



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Wimbledon
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18th December 2022

Newsletter

Vol 8, Issue 44

Fourth Sunday
of Advent (A)

Fourth Week of Advent

Vol I. Psalter week 4

Next Sunday's Readings

The Nativity of the Lord (A)

- Isaiah 5:7-10
- Psalm 97:1-6
- Hebrews 1:1-6
- John 1:1-18

Upcoming Events

Sunday 18 December

- Children's Liturgy during the 10am Mass

Monday 19 December

- Christmas Celebration, Carols & Festive Songs, 7.45pm, Church

Tuesday 20 December

- Advent Faith Study, 7.30pm, Lounge

Friday 23 December

- Crib Service Rehearsal, 10.40am-12noon, Church

Please refer to the Christmas 2022 booklets for Mass times during the Christmas period

A Son Whom She Will Call Emmanuel

The underlying theme to this week's readings is the provenance of Jesus; where does he come from? and his identity; who is He?

Isaiah in the first reading makes the prophecy of Jesus' provenance and identity in revealing the great sign of God's coming into the world '*...the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God is with us*'.

Mary, already knew of Isaiah's ancient 700-year-old prophecy, and rejoiced that the will of God was being fulfilled when the angel Gabrielle repeated it to her. By her being Immaculately conceived, God ordained that the divine nature of the person of the Word would gain access to the world by Mary's agreeing to become the Mother of God. What an incredible truth! Jesus' birth is miraculous and of divine origin. Joseph was not his biological Father, and this is what produced the doubt about Our Lady's fidelity in his mind. '*But being a just man and wanting to spare her publicity, he decided to divorce her informally.*'

The meaning of Jesus identity was an enigma to many, but the people nevertheless recognised Joseph as his father and Mary his Mother. '*Is this not the Son of Joseph?*' (Luke 4:22) A general misconception about the story of Mary and Joseph was corrected by St. John Paul II, that somehow Mary was unmarried when pregnant and therefore open to public condemnation because of an apparent infidelity. (*Redemptoris Custos 18*)

However, according to Jewish law, they were legally married at the time of Mary's pregnancy, even before coming together, because for the Jews a betrothal is the same as marriage and carries all the rights of marriage. The problem presented by the fact of Mary's pregnancy was one for Joseph, and that doubt being formed in his mind was his alone, not anyone else's. So even when other people saw that Mary was pregnant, they knew that she was married and therefore no scandal was given. Indeed, there was never an instance in Our Lady's life that the Devil could ever claim to have held sway over Our Lady, even in the minds of other people.

The gospel text itself clearly refers to Joseph as Mary's husband, and so assumes what they were lawfully married according to Jewish law in the sight of the people at the time Mary fell pregnant. Therefore, it was never within the realms of possibility that Our Lady could have been stoned as a public sinner, as some suggest. In fact, the dream given to Joseph which contained the same secret message - that what had been conceived in Mary's womb was done by the power of the Holy Spirit - resolved the whole question of doubt in Joseph's mind. It is both interesting and important to know that Jesus' provenance is rooted in the history of Israel; that His being God isn't separate from what has already been revealed about God in the Old Testament. In fact, this is a mystery that the

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THE PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Parish Priest: Canon John Clark

Parish Clergy: Fr Joseph Donkor, Fr Matthew Donnelly, Deacon Julian Burling and Deacon Shaun Crocker

Team members: Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU, Sr Francis SSA

Faith Minister (Children, Young People & Families): Eleanor Bowman

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protagonists in the gospel struggle with. 'Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven?' (John 6:42). They cannot fathom that Jesus is both one and the same Messiah of the House of David whose Kingdom will last forever, and the Second Person of the Trinity - the Word of God, Son of the Father.

We too can rejoice, like Our Lady, because we know for certain by the light of the Paschal faith that Paul refers to in the letter to the Romans, the answer to the question the true identity of Jesus and where He comes from. It is by the 'obedience of faith' as Paul puts it, in the light of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, that we can answer that question; the same question Jesus Himself puts to his disciples, 'Who do the people say the Son of Man is', 'You are the Christ', we reply with Peter, 'Son of the living God'. (Mt 16:16).

Fr Matthew Donnelly

A MESSAGE FROM CHRISTIAN CARE

'At Christian CARE we have been pleased to welcome a number of new people this year as volunteers: new Befrienders, people to join the Drive & Drop Team as well as people to work in the office. We are still looking to fill 3 important roles in the organisation: Deputy CARE Co-ordinator, Children's and Families' Activities Coordinator & Transport Organiser. As we enter a new year please do spread the word about Christian CARE. Info about the different roles to be found at <https://christiancaremerton.org.uk/>. Thank you for your support!'

Parish News

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas 2022 booklets are available at the back of the church.

Please refer to the booklets for Mass times during the Christmas period.

CHURCH GROUNDS

Please take notice that ground works are being carried out on the south side of the church. The church door on the south side must only be used in the event of the fire alarm being activated or should you need to exit the church due to an emergency. The area is screened off, so no access is permitted within the screened off area.

