



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

020 8946 0305
wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk
sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk
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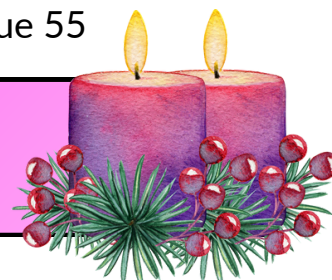
Sacred Heart Wimbledon
Edge Hill
Wimbledon
London SW19 4LU

Sunday
14 December 2025

Newsletter

Vol. 11
Issue 55

Year of Jubilee 2025 • Gaudete Sunday
Third Week of Advent



Today's Mass

Today – **Gaudete Sunday** – a certain relaxation in our Advent discipline is permitted, and rose-coloured vestments are worn.

While the **First Reading** (Isaiah 35:1-6a,10) gives hope and courage to the downhearted or restricted, when Isaiah refers to the blind, the lame, etc., he means the whole community. This prophecy is fulfilled in Christ, who came to restore us, as a community of faith, to wholeness and integrity. **Psalms 146(145)** picks up the same theme.

Second Reading (James 5:7-10): St James says that, like a farmer, we must be patient as we wait for Christ's Second Coming. In the Bible, the harvest is often used as a picture for the Day of Judgment. We should wait patiently for this day and not make judgments ourselves about other people.

Gospel (Matthew 11:2-11): John the Baptist sends his disciples to find out who Jesus is – is He truly the Messiah? Jesus tells them: look at the evidence of your own eyes. He makes the point that in the coming Kingdom of God, the little ones who believe in Him will have the same standing as important figures like John.

Canon David



10.00am Saturday 20 December
Advent Penitential Service with Individual Confessions

Following the 10.00am Mass, there will be a short communal Service of Penitence. Visiting priests as well as our own will then be available to hear individual Confessions. During the Confessions, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration. Come and confess early for Christmas!

Parish Pastoral Team

Parish Priest	Canon David Gibbons KCHS
Parish Clergy	Fr Edwin Raj
	Fr Peter Mudu Frank
	Deacon Julian Burling
Team Member	Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU
Faith Minister	Rob Hitchcock

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Burlington Road, KT3 4ND
school@sacredheart.merton.sch.uk
Headteacher: Sarah Norville



We are a Jubilee Church! Find out more about the Year of Jubilee 2025 for 'Pilgrims of Hope' at cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025.

This Sunday

Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 10.00am Mass

Children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 are invited to attend with their parents and discover, explore, and discuss the Gospel in an age-appropriate way. We call children to the front of the church after the welcome, process together to the Lounge, and return to the church before the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

After this Sunday, the next Children's Liturgy will be on Sunday 11 January 2026. Please email Elizabeth at elizabethbottriell@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Café in the Lounge after the 10.00am Mass

You are warmly invited to join us for tea, coffee, biscuits, etc.!

Social Club after the 8.00pm Mass

All are welcome to join us in the Lounge for a drink and social gathering!

Parish notices

Christmas hamper appeal

Can you support people and families in need in our community this Christmas? Can you bring items with you to Mass for our hampers? Our suggestions include tinned peas, carrots, potatoes, stuffing mix, mince pies, custard, Christmas treats, and other long-life goods. Please bring items to the Parish Office or place them in the dedicated boxes at the back of the church. Donations towards the purchase of items are also gratefully received.

Finances

The First Collection in October was £47,564.91. The Second Collections were £772.55 for CAFOD and £771.64 for Missio. Thank you for your generosity.

This week

During Advent, the church is heavily used by local schools, especially for carol services and rehearsals. Such things as access to the church, livestreaming, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament may occasionally be restricted.

6.30am Monday: Rorate Mass

This is the last of our traditional dawn Masses of Our Lady by candlelight, celebrated in the Lady Chapel. If you have never experienced one of these special Advent Masses, do make an effort to come along and help prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. By popular request, the Mass will be a sung Mass and in Latin.

Mass will also be celebrated at the usual times of 10.00am and 6.30pm.

7.30pm Monday Wimbledon College & Ursuline High School Joint Carol Service

...takes place in our church.

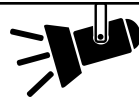
4.30pm Tuesday Marymount International School Advent Carol Service

Marymount International School invites the whole community to join this service in our church, followed by festive refreshments.

Vera Bunce RIP

Funeral Mass at 11.00am on Wednesday, followed by cremation at the Putney Vale Crematorium.

Spotlight on...



2.30pm Friday 2 January Friendship Group

Do join us in the Lounge for party games, tea, and cakes! Everyone is welcome.

