



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Wimbledon
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10th December 2023

Newsletter

Vol 9, Issue 42

Second Sunday of Advent (B)

Second Week of Advent
Vol I, psalter week 2

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11 Psalm 84:9-14. R. v8 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

Children's Liturgy during the 10.00am Mass

Continental Breakfast will be served after the 8.00am Mass until noon in the Lower Hall

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading: each of the first three Gospels saw in this passage of the prophecy of *Isaiah* a prefiguration of John the Baptist, who warns people to prepare for the coming of God to Mt Zion (which is in Jerusalem).

Psalm: a psalm asking God to come, confident that he will.

Second Reading: St Peter explains the apparent delay in Christ's second coming. First, God's time is not our time. Secondly, he is being merciful in delaying, by giving us time to repent.

Gospel: the very beginning of St Mark's Gospel starts with John the Baptist, who points forward to the coming of Jesus. The few details *Mark* gives (the wilderness, John's clothes and diet, etc.) and the reference to *Isaiah* reveal to those who know their Scripture that the one who is coming is the Messiah.

Fr David

THIS WEEK

School Carol Services

We welcome Kings's College School for their Carol Services on Monday and Tuesday at 10.45am, the Junior School on Wednesday at 1.30pm and the Study Prep School on Monday at 2.15pm. This will affect the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday morning, Exposition will be from 5.25 - 6.25pm as usual.

Wednesday: Funeral Mass

The 10.00am Mass on Wednesday is the Funeral Mass for Brenda Park.

Thursday: Requiem Mass

Memorial Mass for Lucia Zarkovic at 12.30pm.

Friday: Penitential Service 8.00pm

The Advent Penitential Service is on Friday at 8.00pm. After a short Penitential Liturgy - which reminds us, that sin is corporate, not just individual (that is to say, we sin as a society and we need to acknowledge this) - there will be individual Confessions, with a number of visiting priests in addition to our own priests. Meanwhile the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for prayer, and the Liturgy will conclude with Benediction, ending at 9.00pm. Come and confess early for Christmas!

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 19 December

- Katy's Songbirds, Christmas Celebrations, 7.30pm, Church (mulled wine and mince pies from 6.30pm, Upper Hall)

Saturday 23 December

- Rehearsal for Crib Service, 10.45am-12noon, Church

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

HOUSING JUSTICE/ CARITAS SOUTHWARK

Do you have a spare room that you could offer to a homeless asylum seeker, refugee, or migrant in need? *Housing Justice* works with hosts to provide temporary accommodation for London's destitute asylum seekers, refugees or forced migrants while they try to solve their immigration status. Find out more at <https://housingjustice.org.uk/donate-now-or-get-involved/become-a-host>

In partnership with *Housing Justice* Caritas Southwark is hosting an online information session on Wednesday 13 December, 7.30-8.30pm for people interested in becoming a host for a refugee. Please email Caritas directly to receive the link for the session: caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk

THE HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION

Each month the Holy Father offers a specific prayer intention, inviting men and women of good will to pray with him for a particular cause.

For December, Pope Francis asks the faithful to pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of society's attention, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their participation. *'Creating a fully accessible parish requires... helping parishioners to develop attitudes and acts of solidarity and service towards persons with disabilities and their families. Our aim should be to speak no longer about "them", but rather about "us".' –*

Pope Francis

Parish Notices

HOLY COMMUNION AT THE SUNDAY 10.00am MASS

The new arrangements are working well. Thank you! Please

- do not immediately join the Communion Procession if you are seated at the sides; wait patiently, and allow those who have received Holy Communion to return to their places, and -use all four Ministers of Communion.

LOOK

These sheets - based on the Sunday Gospels - are available at Sunday Mass, next to the Newsletters and Readings Sheets, and are intended for Primary School age children, to help keep them occupied and interested. Please take one for each child but remember to bring a pencil or pen for them.

