SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Entrance Antiphon: ***Wis 18: 14-15***
When a profound silence covered all things
and night was in the middle of its course,
your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

Collect
Almighty ever-living God,
splendour of faithful souls,
graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory,
and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light.
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: ***Sirach 24:1-2, 8-12***

Wisdom will praise herself and will boast in the midst of her people. In the assembly of the Most High she will open her mouth, and in the presence of his forces she will boast: 'Then the Creator of all things commanded me, and the one who created me gave my tent a resting place. And he said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob and in Israel receive your inheritance." From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall not cease to exist. In the holy tabernacle I ministered before him, and so I was established in Sion. In the beloved city likewise he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my dominion. So I took root in an honoured people, in the portion of the Lord, his inheritance.'

Responsorial Psalm*: Ps 147*

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

O Jerusalem, glorify the LORD!
O Sion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates;
he has blessed your children within you.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

He established peace on your borders;
he gives you your fill of finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth,
and swiftly runs his command.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

He reveals his word to Jacob;
to Israel, his decrees and judgements.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his judgements.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Second reading: ***Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18***

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

Gospel Acclamation
Allelula, allelula.
Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed among the nations.
Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world.
Allelula.

Gospel: ***John 1:1-18***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness about him, and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me." '

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only begotten God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Prayer over the Offerings
Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make
on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son,
for by it you show us the way of truth
and promise the life of the heavenly Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: ***Cf. Jn 1: 12***
To all who would accept him,
he gave the power to become children of God.

Prayer after Communion
Lord our God, we humbly ask you,
that, through the working of this mystery,
our offences may be cleansed
and our just desires fulfilled.
Through Christ our Lord.

Copyright © 1996-2024 Universalis Publishing Limited: see www.universalis.com. The English translation of the Psalm Responses from "Lectionary for Mass" © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL). Excerpts from the English translation of "The Roman Missal" © 2010, ICEL. All rights reserved.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 4th January 2026

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

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.

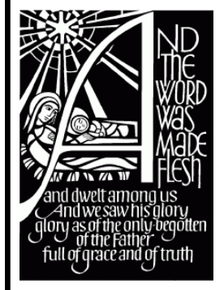
Sunday Cycle
Readings Year A
Weekday Mass Readings
Christmas
Divine Office
Psalter Week 2

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

Masses and Intentions THIS WEEK

Sun 4 Jan	**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY**
6.15pm *Sat Vigil*	Nancy Quinn RIP
8.30am	Lola Silverman & Josephine RIP
9.45am	Alejo Ramirez Jnr. RIP
11.15am	Mary Griffin RIP
5.30pm	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Mon 5 Jan	**CHRISTMAS FERIA**
9:30am	Anne Neylon RIP
Tues 6 Jan	**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
9.30am	Nimal Perera RIP
8.00pm	Edwin Dooley (Get well)
Weds 7 Jan	**CHRISTMAS FERIA**
9.30am	Martin McDonagh RIP
Thurs 8 Jan	**CHRISTMAS FERIA**
9.30am	Peter Golden Snr. RIP
Fri 9 Jan	**CHRISTMAS FERIA**
9.30am	All Departed Souls
Sat 10 Jan	**CHRISTMAS FERIA**
9:30am	Philomena Rowan RIP
Sun 11 Jan	**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**
6.15pm *Sat Vigil*	Alejo Ramirez Jnr. RIP
8.30am	Bosco Fernandes Intentions
9.45am	Tom & Eileen Haugh RIP
11.15am	Eric Duffner RIP
5.30pm	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

TODAY'S MASS



God chose us in Christ.
Christ, God's only Son was made flesh and lived among us so that we who believe in him might become adopted sons of the Father. Before the world was made God chose us in Christ and for this we give thanks to the Father.

First reading: ***Sirach 24:1-4, 12-16***
The wisdom of God has pitched her tent among the chosen people

Second reading: ***Ephesians 1:3-6. 15-18***
He determined that we should become his adopted sons through Jesus.