STEP FREE ACCESS

This is a reminder that there is a step free access to our church for those who cannot make the stairs.

OFFICE & RECEPTION

Please note that the Parish Office and Reception will be closed from Friday 23 December until Tuesday 3 January 2023.

The last Newsletter before the Christmas break will be sent out on Thursday 22 December. The Newsletter distribution will be paused between Christmas and 7/8 January.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas collection is traditionally for the benefit of the priests as an expression of gratitude for their ministry. Donations can be made in cash on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; gift aid envelopes will be available. Alternative means of giving are using the dedicated button on the digital giving plates at the back of the church or on the parish website or by cheque or bank transfer payable to Sacred Heart Church Wimbledon, using the reference XOFFERING; Sort Code 60-24-07, Account 33138672.

Announcements

ADVENT FAITH STUDY

Join us this Advent as we explore the significance and importance of the Eucharist in our faith. We will meet again this Tuesday 20 Dec from 7.30-8.30pm in the Lounge, and - using the book *A biblical walk through the Mass* - unpack, reflect and discuss the parts of the Mass.

CRIB SERVICE REHEARSAL

A rehearsal for the Crib Service will be from 10.40am

-12noon on Friday 23 December for children aged 4+ who would like to be involved. All older children from 8+ wishing to read, please contact Rachel Marshall at rachel@marshall.email.net. Offers of help from parents are most welcome.

PARKING

Parking in Wimbledon College during the Christmas period is as follows: Saturday 24 Dec: 5pm through to

Christmas Day 2pm; Saturday 31 Dec from 5-7.30pm

Please do take care when parking in our neighbouring roads, only park in authorised parking places, do not block drive ways of the residents!

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Parishioners are invited to celebrate Midnight Mass on Sat 31 Dec at 12pm (Exposition and Adoration between 11-12pm).

Parish Organisations

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

The Bereavement Team invites everyone experiencing loss in their lives, no matter how long ago, to drop in for a coffee and a chat on Saturday 31 December from 10.30-11.30am, in the Parish Lounge. For more info,

please email bereavement.group@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk.

MEMORY LANE CLUB

This popular club for people with dementia and their carers is open every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the Parish Lounge with tea, coffee & cake along

with lots of chat, laughter, snooker and different activities. For more info please ring Jenny (07906 856 183).

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

You are welcome to the annual BEETLE DRIVE on Fri 6 Jan 2023 at 2.30pm in the Lounge. Tea & cakes.

Social & Cultural

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Evening of traditional carols & festive songs
Sacred Heart Church
19 Dec, 7.45pm

A wonderful host of parish musicians and actors join Katy's Songbirds and Putney & Wimbledon Brass Band. Mince pies & mulled wine 7.15pm, Upper Hall.

Early bird tickets: £10 (under 10s/over 70s free with a ticket) from Thelma at the Parish Office or by

emailing ksongbirds656@gmail.com; £12 from Eventbrite (<https://Christmascelebration-2022.eventbrite.ca>); £12/door. are available (maximum 4 tickets/family) from Thelma in the Parish Office, and will be given out on a first come first served basis.

EPIPHANY PARTY

The clergy would like to invite you to join them as they celebrate an Epiphany Party with live music (Caleigh Band), a welcome drink & a light supper on Saturday 7 January 2023 at 7.30pm in the Upper Hall. Please bring a bottle. Tickets

THE NATIVITY JOURNEY AT WINTERSHALL
Come and enjoy the Christmas story at Wintershall until 19 December. This is an unforgettable experiencing for the whole family. To book please visit www.wintershall.org.uk or call 01483 892167.

New to the Parish?

Please introduce yourself to a member of the Parish Team after Mass and register online at <https://sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/> or by filling in a registration form, available at the back of the church.

Crib Appeal 2022•Crib Appeal 2022•Crib Appeal 2022•Crib Appeal 2022•Crib Appeal 2022•Crib Appeal 2022

This year's Parish Crib Appeal will be in support of **Care4Calais**, a volunteer run charity working with refugees in France, Belgium and the UK.

Their local team have been active since July 2020 and they have worked directly with those that arrive here searching for safety. Their services aim to meet the needs of those living without money, rights, or freedom of choice while waiting for a decision from the government about their status. After making an often-dangerous journey to the UK, 37000 individuals are currently restricted to their hotel rooms, with little ability to make decisions due to financial restraints and restrictions.

Imagine waking up every day not knowing if you will be moved and made homeless or taken to a deportation centre and sent to Rwanda. Unable to provide for your children, in some hotels a person may receive just £8 per week, to cover everything other than basic meals.

Support from charities is the only way these people can get through the months or even years of waiting to be granted asylum.

Care4Calais has been overwhelmed with support from the local community, including donations in kind from the Sacred Heart parish.

They now provide additional food, clothing and activities that enhance mental health and wellbeing. They run board game nights, conversation classes, walking groups, yoga classes, cooking sessions and reading with children.

They ask now for your support to allow a little bit of happiness for refugees this Christmas.

They would not be able to do all this without your kindness and generosity, so thank you from the beneficiaries and from **Care4Calais**.

