



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Wimbledon
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Newsletter

Vol 9, Issue 41

First Sunday of Advent (B)

First Week of Advent
Vol I, psalter week I

Readings: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8 Psalm 79:2-3.15-16.18-19. R. v4 I Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37

Children's Liturgy during the 10.00am Mass

TODAY'S MASS

Today the new liturgical year begins, and this year is the Year of Mark (Year B). In the words of John Betjeman *The bells of waiting Advent ring*, and Advent is a season of waiting, for Christ's coming at Christmas and at the end of time (as the Preface for today's Mass declares). The *Gloria* is not sung on Sundays in Advent.

Both the **First Reading** and the **Psalm** are communal laments, pleading with God to come and save us from our self-inflicted misery. The prophecy of *Isaiah*, with its many predictions of the coming of the Messiah, provides the First Reading on many days in Advent.

Second Reading: the opening words provide one of the greetings the priest may use at Mass. St Paul address the Christians at Corinth, as they "*are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed*" on the last day.

Gospel: in the parable of the absent master, Jesus warns His disciples to stay ready and vigilant for the End, which may come at any time. Only the Father knows when that will come, so we must "*stay awake*".

YEAR B: THE YEAR OF MARK

Although placed second *Mark* is considered by most scholars to be the earliest of the three synoptic Gospels, and may have been used as a source by *Matthew* and *Luke*. Because the author is ignorant of Palestinian geography and Jewish laws and customs, and uses Latin words (eg centurion), he may have come from Rome, and may have learnt about Jesus from St Peter. Scholars date it to the 60s or 70s AD.

There are five key themes:

1. **Suffering:** Jesus fulfils His destiny by suffering and dying, and any disciple must likewise suffer (8:34 - 10:52);
2. The **person of Christ:** who Jesus is is the main question (e.g. Son of God 15:39);
3. **Discipleship:** following Jesus in the way of the cross;
4. The **Kingdom of God:** see the parables of the kingdom (4: 1 - 34);
5. The **Messianic Secret:** Jesus repeatedly silences those who would announce He is the Messiah (1:25, 34, 43 - 45 etc).
Mysteriously, *Mark* ends in the middle of a sentence. Only YOU can complete the story, by following the way of the cross as a disciple of Jesus, the Messiah.

Fr David

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 5 December

- Creative Project Club, Lower Hall, 6.00pm

Friday 8 December

- Monthly Convent Mass DHM, 8.00am (see p. 2)

Friday 15 December

- Penitential Service, 8.00-9.00pm

Tuesday 19 December

- Katy's Songbirds, Christmas Celebrations, 7.30pm, Church (refreshments from 6.30pm, Upper Hall)

THE PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr David Gibbons, KCHS

Parish Clergy: Fr Matthew Donnelly, Fr Jackson Sebastian and Deacon Julian Burling

Team member: Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU

THIS WEEK

The Week of Guided Prayer takes place this week.

Fr Matthew is away for a few days this week, at a session for recently Ordained Priests with the Archbishop.

Tuesday:

- King's College School Carol Service is at 10.45am in church.
- Donhead Prep School Carol Service is at 7.00pm in church.

Wednesday:

Wimbledon High School Festival of *Nine Lessons & Carols* is at 8.00pm in church.

Because of rehearsals for this there is **no** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 10.00am Mass, but there is Exposition as normal from 5.25pm before the 6.30pm Mass.

Thursday:

- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School invite all parishioners to attend their Carol Service in church at 7.00pm. Parents of children who will be starting school in September 2024 are especially invited to come and see what Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School has to offer.
- The PPC meets at 8.00pm, in the Lounge.

Friday: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Lady, under this title, is a Principal Patron of the Archdiocese. Holy Mass at 8.00am, in the Convent at 41 Murray Rd, which parishioners are welcome to attend.

Holy Mass in church at 10.00am and 6.30pm as usual.

There will be **no** Exposition in the morning.

Next Sunday: you are invited to the Continental Breakfast, in the Lower Hall, after the 8.00am Mass until noon. Come and enjoy coffee, a bacon roll or croissant, and a chat.

Parish Notices

HOLY COMMUNION AT THE SUNDAY 10.00am MASS

To avoid gridlock, please
- do not join the Communion Procession too soon;
- be patient and wait if you are at the sides; this allows those who have received to return to their places,
- use all four Ministers of Holy Communion.

This worked well last Sunday; thank you!