Gospel: ***John 1:1-18***
The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Silence does good for the soul"
St Therese of Lisieux

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: *Lyra Rose Mae Castillo, Zephyr Billy James Castillo*

RECENTLY DEPARTED:

RECENTLY MARRIED:- *Karlene & Alexis*

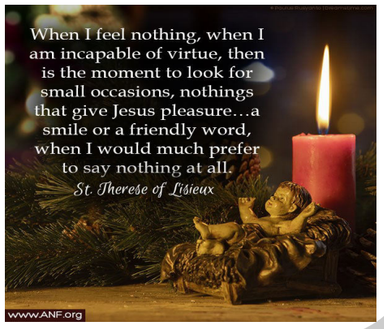
RECENTLY CONFIRMED:

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: - *Peter Golden Snr. Mary Griffin (25th), Nancy Quinn 5th)*

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
In Memory of Muthu Innasiya

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
In Memory of William Aubrey Balhetchet

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS for January
For prayer with the Word of God
Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



Why does John the Evangelist begin his Gospel account with a description of the Word of God and the creation of the universe and humankind? How might the beginning of John's Gospel be linked with the beginning of the first book of Genesis (John 1:1-3 and Genesis 1:1-3)? The "word of God" was a common expression among the Jews. God's word in the Old Testament is an active, creative, and dynamic word. "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made" (Psalm 33:6). "He sends forth his commands to the earth; his word runs swiftly" (Psalm 147:15). "Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer which breaks the rock in pieces" (Jeremiah 23:29)? The writer of the Book of Wisdom addresses God as the one who "made all things by your word" (Wisdom 9:1).

God's word is also equated with his wisdom. "The Lord by wisdom founded the earth" (Proverbs 3:19).The Book of Wisdom describes "wisdom" as God's eternal, creative, and illuminating power. Both "word" and "wisdom" are seen as one and the same. "For while gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, your all-powerful word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne, into the midst of the land that was doomed, a stern warrior carrying the sharp sword of your authentic command" (Book of Wisdom 18:14-16).

John describes Jesus as God's creative, life-giving and light-giving word that has come to earth in human form. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Jesus is the wisdom and power of God which created the world and sustains it who assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it. Jesus became truly man while remaining truly God. "What he was, he remained, and what he was not he assumed" (from an early church antiphon for morning prayer). Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God who, without ceasing to be God and Lord, became a man and our brother. From the time of the Apostles the Christian faith has insisted on the incarnation of God's Son "who has come in the flesh" (1 John 4:2)

If we are going to behold the glory of God we will do it through Jesus Christ. Jesus became the partaker of our humanity so we could be partakers of his divinity (2 Peter 1:4). God's purpose for us, even from the beginning of his creation, is that we would be fully united with Him. When Jesus comes God is made known as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By our being united in Jesus, God becomes our Father and we become his sons and daughters. Let us thank the Father for sending his only begotten Son to redeem you and to share with us his glory?

NEWS UPDATE

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY
The coming of the three wise men to Jesus



Tuesday 6th January
Masses at 9.30am & 8.00pm

A Holy Day of Obligation when we are ALL expected to be at Mass.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

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.**

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(!). **THANK YOU** to all our children who performed in our nativity tableau at the 6.00pm Vigil Mass on Christmas eve. You did a wonderful job. And thanks **to all who helped and made this possible.**

MGR JEREMY & 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.

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.

PRESENTS UNDER THE TREE is something we do every year for the **Catholic Children's Society**. Thank you to all those who have already delivered presents. We have huge numbers this year which will be distributed soon making may disadvantaged children very happy.

A NEW ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER was announced just before Christmas. Pope Leo has appointed Bishop Richard Moth, at present bishop of Arundel and Brighton (in the south—Surrey & Sussex). He will formally take up his appointment on 14th February 2026. Please pray for him as he prepares to come to Westminster.

THANK YOU TOUR PRIESTS who have helped out over the last months trying to keep our Mass schedule going. We are grateful to all of them.

A CONTINUED THANK YOU TO SAVILLES, FUNERAL DIRECTORS who have sponsored our church Christmas tree and all the mince pies after the Christmas Eve Masses.

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

THE NEW YEAR should make us reflect about things and jobs we might do to help our parish. We desperately need volunteers to be "Welcomers" - in effect welcoming people to mass, giving to them the newsletter, finding for them seats if the church is very full. Do you think you could do this—maybe just once a month? Please let the office know and we will pass your name on to those who co-ordinate this ministry.

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.**

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.

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!!