MY ADVENT DAY BY DAY

'My Advent Day by Day' booklets are available at the back of the church. Lovely resources to help us prepare for the arrival of Jesus this Christmas.

CONFESSIONS BEFORE THE FEAST

All Catholics should try to make their Confession before Christmas. In addition to the Penitential Service on Friday, we have Confessions at the usual times of 6.00 -

6.20pm Mon-Sat and 10.30-11.30am on Saturdays.

CRIB SERVICE AND REHEARSAL

There will be a Crib Service on Sunday 24 December at 3.30pm in the church.

The rehearsal for the Crib Service will be on Saturday 23 December from 10.45am - 12noon for children aged 4+ who would like to be involved. All other children from 8+ wishing to read, please contact Rachel Marshall at rachel@marshallemail.net. Offers of help from parents are most welcome.

CHRISTMAS CARDS & DIARIES, BOOKS

Christmas cards (amongst others, Moya Hogarth's artfully crafted cards) and 2024 diaries are on sale at the Presbytery Reception, which is open Monday to Fridays 9.00am-4.00pm.

Copies of Tim Everson's book on the history of the Christmas Crib and of the book by Elena Curti which features Sacred Heart Church are also on sale; these would make good Christmas presents.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Last call: Forms for the Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day are still available at the back of the church. Please return the forms to the Parish Office. No one should be alone on Christmas Day.

EDGEWAYS

Our monthly Parish Magazine has been resurrected by interim editor David Hurst, and is available electronically on the parish website (<https://www.sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/>), click on *News and Events*. This is your parish magazine written for and hopefully, once again, by parishioners. Please step forward with your feedback, your ideas, your stories & features and send them to David at dthurst52@gmail.com.

FORM SIGNING FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

If you wish Fr David to countersign your application to a Catholic Primary School for a place in next year's Year R, please come to the Lower Hall on Tuesday 9 January, either at 4.00pm or 7.00pm. Parents should attend, bringing the child concerned as well as the form(s). Do not hand forms in to the Parish Office, as they won't get processed.

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

We are seeking to plan two social events for the whole parish in 2024. Please email Ruth Naylor, Chair of the PPC at ppc@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk if you are interested in assisting in this.

Parish Organisations

SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY

This is the catechesis proposed by *Communion and Liberation* local community every Friday at 7.30pm in the Lounge. The meetings are simple and there is no

requirement of formal membership. For more info, please email soc.wimbledon@gmail.com.

MEMORY LANE CLUB

This popular club for people with dementia and their

carers is open every Wednesday, 10.30am-12.30pm in the Parish Lounge with tea, coffee & cake along with lots of chat, laughter, snooker and different activities. (Contact: Jenny on 07906856183)

Other Notices

KATY'S SONGBIRDS

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!

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE CARE

Catholic Marriage Care – For healthy couple relationships: Marriage Care is looking for empathic listeners who would like to train and volunteer with them as Relationship Counsellors. The course begins in April 2024. The training is offered free, with contributions requested towards the other costs

of the course.

You will gain a qualification and be part of a supportive and inspiring community.

You will provide counselling for couples in difficulty and receive ongoing training and support. To find out more contact: www.marriagecare.org.uk and click on 'Volunteer'. Or email teresaweeks@hotmail.co.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.

Exploring our Faith

YOUNG ADULT ADVENT RETREAT

Come and take time aside with other young adults aged 18-35 this Advent. You will have time to reflect and pray to prepare yourselves for the coming of the Prince of Peace. Saturday 16 December 2023, 10.30am-2.30pm at FCJ Spirituality Centre, 32 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1TA. Facilitated by Sr

Anouska Robinson-Biggin (The Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ)), an Intl. Congregation of Catholic Sisters founded in France in 1820). Cost: by donation. For more information & booking: bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk.

A DAY WITH MARY

You are invited to a *Day with Mary*, a day of instruction,

devotion and intercession, on Saturday 16 December, at St George's Cathedral, SE1 6HR, 10.15am-5.15pm; celebrant & preacher and sermons on Our Lady: Fr Alessandro Apollonio; Exposition & Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Meditations on the Passion of Our Lord, Silent Prayers.

