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,
God, for ever and ever.

First reading: ***Isaiah 7:10-14***

In those days: The LORD spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

Responsorial Psalm: ***Ps 24(23)***

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

The LORD's is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm.

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things.

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

Blessings from the LORD shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

Second reading: ***Romans 1:1-7***

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation
Allelula, allelula.
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel - which means, God with us.
Allelula.

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

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel' -
which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

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.

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ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 21st December 2025

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
Weekay Mass Readings
Week Advent 4 & Christmas season
Divine Office
Psalter Week 4 Advent 4 & Christmas season

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

Masses and Intentions THIS WEEK

Sun 21 Dec	**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
6.15pm *Sat Vigil*	Joaquim & Suzana Afonso Wedding Anniversary Intentions
8.30am	Ivy Dias RIP
9.45am	Watts & Ledo Families RIP
11.15am	Spencer Coomarewel RIP & Holy Souls
5.30pm	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Mon 22 Dec	**Advent feria**
9:30am	Richard Luther Thanksgiving
Tues 23 Dec	**Advent feria**
9.30am	Holy Souls
Weds 24 Dec	**Advent feria**
9.30am	Sheran Mutukisna Birthday Intentions
	CHRISTMAS BEGINS
5.30pm	**Carols**
6.00pm	**Family Vigil Mass for Christmas with Nativity Tableau**
	Peter Cronin RIP
10.00pm	**Carols & Readings by Candlelight**
10.30pm	**MIDNIGHT MASS**
	Daniel Daley Snr. RIP
Thurs 25 Dec	**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**
8.30am	Allan Noronha RIP
9.45am	Paul Dias RIP
11.15am	Eric John Duffner RIP
Fri 26 Dec	**S. STEPHEN**
12 noon	Fr Jeremy's Birthday Inentions
Sat 27 Dec	**S. JOHN**
9:30am	Ed Brennan RIP
Sun 28 Dec	**THE HOLY FAMILY**
6.15pm *Sat Vigil*	Maria Brigida Desa & Roque Francisco Fernandes 50th Wedding Anniversary
8.30am	Jimmy Bonner RIP
9.45am	Theoni & Gray Kennady RIP
11.15am	Thomas Dolan RIP
5.30pm	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

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: ***Isaiah 7:10-14***
Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel.

Responsorial Psalm: ***Psalm Ps 24(23)***
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 Benedict XVI

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
Assistant Priest: *(awaiting appointment)*
Catechetical Coordinator: Mr. Peter Kingsley peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk
Secretary: Mrs. Mary Walsh sudbury@rcdow.org.uk
Director of Music: Mr. Scott Price scottprice@rcdow.org.uk
Safeguarding Rep: Hanna Gorgis 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; 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.
EUCHARISTIC 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, Noel Gill, Christopher Browne, Dee Auriol, Fiona Power, John, Aaran Thayaparan, John, Shaun Scoon and Helen Jordan, Sean Marren, George Beel, Anne McShine-Jones, Marian Lynch, Shane & Paul, Martha Conway, Patrick, Gerry & Corrine Gilbert, Edward Granger, Ciara I, Mary O'Connell, Leslie De Lima, Paul Pereira, Nora Hunt, Mario, Maureen Chick, Larry Sicat*

RECENTLY BAPTISED: *Karl Arthur Alcala*

RECENTLY DEPARTED:

RECENTLY MARRIED:-

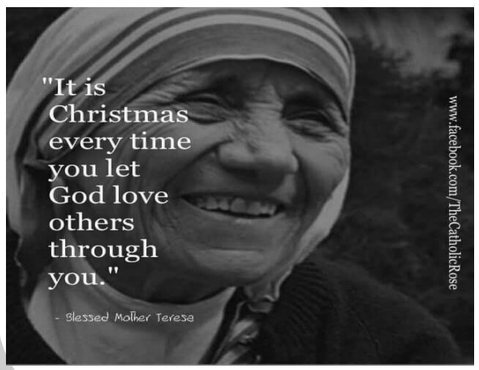
RECENTLY CONFIRMED:

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: - *Paul Dias (13th)*

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
For the Intentions of Baptist Fernandes

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
In Memory of Nimal Perera

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS for December
For Christians in areas of conflict
Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.



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 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 photo of Pope Leo.

THE PARISH OFFICE HOURS will now be Monday—Friday 10.00am-2.00pm. Outside these hours, **urgent** matters can be directed to the Presbytery. **Please note the Parish Office will be closed from Friday 19th December 2025 until Wednesday 7th January 2026.**

A JOYFUL STEP CLOSER TO CHRISTMAS! This Sunday we enter a beautiful new stage of Advent. After reflecting on the Lord's Second Coming, we now turn our hearts to the wonder of His First Coming. Today's readings invite us to walk alongside Mary and Joseph, to marvel at the circumstances surrounding the conception of Jesus, and to ponder Joseph's courageous response. The promise of a Saviour springs from the House of David, and Matthew makes this connection crystal clear by quoting Isaiah: *"The virgin shall conceive and bear a son."* Joseph, a descendant of King David, is called to take his place in God's great story, a story that stretches across centuries and now reaches its breath-taking climax. What was "promised long ago" (as the Second Reading reminds us) is about to take flesh in Mary's womb. This is the moment when eternity touches time, when hope becomes reality. As we light the fourth candle, let's rejoice that God is faithful to His promises—and that His love is drawing near in Jesus, Emmanuel, "God-with-us."