We shall most likely need to do the same at the busy Christmas Masses.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

The Advent Penitential Service is on Friday 15 December at 8.00pm, concluding by 9.00pm. There will be a short Liturgy of Penitence, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and ending with Benediction. During the Exposition there will be the opportunity for individual Confession, with a number of visiting priests. Come and confess early for Christmas!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Invitation forms for the Christmas Lunch are still available this weekend at the back of the church; please return them to Thelma in the Office; you might want to pass a form on to someone you know who might otherwise be alone on Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS CARDS & DIARIES

Christmas cards and 2024 diaries are now on sale at the Presbytery Reception.

Other Notices

FORM SIGNING FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The closing date for Primary School applications for a place in Year R is in mid-January 2024. Fr David will be in the Lower Hall to countersign supplementary forms for Sacred Heart School and other Catholic Primary Schools on Tuesday 9 January. Parents should attend bringing the child concerned and the form(s). Please ensure you have completed all the parents' sections of the form beforehand. **Do not** hand the forms to the Clergy or to the Presbytery in

advance, as we shall not forward them to the school.

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

The Clergy and the Parish Pastoral Council would like to plan two social events for the whole parish in 2024. We are looking to form a group to support this and invite expressions of interest from everyone. To find out more, please email Ruth Naylor, Chair of the PPC (ppc@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk).

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cathy Lynch has served the Finance Committee for some

10 years reporting on the parish finances. With Cathy moving out of the parish we are looking for someone with accountancy skills to replace her. The role involves liaising with Amy Lam, our Finance Assistant, and presenting accounts and other relevant information at monthly committee meetings.

If you are interested in helping, please contact the Committee Chair, Chris Woodward, at finance@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk to arrange a chat.

Parish Organisations

CREATIVE PROJECT CLUB

Come and join an informal group looking to explore faith through beauty, discuss your creative projects, help others in their creative projects, or simply get on with their projects in the company of others. Bring

your own materials and supper. We will meet on Tuesday 5 December from 6.00-9.00pm in the Lower Hall.

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 information please ring Jenny on 07906 856 183.

Social & Cultural

WEST BARNES SINGERS

The West Barnes Singers invite you to their Christmas Concert: an evening with *Händel's Zadok the Priest*, Mozart's *Mass in C* and, of course, Christmas Carols this Saturday 2 December at 7.30pm, St Saviours Church, Grand Drive SW20 9DL. Tickets £15, children free.

EDGEWAYS

We are delighted to announce that the December edition of *Edgeways* is now available from the parish website. Enjoy reading the newest edition of the parish magazine!

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

You are invited to this year's JRS Advent Service, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, W1K 3AH, on Friday 15 December at 7.00pm. Please r.s.v.p. to Loddan Othman by 8 December (loddan.othman@jrs.net) if you wish to attend.

KATY'S SONGBIRDS

Invite you to their Christmas Celebrations, an evening of traditional carols and festive songs on Tuesday 19 December at 7.30pm in the church. Come early from 6.30pm to the Upper Hall and enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies!

JESUIT MISSIONS CHRISTMAS CARDS

Following the Ignatian call to go where the need is greatest, Jesuit Missions are working in areas such as anti-human trafficking, educational access, and environmental sustainability in places like India, S-Sudan and Ethiopia. By buying JM Christmas cards, you make their work possible (<https://www.charitycardshop.com/JM>). Thank you for supporting this good cause!

A HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

This new book by parishioner Tim Everson covers the history of the Nativity scene

from the Gospel stories through to the present day.

It traces the artistic depictions and the development of the Christmas liturgy up to the time of St Francis and his service at Greccio 800 years ago which inspired the first cribs. It then follows the development and spread of cribs throughout Europe and beyond. Illustrated with 130 colour pictures, it is priced at £14.99 (£4.99 of which goes to church funds) and is available from the Presbytery Reception.

THE NATIVITY JOURNEY

From 13-18 December at Wintershall Estate: rediscover the meaning of Christmas with a Nativity set placing you in the middle of an immersive theatre experience. Stand with the shepherds, walk with Mary and Joseph and watch the miracle unfold. For more information and booking visit www.wintershall.org.uk.

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.

VACANCIES

Christian Care are seeking a Children's & Families' Activity Coordinator to lead a team responsible for supporting children and teenagers during the year (remembering birthdays, arranging outings or other activities..). For the role description please visit <https://christiancaremerton.org.uk/volunteering> or contact gillian.thick@christiancaremerton.org.uk /07932 628 840.

