

# 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, one God, for ever and ever.

## First reading: *Isalah 61:1-2,10-11*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.  
'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

## Responsorial Canticle: *Lk 1:46-50,53-54*

*R/. My soul rejoices in my God.*

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. *R/.*
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. *R/.*
3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. *R/.*

## Second reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.  
May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

## Gospel Acclamation: *Is 61:1(Lk4:18)*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.*  
*Alleluia!*

## Gospel: *John 1:6-8,19-28*

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.  
This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

## 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, SUBBURY

Sunday 17th December 2023

# 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 B*

Weekday Mass Readings  
*Week Advent 3*

Divine Office  
*Advent 3*

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

## THIS WEEK

<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
<b>Mon 18 Dec</b> 9.30am	<b>Advent feria</b> Bernard Welikala RIP (3rd)
<b>Tues 19 Dec</b> 9.30am 11.00am	<b>Advent feria</b> Ivy Dias RIP FUNERAL MASS Elaine Kent RIP
<b>Weds 20 Dec</b> 9.30am	<b>Advent feria</b> Maria Rozario RIP (5th)
<b>Thurs 21 Dec</b> 9.30am	<b>Advent feria</b> Watts & Ledo Families RIP & Rowland Watts RIP
<b>Fri 22 Dec</b> 9.30am 11.00am	<b>Advent feria</b> Teresa Groom (90th birthday) FUNERAL MASS Kay Lorenzato RIP
<b>Sat 23 Dec</b> 9.30am	<b>Advent feria</b> Thomas & Emmeline Lynan RIP
<b>Sun 24 Dec</b> 6.15pm (vigil) 8.30am 9.45am	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> Murphy & Beddoe Family special ints. Dee & Tom Kelly RIP Daniel Daley snr RIP

No 11.15am or 5.30pm Mass  
*(see Christmas Eve services)*

## TODAY'S MASS



John the Baptist announces to messengers that the saviour they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our saviour. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfil the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

**First Reading: *Isalah 61:1-2a,10-11***

The Lord's salvation will be made known to the poor and the oppressed.

**Second Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24***

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice and pray always.

**Gospel Reading: *John 1:6-8,19-28***

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

## SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"The thought of God, and nothing short of it,  
is the happiness of man."*

Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman

## 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 [michaeltguthrie@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaeltguthrie@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, 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:** *Eric Perera(1st), Stefan Lazarus, Maria Rozario*

**BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP**  
*Mary—Private Intentions*

**LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM**  
*In memory of Bernard Welikala RIP*

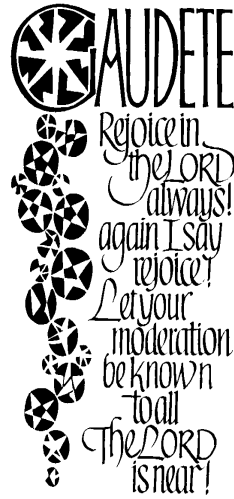
**POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS for December 2023**

**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.



O come, O come,  
Emmanuel  
And ransom  
captive Israel,  
That mourns in  
lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of  
God appear



The Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudate Sunday. Gaudate is the Latin word for rejoice and is the message of the readings and the prayers for the Mass of today. While it is nice to hear someone tell us to “rejoice” the reality is that in the world and in our lives there are times when it is difficult to find joy. On the news we hear of wars, terrorist attacks and senseless massacres as happened in the middle East. We hear about hurricanes, earthquakes and fires that result in so much death and suffering. Where is the joy in all of this? In our own lives we might be facing various trial of health, family tragedies, and relationships that are suffering. How can we be joyful with

all these things going on around us and in our lives?

When Saint Paul wrote this letter to the Thessalonians and tells them to rejoice, he is not being entertained in the house of some wealthy member of the community and being waited on hand and foot. It's easy to rejoice when everything is going right. Everything is not going well for Paul, and he wrote this letter as he was being persecuted and fleeing from town to town. Throughout his ministry Paul suffered multiple times including stoning and imprisonment, too many to list here. Yet Paul never stopped calling upon the various Christian Communities to rejoice, and in his letter to the Philippians he wrote; “Rejoice in the Lord always, I shall say it again, rejoice!”