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

GOING AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR? May God speed you on your journey. Return back safely and refreshed.

CHRISTMAS POSTERS are available at the back of the church. Something to put in the window of your home as witness at this time. Thank you to our Knights of St Columba for supplying these for us.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: there will be a collection as you leave all Masses today towards Christmas flowers (which, sadly, are not cheap these days!) We all agree that the parish Flower Team do a wonderful job, not just at Christmas but all throughout the year. Thank you in anticipation.

THANK YOU... to the dedicated army of angels who have been preparing the church for us all to enjoy this Christmas. Thank you to our sacristans, cleaners, laundry ladies, flower arrangers, church decorators, tree arrangers, festoon light hangers. Thank you also to our musicians and singers and Altar servers. Even in the busyness of your own home preparations, you have made time for the Lord and his Church. You are all wonderful!

CHRISTMAS GIVING ENVELOPES: are available at the end of the pews and at the back of church. They are an opportunity for you to make an offering in thanksgiving for the blessings you have received in this holy place over the past year. These are NOT a personal gift to Mgr. Jeremy or Peter; if you wish to give them a gift, you must do that separately through a card or some other means through the parish letterbox. If you are a UK tax payer and would like us to Gift Aid your kind offering, please complete the form in the envelope. We can then reclaim 25p for every pound you donate, at no extra cost to you. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS AT THE REPOSITORY a beautiful selection of Christmas items, including crib sets, are now available for purchase from the Repository after all Sunday masses. Cash only at present I'm afraid.

OUR CHRISTMAS TREE this year (like last year), and some mince pies for after Midnight Mass (10:30pm this year), are both kindly sponsored by G. SAVILLE & SON FUNERAL DIRECTORS. We thank them for their continuing support and generosity.

UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE 2025-6: As in former years we will be asking you to bring presents for children which will be donated to the most needy children via the **Catholic Children's Society**. All you have to do is wrap it and say whether it is for a boy or girl and the most appropriate age. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY AT VIGIL MASS - We are grateful to Candy White & her Team who are taking care of the **Children's Nativity** at the **Christmas Eve Vigil Mass**.

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 generosity.

A SOLEMN MASS FOR THE CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR IN WESTMINSTER DIOCESE WILL be celebrated by Cardinal Nichols, on Sunday 28th December at 12.00 noon at Westminster Cathedral.

OVER 60's CLUB has finished now for 2025; back on Tuesday 13th January 2026!

SOUTH VALE PRE-SCHOOL admissions open for January 2026. We are now taking children from 18 months old. Funded places available. For more information, please contact us on Tel: 07745 860 794.

READING AT 6.15PM VIGIL MASS - We are seeking a new Lector to read on the **1st Saturday of the Month**. If you might consider helping, please contact our **Catechetical Coordinator** at **peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk**.

SYCAMORE is an informal course about the Catholic faith and its relevance to life today. All are welcome to join us in the Café Bar on **Thursday 8th January 7.30pm** when we will be reflecting on **The Holy Eucharist.**

CONFIRMATION 2026 - Young people in **Year 10 & above** who are **registered & regularly attend Mass at this Parish** are welcome to join our Confirmation Preparation Programme in 2026. Young people wishing to be confirmed must attend the **Confirmation Information Evening** with a Parent/Carer in the Parish Centre on **Monday 12th January at 7.30pm** when Registration Documents will be provided. Please note that a copy of one's Baptism Certificate (and a translation if it is not in English) is also required for Registration.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - Part 2 of the FHC Programme begins with a **Session for Parents/ Carers only** in the Parish Centre on **Tuesday 13th January at 7pm.** Thank you for ensuring you make **childcare arrangements** well in advance so you are able to attend.

BAPTISM PREPARATION - **Baptism Preparation** sessions at the Parish provide **essential** formation for Parents/Carers as they prepare for this important Sacrament. If you are expecting a baby, or would like your baby baptised, please **pick up a Baptism Pack** from the **Parish Office**. To attend **January's Baptism Preparation** you will need to **complete** the **Baptism Application Form** (in the Pack) & **return it to the Parish Office by Monday 26th January 2026.**

KEEPING THE CHURCH WARM...please, please shut the door after you when you come in. We can't afford to heat the Harrow Road as well!!

WATCH "The Surprise", a wonderful play by Catholic author GK Chesterton this Christmas. on Monday 22nd December at 3pm online at www.ewtn.co.uk or on sky 586.

