

# 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: *Isalah 40:1-5,9-11*

'Console my people, console them'  
says your God.  
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her  
that her time of service is ended,  
that her sin is atoned for,  
that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
double punishment for all her crimes.'  
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.  
Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.  
Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low.  
Let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'  
Go up on a high mountain,  
joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice,  
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,  
'Here is your God.'  
Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast  
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

## Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14

*R/. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.*

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. *R/.*

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. *R/.*

3. The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. *R/.*

## Second reading: *2 Peter 3:8-14*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

## 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: *Mark 1:1-8*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:  
Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
he will prepare your way.  
A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.  
and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

## 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.

## ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 10th December 2023

# 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 B*

Weekday Mass Readings  
*Week Advent 2*

Divine Office  
*Advent 2*

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

## THIS WEEK

<b>Sun 10 Dec</b> 6.15pm (vigil) 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> Eugene Bradley RIP Darren O'Sullivan RIP Margaret & Thomas Ryan RIP Eileen Ryan RIP THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
<b>Mon 11 Dec</b> 9.30am	<b>Advent feria</b> Pauline Markey RIP
<b>Tues 12 Dec</b> 9.30am	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> Agnelo Braganca Ints.
<b>Weds 13 Dec</b> 9.30am	<b>S. Lucy</b> Mary Elizabeth Winder RIP
<b>Thurs 14 Dec</b> 9.30am	<b>S. John of the Cross</b> Pat Groome RIP
<b>Fri 15 Dec</b> 9.30am	<b>Advent feria</b> Sean Faughey RIP
<b>Sat 16 Dec</b> 9.30am	<b>Advent feria</b> Theodore Fernandes RIP <b>MORNING OF RECOLLECTION</b> (see Advent leaflet)
<b>Sun 17 Dec</b> 6.15pm (vigil) 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> Shirley Hegarty RIP Teresa Hukowski RIP Maria Rozario RIP (5th) Stefan Lazarus RIP THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

## TODAY'S MASS



In today's Gospel John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

## First Reading: *Isalah 40:1-5,9-11*

Isaiah tells the people to prepare a way for the Lord.

## Second Reading: *2 Peter 3:8-14*

St. Peter teaches that we must always be holy because the return of the Lord cannot be predicted.

## Gospel Reading: *Mark 1:1-8*

St. John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized the people, in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

## SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Truthful soul, prepare your heart for this Bridegroom, that he may come to you and dwell with you"*

St. Thomas a Kempis

## 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/ SVP 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, 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:** *Theodore Tharakan*

**RECENTLY DEPARTED:** *Elaine Kent, Mary Friel, John Edwards, Kay Lorenzato.*

**ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED:** *Thomas Ryan, Anne O'Connor (1st), Helen Meredith.*

**BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP**  
*In memory of Francina Yap RIP*

**LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM**  
*Michael Bonner RIP*

**POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS for December 2023**

**For persons with disabilities**

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



John the Baptist's life was fuelled by one burning passion - to point others to Jesus Christ and to the coming of his kingdom. Who is John the Baptist and what is the significance of his message for our lives? Scripture tells us that John was filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb (Luke 1:15, 41) by Christ himself, whom Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth John leaped in her womb as they were filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:41). The fire of the Spirit dwelt in John and made him the forerunner of the coming Messiah. John was led by the Spirit into the wilderness prior to his ministry where he grew in the word of God and was tested in preparation for his prophetic mission. John's clothing was reminiscent of the prophet Elijah (see Kings 1:8).

John broke the prophetic silence of the previous centuries when he began to speak the word of God to the people of Israel. His message was similar to the message of the Old Testament prophets who chided the people of God for their unfaithfulness and who tried to awaken true repentance in them. Among a people unconcerned with the things of God, it was his work to awaken their interest, unsettle them from their complacency, and arouse in them enough good will to recognize and receive Christ when he came. Are you eager to hear God's word and to be changed by it through the power of the Holy Spirit?

Jesus tells us that John the Baptist was more than a prophet (Luke 7:26). John was the voice of the Consoler who is coming (John 1:23; Isaiah 40:1-3). He completed the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah (Matthew 11:13-14). What the prophets had carefully searched for and angels longed to see, now came to completion as John made the way ready for the coming of the Messiah, God's Anointed Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. With John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to the human race of the "divine likeness", prefiguring what would be achieved with and in the Lord Jesus.

John's baptism was for repentance - turning away from sin and taking on a new way of life according to God's word. Our baptism in Jesus Christ by water and the Spirit results in a new birth and entry into God's kingdom as his beloved sons and daughters (John 3:5). Jesus comes to baptize each one of us in his Holy Spirit so that we may walk in his truth and holiness and radiate the joy of the Gospel to all we meet. God's word has power to change and transform our lives so that we may be lights that point others to Jesus Christ. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Christ. Do you point others to Jesus Christ in the way you live, speak, and treat others?



# NEWS UPDATE

**Children's Nativity at St. George's Christmas Eve Vigil Mass**  
Would you like to take part or help?



For further information please contact  
Bushra Khosla  
bushrakhosla@yahoo.co.uk  
07843 053 076

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

**ADVENT LEAFLET** Have you taken one? If not please do so today.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS FILM NIGHT** this Thursday in the Café/Bar. Showing "Happy Feet". Door open at 7.00pm. All welcome.

**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 bread and Soup lunch will be afterwards. A date to fix now.

**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.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** - Thank you to Catechists and Parents & Carers for helping to make the Reconciliation Service last Tuesday such a prayerful, positive & peaceful occasion. Parents & Carers should now all have a copy of the dates for Part 2 of the FHC Programme. This begins with the **Part 2 Video** for

**Parents/Carers Only** in the Parish Centre on **Tuesday 16th January at 7pm**. Thank you for ensuring you make childcare arrangements well in advance of this meeting.

**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 / bushrakhosla@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](mailto: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)** 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. There will be a second collection next weekend towards our Christmas flowers (which are not cheap!!)

**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: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> For further details:

**CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL:** Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://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](http://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.

**Confirmation 2024**  
**Information Evening**



Are you in Year 10 or above, regularly attend Mass at our Parish and wish to be confirmed in 2024?

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

**Confirmation Information Evening**  
**Monday 8th January at 7.30pm.**