Exploring our Faith

ADVENT SPECIAL ADOREMUS TE

All young people are welcome by St Teresa's Youth on Fridays during advent to *Adoremus Te* Nights involving Music, Adoration & Confession; starting with 7pm Mass. 250 Bishops-ford Rd, Morden, SM4 6BZ (020 8648 4113, or email

morden@rcaos.org.uk).

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE

15-19 March 2023, £699 pp, package includes return flight (10kg hand luggage) from LGW, 4 nights/full board in 3* Knock House Hotel. All entertainment, excursions & guided tours.

Assistance from Knock Pilgrimages representative. Single rooms available (+supplement). Contact: Patricia at 01268 762 278, 07740 175 557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

FAREWELL GIFT

Peter Armfield has been maintaining our church grounds for 30 years, he is retiring this month. If any parishioner wishes to make a donation towards a farewell presentation to Peter, please send it to Thelma in the office, clearly marked 'Peter Armfield', by 18 December Cheques should be made payable to 'Sacred Heart Church' but endorsed on the back.

SAFEGUARDING

It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England and Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased. If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police, using 999 if a child or adult is believed to be in immediate danger. Further safeguarding information can be found on the parish website.

CELEBRANTS FOR THIS SUNDAY

6.30pm (Sat) Fr Joseph Donkor
8.00am Fr Matthew Donnelly
10.00am Canon John Clark & Deacon Julian Burling
12 noon Fr Michael Barnes SJ
5.00pm Fr Matthew Donnelly
8.00pm Fr Joseph Donkor

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sat 17 6.30pm Eileen Hogan RIP
Mon 19 10.00am Ilma Tong RIP
6.30pm Patrick McManus RIP
Tue 20 10.00am Nora Neary Birthday Ints.
6.30pm Eoin Murphy RIP
Wed 21 10.00am John Woods RIP
6.30pm Michael Gaffey RIP
Thu 22 10.00am Christopher Cooper RIP
6.30pm Anton Benedict RIP
Fri 23 10.00am Private Intention
6.30pm Mario Gutierrez RIP

HOSPITAL CONTACTS

If you or a member of your family are admitted to one of the local hospitals, do please let the hospital's Catholic chaplain know.

St George's Hospital: ask for Cath. Chaplain at reception
St Heliers and Epsom Hospital: Fr Philip Pak (020 8296 2000)
Kingston Hospital: Fr Tony Oleh (020 8546 7711)

EXPOSITION

Wednesdays & Fridays
after the 10.00am Mass
and from 5.25 - 6.25pm

RECONCILIATION

Monday - Saturday:
6.00 - 6.20pm
and Saturday morning
10.30 - 11.30am

MUSIC AT THE 12 NOON MASS

Entry hymn: 686 The angel Gabriel
Kyrie: 467 Missa de Angelis
Offertory motet: Ecce concipies, *Jacob Handl*
Sanctus: Missal tones
Communion motet: There is no rose, *Ronald Center*
Post-communion hymn: 859 As I kneel before you

If you wish to include items in the weekly newsletter, please keep them brief, - if possible no more than 40 words - send them by Tuesday before publication to newsletter@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk / wimparish@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those who have died recently: Dominic Sammons, Alfred Fancuilli, Sheila Wadhwa and Walter Close

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Angela Cox, Colleen Bosci, Hilary Ashdowne, Tony Kane, Christopher Curtis, Anne Hampshire, William Sullivan, Dr Antoinette Peters, Angelina Blythe, Ernest Prescott and Mary Razvi

The sick: John Abbiss, Donal Weir, Giovanni Baldacchino, Kate O'Brien, Kim Carr, Patricia Small, Luca Buttaci, Nancy Drapper, David Steele, Shanu Mathew, Maureen May, Ryan Lyndsey, Samar Staussi, Matthew Bees, Emily Grey, Andrew Tan and Caroline Worrell.

Please note that for data protection reasons, individuals must explicitly agree for their names to be mentioned in our newsletter. Please let the Parish Office know in writing if either your name or the names of your relatives and friends should appear in our sick list.



COLLECTIONS

Thank you for your donations towards the appeal of the Manna Society last weekend. The dried goods will be greatly appreciated by those cooking for the homeless in London Bridge in the run up to Christmas! In case you missed it, there will be a collection again on the weekend 14/15 Jan 2023.

Thank you for supporting this good cause!

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS THIS WEEK

Wed 21 Dec Collect of St Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Fri 23 Dec Collect of St John Kanty, Priest

PARISH SERVICES

Parish Office/Reception Hours: 9am - 4pm (Mon-Fri), 020 8946 0305

Executive Assistant & Hall bookings: Thelma D'Costa (Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm) Caretaker: George McLennan

Parish Pastoral Council: ppc@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk

Baptism, Marriage, First Sacraments, Funerals contact the parish office.

Bereavement Support: one to one support or bereavement drop-in, for more information please contact the co-ordinator by email bereavement.group@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk

Sacred Heart SVP Conference meets to help those living locally in need. All enquiries are dealt with confidentially. Leave contact details with the parish office or email presidentA190704@svp.org.uk.