When Saint Paul speaks of joy he is not referring to a nice, fleeting feeling that makes one feel good, it is the rich long-lasting joy that comes from the Holy Spirit that goes to the very core of our being. This is deep inner joy that comes from knowing Jesus. St Paul believed and experienced that God was always with him, the Joy of the Lord was his strength, and he knew that even in the darkest and most difficult situations God would provide for him. When have a deep personal relationship with him we experience the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives. These are; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Gal 5:22-23 The joy of the Lord is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. We bear fruit when we welcome and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives. These are what gave St. Paul the ability to shout out for joy even during the most difficult times.

This joy can be with us at all times, even the most trying times. It doesn't take away the problems or pain we might experience, but it lifts us up to accept them, bear them, and trust the Emmanuel – God is with us. Today the church calls us to rejoice and to walk in faith, for God is with us. We walk believing in the truth and beauty revealed to us by Jesus and share with Christians throughout the world the importance of his birth, and faith in his second coming. This is what opens us up to being filled with that deep joy that can be inexpressible but always present in our lives. Advent is a time that helps us to be more appreciative of the gift of Jesus, more open to his presence, and more receptive of the joy that comes from him.



# 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).

**SECOND COLLECTION** today towards Christmas flowers. The church always look beautifully decorated and a huge thanks to our flower team. Please help them today in their task. Many thanks in advance from them!

**WELCOME today to Canon John O'Leary** who will celebrate the 11.15am Mass. Canon John is at present Rector of Allen Hall, the diocesan Seminary.

**NO NEWSLETTER** next weekend. For Mass intentions you will need to look at the board in the porch.

**FUNERAL LITURGY of Mary Friel** on Monday 18th December at 12.15pm 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.

**FUNERAL MASS of Kay Lorenzato** on Friday 22nd December at 11.00am followed by cremation at Breakspear Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES** are available on a special card. Please take one today and maybe one for a neighbour. Thanks to Daniel's Estate Agents for their generous printing of these.

**THANK YOU TO SAVILLES FUNERAL DIRECTORS** who have footed the bill for our Christmas Tree in Church and they have offered us mince pies after the Christmas Eve and Midnight Masses.

**WE WILL NEED HELP** in distributing these mince pies. Can you help? If so let us know now so we can arrange things.

**CHRISTMAS POSTERS**, supplied by the Knights of St. Columba, are now available in the church porch. Put one up in your window and maybe get a neighbour to do as well too. They are meant to be a witness.

**CHRISTMAS CLEANING AND DECORATION** will take place after the 9.30am Mass (i.e. around 10.15am) on Monday 18th December. Just turn up. We do want your help! We need some taller people too to tackle the cobwebs. Thank you in anticipation.

**PRESENTS UNDER THE TREE** is something we do every year for the **Catholic Children's Society**. We ask you to wrap the present up, indicate if is for a boy or girl and then the age group. Then put it under the tree! All of these are incredibly gratefully received.

**PLEASE NOTE that as Next Sunday** is the 24th December, Christmas Eve, there will be no 11.15am or 5.30pm evening Mass. Its also the **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** in the morning and then Christmas Eve and the beginning of Christmas in the evening. We

are meant to try to come to Mass that morning (or Saturday evening) as any Sunday!

The celebration of Christmas begins with Christmas Vigil Mass at 6.00pm (Carols from 5.30pm). Carols from 11.30pm before Midnight Mass at 12 midnight. Looking forward to seeing you!

**NEEDED BY OUR FLOWER TEAM** if you have any holly and ivy they need it too!! Just bring it to church. It can happily be left outside too. Many thanks in anticipation.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** - 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.

**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)** Thank you to everyone who supported the St Vincent De Paul Bingo Night on Saturday 2nd December. We raised enough money to put together and distribute 12 Christmas hampers for our Beneficiaries in the Parish. Thank you for your generosity! Merry Christmas from St George's SVP.

**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.

**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.

**CHILDRENS LITURGY** on Sunday at the 9.45am Mass. This is only during term time so this weekend is the last until it resumes in January.

**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."

**ONE BEDROOM FLAT** desired by devout parishioner. Can you help. See Fr Jeremy

**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.

**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. If you can gift aid please let us know. 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 letter-box.

## 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.