Any time after 2.00pm on Wednesday 🎄 Christmas trees and crib: volunteers needed! 🎄

We are looking for volunteers (children welcome!) to come and help decorate the Christmas trees and set up the crib in the church.

Come along, hang a bauble on the tree, and help us begin the festive season together! Your help will be greatly appreciated. Let the celebrations begin... ✨

9.00am Thursday: Mass in the Hall of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

All parishioners, parents, and family members are welcome to attend this Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School (Burlington Road, KT3 4ND).

Clare Gummett RIP

Funeral Mass at 11.30am on Thursday.

6.30pm for 7.45pm Thursday Katy's Songbirds Christmas Celebration

Katy's Songbirds invite you to their Christmas Celebration, an evening of traditional carols and festive music featuring Katy Lees, Giles Kennedy, Putney & Wimbledon Bass Band, the Lantern Arts Youth Choir, and Edge Hill Players. The concert will support Beat, an eating disorders charity, and Breast Cancer Now.

Mulled wine, mince pies, a raffle, and a bar will be available in the Upper Hall from 6.30pm, with the concert starting at 7.45pm in the church. Tickets are £10 (under-14s free). Book your place now at trybooking.com/uk/FPEQ.

10.00am Saturday 20 December Advent Penitential Service with individual Confessions

Please see the front cover.

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 at sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/safeguarding.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Victoria Wheatley (wimbledonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)
Siobhán Heffron (wimbledonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) • Maria Christopher (wimbledonsg5@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)



9.00am – 9.00pm
Saturday 24 January 2026
Youth 2000 'The London Retreat'

This retreat in our church will be an opportunity for people between the ages of 16 and 35 to come together to explore faith, build relationships, and find hope. Join us for a jam-packed day of prayer, teaching, friendship, and fun! For more details and to book, please visit tinyurl.com/3p5svfsk.

New to the parish?

Welcome! Please introduce yourself to a member of the parish team after Mass and register online at sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk or by filling out a registration form from the back of the church.



Christmas 2025 at Sacred Heart Wimbledon

Confessions before Christmas: Confessions will be heard from 5.45pm to 6.15pm every day except Sunday from Monday 15 to Tuesday 23 December inclusive. Please do not attempt to enter the Confessional after 6.15pm.

Saturday 20 December

10.30am **Advent Penitential Service**
with individual Confessions



Sunday 21 December • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Usual Sunday Mass schedule: 6.30pm (Saturday),
8.00am, 10.00am, 12 noon, 5.00pm, and 8.00pm

Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 December

10.00am Holy Mass
6.30pm Holy Mass *rehearsal at 10.45am
on Tuesday 23 December*

Wednesday 24 December • Christmas Eve

10.00am Holy Mass (of 24 December)
3.30pm **Children's Christmas Crib Service**
5.00pm **Vigil Mass**
7.30pm **Vigil Mass**
preceded by **Carols** from 7.10pm
Midnight **Midnight Mass**
preceded by **Carols** from 11.30pm



Wednesday 25 December • Christmas Day

8.00am **Mass of the Dawn**
10.00am **Mass of the Day**
12 noon **Mass of the Day**



Weekday Masses and Confessions after Christmas Day:

On Friday 26 December and Thursday 1 January, Holy Mass will only be celebrated at 10.00am. On other weekdays, Holy Mass will be celebrated at the usual schedule of 10.00am and 6.30pm, with Confessions heard from 6.00pm until 6.20pm.

Sundays 28 December (The Holy Family) and 4 January (Second Sunday of Christmas)

Usual Sunday Mass schedule: 6.30pm (Saturday),
8.00am, 10.00am, 12 noon, 5.00pm, and 8.00pm

Monday 5 January

10.00am Holy Mass (of 5 January)
6.30pm **Vigil Mass**

Tuesday 6 January • The Epiphany of the Lord

10.00am Holy Mass
6.30pm Holy Mass
8.00pm Holy Mass



Children's Christmas Crib Service: There will be a rehearsal for the Crib Service from 10.45am to 12 noon on Tuesday 23 December for children aged 4+ who would like to be involved as actors and children aged 8+ wishing to read. Please contact Rachel Marshall at rachel@marshallemail.net. Offers of help from parents are also most welcome.

Reserved seats for Christmas Eve Masses: The front four rows of seats on the left-hand centre aisle (Ambo-side) of the church will be reserved for frail and elderly persons and wheelchairs, until 5 minutes before the Carols begin. Thereafter, they will be available to everyone.