For more info please visit adaywithmary.org.

VACANCY

St John Fisher R.C. Primary School are looking for an Extended Services Assistant (Breakfast): 7.15am-8.45am for 1h30mins Monday to Friday/school term days only, 7.5 hrs/week.

For a job description and application form please contact Gabriel Toyos on 020 8540 2637 or email sbm@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk

COVID RECOVERY

The fuss over the people at the heart of government holding parties while the rest of us were observing the COVID lockdown well illustrates an important facet of human behaviour, namely that people adopt a belief if those proposing it are seen to be living it out, perhaps at some cost to themselves. Expressions like 'practise what you preach', 'put your money where your mouth is' and 'walk the walk, don't just talk the talk' demonstrate this. We Catholics are perhaps more familiar with Pope St Paul VI's statement of this idea in *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 41: "modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers it is because they are witnesses".

Suppose your GP says you must eat less and exercise more. If you see him or her out jogging and eating modestly in a café, you will be more likely to do as he/she suggests. Conversely, if you see your GP smoking and eating hearty portions, and manifestly putting on weight, you are much less likely to do what the GP indicates. It is the same with our Catholic witness. If your neighbours, work colleagues, school friends, family members witness you living out the Catholic faith - clearly saying prayers, regularly attending Mass, giving to those in need, helping those in need, being friendly and helpful, etc - they are more likely, if Catholics, to follow your example and return to Mass. On the contrary, if they see you being miserable and unfriendly, and not being at all self denying and loving, they will conclude the faith is humbug.

If you are lukewarm in your observance of the faith - attending Mass infrequently, rarely praying, seldom doing good works, and so on - you will be deterring others from practising their faith. But if you are seen to love God and love your neighbour this will be a powerful witness which may well help to bring back those who lapsed during the COVID period.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those who have died recently: Finuala Holford, David White, Norma Patton, Brenda Park, Philomena Dobinson, Patricia Brady and Anais Del Maestro

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Alfred Fanciulli, Dominic Gerard Sammons, Treasa Mary Hearty, Mary Healy, Edward Holden, Francie, Hugh & Andy McHugh and Neil Calvert

The sick: Martin Moretti, Tom Kinsella, Hui Lee Ng, Audra Wamsteker, Paul Stromborg, Luca Buttaci, Ryan Lyndsey, Samar Staussi, Emily Grey and Andrew Tan

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.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 11 December FERIA

10.00am Eric Blazeby RIP
6.30pm Amado Lumayad RIP

Tuesday 12 December FERIA

10.00am Mary Alphonse Ints.
6.30pm Gerard McAleavy RIP

Wednesday 13 December St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

10.00am Funeral of Brenda Park
6.30pm Mira & Kazimierz Reda RIP

Thursday 14 December St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

10.00am John Jinks RIP
12.30pm Memorial Mass for Lucia Zarkovic RIP
6.30pm Francie, Hugh & Andy McHugh RIP

Friday 15 December FERIA

10.00am Kudzi & family Ints.
6.30pm Thanksgiving to Infant Jesus
8.00pm Penitential Service

Saturday 16 December FERIA

10.00am John Feneally Anniv.
6.30pm Eileen Hogan 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: 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

Entry: 243 *Hark! A herald voice is calling*

Offertory motet: *Tota pulchra es Maria*, Fernand Laloux

Sanctus/Benedictus/Agnus Dei: Missal tones

Communion motet: *Jerusalem surge*, Giovanni Battista Martini

Communion hymn: 762 *Wait for the Lord*, Taizé

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

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

Entrance Antiphon Ph 4:4-5

First Reading Is 61:1-2.10-11

Responsorial Psalm Lk1:46-50.53-54

Second Reading I Th 5:16-24

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Gospel John 1:6-8. 19-28

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.

