



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Wimbledon
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Newsletter

Vol 9, Issue 43

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

Gaudete Sunday

Third Week of Advent

Vol I, psalter week 3

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11 Psalm Lk 1:46-50.53-54 I Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8.19-28

TODAY'S MASS

The first word of the **Entrance Antiphon** gives this Sunday its popular name: *Gaudete* ('rejoice'). Today is a rare case when December 17th and the Third Sunday of Advent fall on the same day. December 17th is when the texts of Mass change and the liturgy focusses more directly on the forthcoming birth of Our Lord. Unfortunately, there are a couple of errors in the *Jerusalem Mass Sheet*: as today is the 17th Preface II of Advent is used (not Preface I), which is part based on today's *Gospel*, and Eucharistic Prayer II is not for use on Sundays (*Roman Missal* p 113), so do not be alarmed when the Celebrant uses a different one.

First Reading: Christians have always taken the 'me' here as referring to Jesus Christ, as Jesus Himself did (see *Luke* 4: 16 - 22). He is the anointed one (the Christ in Greek, the Messiah in Hebrew).

What follows is not actually a Psalm, but part of the psalm-like Song or Canticle of Mary we know as the *Magnificat* (the canticle used each day at Vespers or Evening Prayer).

Second Reading: rejoicing ('being happy') and constant prayer are, for St Paul, essential elements of being a Christian, a disciple of Jesus.

Gospel: like *Luke* in last week's Gospel, *John* begins his account of Jesus' birth with John the Baptist, who is but a witness to the light of the world, i.e. Jesus Christ Himself.

Fr David

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children who have not yet received their first Holy Communion are invited to go out to the Children's Liturgy of the Word today at the 10.00am Mass.

THIS WEEK

Monday

The Parish Finance Committee meets at 7.00pm.

The joint Wimbledon College and Ursuline High School Carol Service is at 7.30pm in Church.

Upcoming Events

Please refer to page 2 of this Newsletter and to the Sacred Heart Christmas booklet available at the back of the church or to the parish website for Christmas Mass times



Monday 1 January

- Peace Service followed by refreshments, 4.00pm, St John Fisher Church

Friday 5 January

- Friendship Group at 2.30pm, Lounge, New Year fun and games, everyone welcome!

Tuesday

Funeral Mass of Patricia Brady at 11.30am.

Katy's Songbirds Christmas Celebrations: mulled wine and mince pies in the Upper Hall from 6.30pm, carols and festive songs at 7.30pm in Church.

Thursday: Sacred Heart School

Mass in School at 9.00am. Parishioners as well as parents etc are welcome to attend this Mass, in the School Hall.

Friday

Wimbledon College Boys Carol Service at 10.45am in 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

STOP PRESS: PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS

We are pleased to announce that the Diocesan Safeguarding Office has confirmed the appointment of Victoria Wheatley, Kathleen Kirkland and Siobhán Heffron as our Parish Safeguarding Reps, with immediate effect. We thank them for undertaking this important ministry.

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>

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

PRAYER INTENTIONS BOOK

You will see a new book at the back of the church: feel free to write in your Prayer Intentions, and please pray from time to time for all the prayer intentions in the

book. In this way we can increase the volume of our corporate prayers.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Please note that bookings for our parish Christmas Lunch are now closed. We would,

however, be grateful to hear from a few more helpers for Christmas Day itself. Please contact Thelma at the Parish Office (020 8946 0305) if you are in a position to help. Thank you.

Christmas at Sacred Heart

NEXT SUNDAY (24th)

As you will have spotted, Christmas Eve this year is a Sunday and Christmas Day is a Monday. As both are Days of Obligation, when we are obliged to attend Mass if we can, please do not think that attending one Mass over these days counts for both; it doesn't: you should attend Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday morning - for the Sunday of Advent IV - and again attend Mass on Sunday evening or Monday morning - for Christmas. If you attend Mass on Sunday morning and again on Sunday evening, you are allowed to receive Holy Communion at both Masses.

Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is at 6.30pm (Saturday), 8.00am, 10.00am and 12noon.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Children's Crib Service at 3.30pm next Sunday 24 December. 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@marshall.email.net. Offers of help from parents are most welcome.

Vigil Masses: there are two Vigil Masses for Christmas on Sunday evening, at 5.00pm and at 7.30pm. There will be carols before the latter, starting at 7.10pm.

Midnight Mass: at 12.00 midnight, with carols beforehand from 11.30pm.

At the 7.30pm Vigil & Midnight Masses, the front 4 rows on the left-hand side of the church will be reserved for frail and elderly persons, and those in wheel chairs, until 5 minutes before the carols start. Thereafter, they will be available to all.

On Christmas Day, Monday 25 December, the **Mass of the Dawn** is at 8.00am. **Mass of the Day** is at 10.00am and again at 12noon. NB: there are no evening Masses on Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

By diocesan rule, the Christmas Collection is for the three priests of the parish. Along with the Easter Collection this forms a major part of their income, so Frs David, Matthew and Jackson thank you in advance for your generosity. You can make a bank transfer for the Christmas Collection (to RCAS

Wimbledon, 60-24-07, 33138672; please put 'Christmas Collection' as the reference; the Parish receives the Gift Aid refund) or you can use either selection on the card readers.

CRIB OFFERINGS

The Christmas Crib will be displayed in the St Ignatius Chapel. Please take care when lighting votive candles, especially if children are involved.