Marymount Intl. School, Kingston, has a vacancy for a School Transport Driver for a 9 seater vehicle; term-time only; contact: 020 8949 0571.

COVID RECOVERY

According to the recent Sunday Mass count, our Sunday Mass attendance is about 70% of the pre-COVID figure. There will be a number of reasons for the downturn, but as a parish we need to address them and ALL work together to try and win back those who have stopped coming to Mass. This is not because we want a good Collection but because as the Baptized People of God we are concerned for all our fellow pilgrims and for the eternal destiny of their souls. From time to time there will be suggestions as to what we can do in this Newsletter. Good ideas are not the Parish Priest's monopoly: if you have a good suggestion please let us know.

Surveys of 'lapsed' Catholics report that - whatever their reason for stopping attending Mass - there is often a feeling of disconnection or alienation. A typical comment was: "No one misses the fact that we stopped going. No one has called from the parish, even though we were regular attendees."

We might conjecture that typical British reticence or social awkwardness might cause this lack of contact, but it means that those who have stopped attending feel that no one cares about them. So, do YOU know a person or a family who have stopped coming to Mass? If so, pluck up the courage to contact them and say you haven't seen them for a while. I can't possibly know all the people who used to come but you may know someone. **Don't be shy, make contact with them!**

Fr David

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 Matthew Donnelly
8.00am Fr Jackson Sebastian & Deacon Julian Burling
10.00am Fr David Gibbons
12 noon Fr Matthew Donnelly & Deacon Julian Burling
5.00pm Fr Jackson Sebastian
8.00pm Fr David Gibbons

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those who have died recently: Roger Westcott, John Wall, Hugh Friel, Angelino Uggias Nalon, Norma Patton, Brenda Park, Philomena Dobinson, Patricia Brady and Anais Del Maestro

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Sheila Wadhwa, Serenella Randolph, Bertha D'Costa, Joan Irene Desbruslais and Jacqueline Newsom

The sick: Martin Moretti, Tom Kinsella, Finuala Holford, Sandrine D'Unienville, Zachary Roberts, Audra Wamsteker, Penelope Sewell, Hui Lee Ng, Alexia Graham, Natalie Williams, Karolina Masica, David Fry, Paul Stromborg, Mike Greene, Teresa Escalona, Donal Weir, Giovanni Baldacchino, Kim Carr, Luca Buttaci, David Steele, Shanu Mathew, Maureen May, Ryan Lyndsey, Samar Staussi, Emily Grey and Andrew Tan

Please help us keep the sick list up to date and kindly 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.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 4 December Feria

10.00am Paul Hart RIP
6.30pm Holy Souls

Tuesday 5 December Feria

10.00am Sylvia Stoneman RIP
6.30pm Marissa Pereira RIP

Wednesday 6 December St Nicholas, Bishop

10.00am Maria Keaveney-Jessiman RIP
6.30pm Beryl Elliott RIP

Thursday 7 December St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

10.00am Bertha D'Costa RIP
6.30pm Susan Wilson RIP

Friday 8 December The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, Solemnity

10.00am New Superior General of the DHM
6.30pm Patricia Howell RIP

Saturday 9 December St Juan Diego Cuauhlatotzin

10.00am Mary Carmody Death Anniv.
6.30pm Bridie Kehoe RIP

COLLECTIONS

Last weekend's Second Collection for Catholic Youth Services raised **£515.75**.

Thank you for your support of this good cause.

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: Fr Peter Littleton (020 8725 3069 or 020 8672 1255)

St Heliers and Epsom Hospital: Fr Philip Pak (020 8296 2000)

Kingston Hospital: Fr Tony Oleh (020 8546 7711)

MUSIC AT THE 12 NOON MASS

Solemn Latin Mass

Introit: *Ad te levavi*, Johann Aiblinger (1779-1867)

K/S/B/A Mass XVII Plainsong

Offertory motet: *Confortamini et iam*, Lassus

Communion: *Creator alme siderum*, Plainsong

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Second Sunday of Advent (B)

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 30:19-30
First Reading Is 40:1-5.9-11
Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14.R. v8
Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4.6
Gospel Mark 1:1-8

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

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 confidentiality. Leave contact details with the parish office or email presidentA190704@svp.org.uk.

For donations, please scan the QR Code with your phone; your donation will help fund the wide range of liturgical, spiritual and cultural activities which run in the parish. Thank you.

