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,
God, for ever and ever.

First reading: ***Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10***

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who have an anxious heart,
'Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Sion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Responsorial Psalm: ***Ps 146(145)***

Come, Lord, and save us.

It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the LORD who sets prisoners free.

Come, Lord, and save us.

The LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,
the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the LORD who loves the just,
the LORD who protects the stranger.

Come, Lord, and save us.

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The LORD will reign for ever,
your God, O Sion, from age to age.

Come, Lord, and save us.

Second reading: ***James 5:7-10***

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation
Allelula, allelula.
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.
Allelula.

Gospel: ***Matthew 11:2-11***

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,
"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you."
'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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.

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ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 14th December 2025

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

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
Weekday Mass Readings
Week Advent 3
Divine Office
Psalter Week 3 Advent 3

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

Masses and Intentions THIS WEEK

Sun 14 Dec	**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
6.15pm *Sat Vigil*	Helen & Stanley Meredith RIP
8.30am	Bosco Fernandes Intentions
9.45am	Baptist Fernandes Intentions
11.15am	Lynam Family RIP
5.30pm	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Mon 15 Dec	**Advent feria**
9:30am	Holy Souls
Tues 16 Dec	**Advent feria**
9.30am	Carmel O'Dwyer RIP
Weds 17 Dec	**Advent feria**
9.30am	Carmel O'Dwyer RIP
Thurs 18 Dec	**Advent feria**
9.30am	Bernard Welikala RIP
Fri 19 Dec	**Advent feria**
	Margaret McMahon RIP
Sat 20 Dec	**Advent feria**
9:30am	Maria Rozario RIP
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

TODAY'S MASS



In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

First Reading: ***Isaiah 35:1-6,10***
In the day of the Lord, all sorrow and mourning will cease.

Responsorial Psalm: ***Ps. 146:6-7,8-9,9-10***
The Lord will save his people.

Second Reading: ***James 5:7-10***
Be patient, and be ready; the coming of the Lord is near.

Gospel Reading: ***Matthew 11:2-11***
Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!"
-St. Catherine of Sienna

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: *Macey Amelia Dunne, Karl Arthur Alcala*

RECENTLY DEPARTED:

RECENTLY MARRIED:-

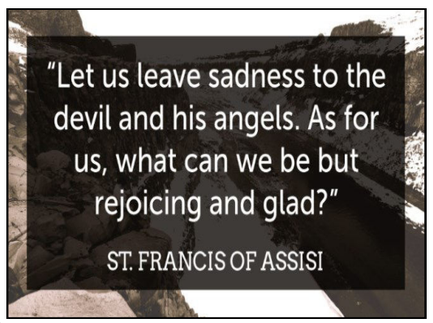
RECENTLY CONFIRMED:

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: - *Carmel O'Dwyer (1st), Bernard Welikala (5th), Maria Rozario (7th), Michael Darby (20th)*

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
In Memory of Bernard Welikala

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.



When John the Baptist's disciples ask Jesus if he is the one who is to come, He answers, not with a simple yes and no, but by pointing out the manifestations that Isaiah spoke of in describing the true liberation of the people. *"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."* This response can be seen as a confirmation to John the Baptist that what he saw and heard the day he baptized Jesus in the River Jordan did indeed mark the beginning of the ministry of the Messiah. Jesus makes it clear to John that he is *"the one."*

After confirming who he is, Jesus goes on to confirm who John the Baptist is. He is the one sent to prepare the way for the Messiah. His rhetorical question, *"what did you go out to see?"* points out that there were those who were expecting a Messiah who would be high class, wealthy and a political leader. Jesus shows us that this is certainly not God's plan for the Redeemer. John the Baptist, in preparing the way for Jesus, does so in the same simple and humble manner as Jesus himself would do. There were those who were surprised, disappointed and unable to accept the thought that the Messiah would be a poor carpenter from an insignificant village who was very comfortable associating with tax collectors and sinners. As the ministry of Jesus continues and his identity becomes clearer, it is incomprehensible for many to believe that the Messiah is also the Son of God - The word made Flesh. Why would almighty God humble himself to become a frail man? Very simply, because; *"God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son"*

This is a message that should bring great joy to our hearts. These last weeks of Advent are an appropriate time to recall all the good things God has done for us, and to rejoice. May we continue our journey to Christmas with renewed rejoicing in our hearts.

GAUDETE

NEWS UPDATE



Gaudete Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. The Introit (first words of the Mass) for Gaudete Sunday, in both the old Traditional Latin Mass and the New Rite (both in English and Latin) is taken from Philippians 4:4,5: *"Gaudete in Domino semper"* ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears purple vestments. But on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest wears rose vestments. The change in colour provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation for Christmas. For this same reason, the third candle of the Advent wreath, first lit on Gaudete Sunday, is traditionally rose-coloured. Gaudete Sunday has a counterpart in Lent: *Laetare Sunday* (also meaning 'rejoicing').

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.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM MGR. JEREMY for all your kindness, gifts, good wishes and prayers on the occasion of his 30th anniversary. Thank you to all who came to the Mass last Saturday and to all who stayed on for lunch. Everyone had a jolly time! Thank you to the servers, singers, those who worked behind the scenes in the preparations and those who worked so hard preparing food etc. Your help and support is very much appreciated.

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.**

CHRISTMAS AT St. GEORGE'S: Full details of our Christmas services are available this week. Please take a card home with you. Please note: a big difference this year **Midnight Mass will begin at 10.30pm with Carols and readings by candlelight beforehand at 10.00pm.**

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!!

CHRISTMAS POSTERS will be available after all masses this weekend. 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 NEXT WEEKEND 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.

CHRISTMAS GIVING ENVELOPES: These are now available and are an opportunity for you to make a special Christmas gift to St George's in thanksgiving for the blessings you have received in this Holy place over the past year. If you are a UK taxpayer and wish to Gift Aid your Christmas donation, there is a form in the envelope for you to complete. 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 letterbox.

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**. Children who would like to take part **must be available for both rehearsals** on **Saturday 20th December & Tuesday 23rd December** from **11-12pm**. To register your child's interest **please contact Candy at 07751 160816 / candyv2128@gmail.com**.

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**.

HELPING WITH HOSPITALITY - Might you consider helping with **teas & coffees** after the **9.45am** Family Mass. The 2026 Rota is being prepared this week so, if you would like to help next year, please contact our **Pastoral Assistant at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk** a.s.a.p.

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.**

SCHOOL FORM SIGNING has now finished.
If you missed the dates, and for a good reason, please contact the Parish Office ASAP to make an appointment with Mgr. Jeremy.

SIGNING FORMS ETC. Please always make an appointment via the Parish Office if you want school forms, passport forms or pension forms countersigned/witnessed by the clergy. Please also know if you want an English passport witnessed or naturalisation form signed, we must have known you for a minimum of 3 years.

