday 6th December 1.30pm. May he rest in peace.

FUNERAL LITURGY of Mary Friel on Monday 18th December at 12.30pm at West London Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of Elaine Kent on Tuesday 19th December followed by burial in Carpenders Park. May she rest in peace.

FR PHILIP BAPTISTE looks forward to celebrating the silver Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. (which was at St George's) He cordially invites you to a Mass of Thanksgiving on Friday, December 8 at 7 pm in St Francis de Sales, Church, Wellington Road, Hampton, Hill. TW12 1JR No tickets needed—just turn up!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - We keep the First Holy Communion children in prayer as they prepare to receive the gift of God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) for the first time this coming week. A huge 'thank you' to our

team of volunteer Catechists & Helpers who have given their time and energy to help prepare the children for this important moment on their journey of faith. Thank you for arriving in good time for Tuesday's Reconciliation Service and for helping the children with their final preparations.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY AT VIGIL MASS - We are grateful to Bushra & her Team who are taking care of the Children's Nativity at the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. Children who would like to participate must be available for both rehearsals on 16th December from 2-3pm & 23rd December from 11-12pm. To register your child's interest please contact Bushra at 07843 053 076 / bushrakho-sla@yahoo.co.uk.

FRIENDS OF JESUS - This Parish Programme offers a little Religious Education to children of primary-school age who are not attending a Catholic school and have not yet received their First Holy Communion. For further details please contact our Catechetical Coordinator, Mr. Peter Kingsley, at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk

CONFIRMATION 2024 - Those in Year 10 & above, who are registered & regularly attend Mass at this Parish will be welcome to attend the Confirmation Information Evening with a Parent/Carer in the Parish Centre on Monday 8th January at 7.30pm when registration documents will be provided to those wishing to be confirmed. Please note that a copy of one's Baptism Certificate (and a translation if it is not in English) is also required for registration.

SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul) Our next fundraising event will be a Bingo night on Saturday 9th December at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets on the door and cash prizes and a cash bar.

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnle Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of thermal socks, face flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnle Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support."

SIGNING OF CERTIFICATES OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE: Mgr. Jeremy and Fr Mike spent an evening signing these FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS (and Nursery). If you missed this date and for a good reason please contact them ASAP.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH Thank you, as always, to our excellent group that arranges flowers so beautifully. They will have a little well earned break now as Advent commences. Before Christmas, as always we'll have a second collection to support them in their work.

MINIBUS TO MASS since the advent of Covid we have not been able to continue this wonderful service to our elderly at the 11.15am Mass. This is largely because the 2 minibuses were stolen from the day centre and which has sadly now closed. We now have the possibility of the use of a new bus but quite naturally we need a team of drivers and helpers. Could you help? It may be a simple commitment just once a month. At this stage just speak to one of the parish team or even better, email us and let see if we can get this up and running again.

OVER 60'S GROUP: meets 1.00pm on Tuesdays in the Café/Bar. All welcome!

CHILDRENS LITURGY on Sunday at the 9.45am Mass.

MUSIC at the 9.45am Mass and the 11.15am. Could you help with the singing or even playing a musical instrument at 9.45am

ROSARY AT HOME If you'd like to be part of our prayer network, or know more please simply contact Cheryl on 07941002161 .

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES in various parishes and jobs working centrally for the Diocese are advertised weekly. You can view the current vacancies via this link: For further details: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL: Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers."

TO LET: 3 bedroom semi-detached house with garden, available to rent immediately. Walking distance to Sudbury Hill tube station and local amenities. Call Gina on 07783677766.

STOP THE 14-DAY LIMIT ON EXPERIMENTING ON EMBRYOS BEING REMOVED The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) is pushing to remove the 14-day limit for experimenting on embryos, despite 97% of submissions from the general public to their consultation objecting to these plans. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website that makes it easy for you to email your MP asking them to oppose a change to legislation that, if passed, would pave the way for the removal of the 14-day limit. Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/14days to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds. On this 1st Sunday of Advent, please pray for all parents expecting a new child, that they might be blessed with a safe and healthy pregnancy. Lord hear us.