

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Entrance Antiphon: Lk 2: 16

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.

Collect

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards.

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: Ecclesiasticus 3:3-7,14-17

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127:1-5

R/. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. *R/.*

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. *R/.*

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! *R/.*

Second reading: Colossians 3:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation: Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Prayer over the Offerings

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Bar 3: 38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Prayer after Communion

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUBBURY

Sunday 31st December 2023

THE HOLY FAMILY

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 *Christmastide*

Divine Office
Christmastide

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

THIS WEEK

Sun 31 Dec 6.15pm (vigil) 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	THE HOLY FAMILY THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH James McGovern RIP Sophia Dubey RIP Greta Bishop RIP Sean Faughey RIP
Mon 1 Jan 12noon	SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD Irene Pereira RIP
Tues 2 Jan 9.30am	Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen Walter & Socorinha Vales— Thanksgiving RIP
Weds 3 Jan 9.30am	Christmas feria Nancy Quinn RIP
Thurs 4 Jan 9.30am	Christmas feria Michael Minogue RIP
Fri 5 Jan 9.30am	Christmas feria Thanksgiving
Sat 6 Jan 9.30am	Christmas feria Santano & Bostao Pires RIP
Sun 7 Jan 6.15pm (vigil) 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Teresa Hukowski RIP THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH Paul Dias RIP (11th) Delany & Dempsey Family RIP Holy Souls in purgatory

TODAY'S MASS

"Christ in the human family"



God sets before us the Holy Family of Nazareth as a model for all families. The family unit is the basic structure on which the human society is built. A good Christian family life is a most powerful witness to our world of God's love for us revealed in Christ.

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

God fulfils his promise to Abraham, and Sarah gives birth to a son.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 105:1-6,8-9

A prayer of thanksgiving to God for his faithfulness to his covenant.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

Paul examines Abraham's example of faith.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"On this day, let us ask for the intercession of the Holy Family that we may have the strength and courage to stand against all those who seek to destroy the life of traditional families."
Pope St. John Paul II

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@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: *Elisah Anucha*

RECENTLY DEPARTED: *Richard Szyelo, Patrick Frize*

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: *Nancy Quinn*

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Private Intentions

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM
In memory of Eric Duffner RIP

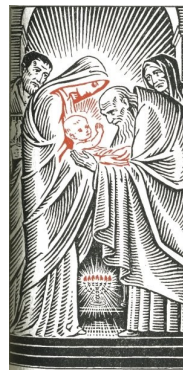
POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS for January 2024

FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.



Most Holy Family of Nazareth, save and protect the whole world



Simeon was a man who was just towards others and devout towards God. He gladly accepted the mission God called him to perform with much fervent prayer and with patient expectation. His whole life was in tune with the Holy Spirit. His was found daily in the temple in prayer and worship and in humble and faithful expectation for the day that the Lord would comfort his people. As the days and months grew into years he never lost hope. When Joseph and Mary presented the child Jesus in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized the Lord's presence in his temple. Through eyes of faith he sees the infant Jesus as the fulfilment of all the messianic prophecies, hopes, and prayers of the people of Israel. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he prophesied that Jesus was to be "a revealing light to the Gentiles". Jesus came not only as "light and salvation" for the people of Israel, but for all nations as well.

Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph and he prophesied to Mary about the destiny of this child and the suffering she would undergo for his sake. There is a certain paradox for those blessed by the Lord. Mary was given the blessedness of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. She received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. But her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fuelled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises. Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22).

The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. As a new year approaches let us resolve to know the joy of a life fully surrendered to God with faith and trust.



NEWS UPDATE

May the birth of the Saviour bring joy to your hearts and peace to your lives, now and for New Year of the 2024

NEW YEAR'S DAY Monday 1st January Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God



**Sung Mass
at 12 noon**

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).

WHAT A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS at St George's! Everything we could have wanted. So many people came to Mass and of course we have to thank especially those who came to help beforehand: cleaning, flower arranging, decorating—doing very ordinary tasks to make sure everything ran smoothly,, behind the scenes and in the sacristy and beyond. And then there were lots of people who helped during the services: our children's nativity play, welcomers, those who gave out mince pies, musicians, servers, cleaners up afterwards(!).

MGR JEREMY, FR MIKE & PETER THANK ALL OF YOU in the parish for your cards and gifts this Christmas. It really makes us feel appreciated and loved by you all.

NEXT SUNDAY is the feast of the Epiphany—the coming of the three wise men to the infant Jesus

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. **Thank you to all those who have already delivered presents.**

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

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.

SIGNING OF CERTIFICATES OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE: 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 We need your help...don't sit or stand on the side-lines in 2024!

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."

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

CHRISTMAS GIVING ENVELOPES: These are still 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 by filling in the form on the blue envelopes. 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.

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB: Offerings made at the Christmas Crib this year will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society, who help families in need. Thank you for your kindness.

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.**