The Crib Offerings this year - in view of what is happening in Palestine and Israel - will be sent to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, earmarked for medical and humanitarian needs, via the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, of which Fr David is a Knight Commander. This will ensure the aid gets to where it is most needed. It used to be unlawful in the UK to send aid to Gaza, but the government has temporarily suspended this, so our donation can be used to provide food, water, shelter and medicines to the people there, as well as elsewhere in the area.

Advance Notices

TUESDAY 26th

As this is a Bank Holiday Holy Mass at 10.00am only; there will not be Mass at 6.30pm. Holy Mass in the rest of the week at the normal times.

SUNDAY 31st - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Holy Mass at the usual times - 6.30pm (Saturday), 8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00 noon, and 5.00pm. There will be the usual 8.00pm Mass, plus Midnight Mass at 12.00pm for the New Year but note that these two Masses will be of Monday's Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Attendance at either of these Masses does count as your Sunday obligation. If you

attend Mass earlier on the Sunday, and again at Midnight Mass, you may receive Holy Communion a second time.

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

This Feast, which is normally on the 6th of January, is transferred in 2024 to the Sunday 7 January. Holy Mass at the usual Sunday times, but please note yet another complication: the Saturday 6.30pm Mass will be of the Epiphany Vigil; this means that the readings and prayers are not those of the day.

PRIMARY SCHOOL FORM SIGNING

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 at 4.00pm or 7.00pm. Parents should attend along with the child concerned & the form/s. Do not hand forms in in advance.

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

In 2024 the *Churches Together in West Wimbledon* annual Unity Service in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be here in Sacred Heart Church, at 6.30pm on Sunday 21 January. It will take the form of Vespers. Please make every effort to come and pray for Unity.

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.

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 an application form please contact Gabriel Toyos on 020 8540 2637 or email sbm@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk

Exploring our Faith

PEACE SERVICE

Saint John Fisher Justice and Peace Group invite you to a Peace Service on Monday 1 January at 4.00pm, at St John Fisher Church, SW20 9DB, followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. The service can be joined at: www.churchservices.tv/Merton

MEĐUGORJE RETREAT

The Međugorje Apostolate invite you to their annual retreat from Friday 23 - Sunday 25 February 2024 at the Kairos Centre, Roehampton, led by Fr Svetozar Kraljević OFM, a Franciscan who has spent 16 years serving the parish of Međugorje, the au-

thor of several books about Our Lady's apparitions in Medjugorje has given many talks on the subject and conducted many retreats. This is a residential retreat (places for day participants available). Information & booking: Paul Spencer at pilgrims@mary@hotmail.com.

COVID RECOVERY

During the COVID lockdown watching Holy Mass on livestream became very popular. However there are no longer any restrictions on church attendance and so people should have returned to attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Day. We need to be clear that watching a livestreamed Mass does not count as attending Mass; in the Church's jargon it does not fulfil the Sunday obligation, which was reinstated some time ago by the Bishops.

There are those who are genuinely ill - or caring for a seriously ill person - or who are housebound and who are, therefore, unable to get to Mass, and watching a livestreamed Mass is the best they can do, and is commendable. Livestream viewers can make a spiritual communion at the appropriate time.

However, if you are not in this category you should now be attending Sunday Mass if at all possible. Perhaps you have become afraid to venture out, or have simply lost the habit of going to Mass, or you need a lift to church (just contact Thelma in the Office if so). But, as I have said, watching a livestream of Mass does not count as attending Mass. As someone said, parents wouldn't seek to feed their children by getting them to watch a livestream of someone else eating. Likewise Christ doesn't feed us with His Word and His Body and Blood if we are only viewing on our computer.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those who have died recently: Tom Kinsella, Angelino Uggias Nalon, Finuala Holford, Norma Patton, Patricia Brady and Anais Del Maestro

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ernest Prescott, Tony Kane, Sam O'Donovan, John Abiss, Anne Hampshire, William Sullivan, Joseph Hanna, Dr Antoinette (Sylvia) Peters and Mary Razvi

The sick: Jane McVeigh, Harriette Cahill, Martin Moretti, 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 18 December Feria

10.00am Kudzi & family Ints., Christian Kudzi RIP
6.30pm Bridie Kehoe RIP

Tuesday 19 December Feria

10.00am Mary Cogan Ints.
11.30am Funeral Mass for Patricia Brady
6.30pm Angela Ley RIP

Wednesday 20 December Feria

10.00am Maria Keaveney-Jessiman RIP
6.30pm Tony Burke RIP

Thursday 21 December Feria

10.00am People Of Ukraine, Israel/Gaza Ints.
9.00am Mass at Sacred Heart School
6.30pm Margaret McNerney RIP

Friday 22 December Feria

10.00am Christopher Cooper RIP
6.30pm Mr & Mrs Panaligan Wedding Anniversary

Saturday 23 December Feria

10.00am Nowell & Mary Anderson RIP
6.30pm Patricia Woodward 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 hymn: 522 *O come, O come Emmanuel* (vv 1&2)

Kyrie: *Missa super Dixit Maria*, Hans Leo Hassler

Offertory motet: *Dixit Maria*, Hans Leo Hassler

Communion: *Agnus Dei: Missa super Dixit Maria*, Hans Leo Hassler

Communion hymn: 522 (vv3-5)

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 45:8
First Reading 2 Sm 7:1-5.8-12.14
Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-5.27.29
Second Reading Rom 16:25-27
Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38
Gospel Lk 1:26-38

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.