Parking: Additional car parking spaces will be available at Wimbledon College from 3.00pm on Wednesday 24 December until 2.00am on Thursday 25 December. The parking registration system in the church car park will be deactivated for Masses on Wednesday 24, Friday 25, Saturday 26, and Wednesday 31 December, and Thursday 1 January.

Collection at Christmas Masses: By diocesan rule, the Collection at all Christmas Masses is your gift to the priests of the parish.

Crib Offerings: The Christmas Crib will be displayed in the St Ignatius Chapel. Please take care when lighting votive candles, especially around children. The Crib Offerings 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 Canon David is a Knight Commander. They will support humanitarian aid convoys, enable the provision of schooling and clinics, and help to rebuild communities devastated in the Holy Land. Aid will get to where it is most needed.

Parish Office Christmas closure: Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Wednesday 24 until Sunday 28 December inclusive. It will reopen for Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 December, then close again from Wednesday 31 December until Sunday 4 January 2026 inclusive.

Newsletter Christmas break: The last newsletter of 2025 will be next Sunday 21 December. The first newsletter of 2026 will be on Sunday 11 January.



Celebrants this Sunday

6.30pm (Sat)	Fr Peter Mudu Frank & Dcn Julian Burling
8.00am	Fr Edwin Raj & Dcn Julian Burling
10.00am	Canon David Gibbons
12 noon	Fr Peter Mudu Frank
5.00pm	Fr Edwin Raj
8.00pm	Canon David Gibbons

We remember in our prayers

Those who have died recently

Clare Gummett • Timothy Hayes • David Moffatt
Vera Bunce • Thomas Michael McGovern

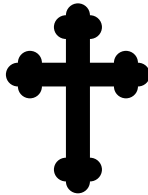
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time

John Diogo Abreo • Mary Healy • Edward Holden
Neil Calvert • Shirley Ward • John Abbiss
Joseph Hanna • David Richard Pinfield

Those who are sick

Finley Kennedy • Samar Staussi • Maria Tinker • Emily Grey
Electa Almeida • Karolina Masica • Mark Capra
Teresa Escalona • Simon Potter • Angela White
Peter Gent • Margaret Brauer • Karoline Wilhelm-Brown
Valeria Kucharsky • Debbie Gargan • Patricia Codd
Hilary Brazier • Ethan Costa Peruzzo • Sheila Morrissey
Peter Hayes • Brian McQuaid • Mary Fripp
Sadie Smith • Doroteia Pereira

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. For data protection reasons, individuals must explicitly agree for their names to be mentioned in our newsletter.



Exposition

Wednesdays and Fridays
10.30am – 12 noon and
5.25pm – 6.25pm

First Mondays and Fridays
of the month
7.00pm – 8.00pm

Reconciliation

Mondays to Saturdays
6.00pm – 6.20pm

Saturdays
10.30am – 11.30am

Hospital contacts

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

St George's: Fr Peter Littleton (020 8725 3069
or 020 8672 1255)

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

Kingston: Fr Tony Oleh (020 8546 7711)

Your generosity helps to fund our parish's wide range of liturgical, spiritual, and cultural activities.

To donate, scan the QR code or visit sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/donate.
Thank you.



Weekday Mass Intentions

Saturday 13 December • S Lucy, V M

10.00am Gloria Zuazo Ponce (RIP)
6.30pm John & Mary Granahan (RIP)

Monday 15 December

6.30am Holy Souls (RIP)
10.00am Sally Ann Wilkinson (RIP)
6.30pm Siobhán Egan (RIP)

Tuesday 16 December

10.00am Thelma Lobo (Wellbeing)
6.30pm Margaret Quinn (RIP)

Wednesday 17 December

10.00am Joe Lyons (RIP)
11.00am Funeral Mass of Vera Bunce (RIP)
6.30pm Eileen Hogan (RIP)

Thursday 18 December

9.00am School [*Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School*
(Burlington Road, KT3 4ND)]
10.00am Francis Gracias (RIP)
11.30am Funeral Mass of Clare Gummett (RIP)
6.30pm Gabrielle Flynn (RIP)

Friday 19 December

10.00am Brendan Browne (RIP)
6.30pm Thanksgiving

Saturday 20 December

10.00am John Fennelly (RIP)
6.30pm Seamus McGlone (RIP)

Music at the 12 noon Mass

Entry hymn: (522) O come, O come Emmanuel

Offertory motet: *Canite tuba in Sion* (G.P. da Palestrina)

Communion motet: *Confortamini et iam* (O. Lassus)

Communion hymn: (133) Come thou long-expected Jesus

Music at the 5.00pm Mass

Scan the QR code or visit
sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/5pm



Parish services and contacts

Parish Office

020 8946 0305
wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk
9.00am – 4.00pm
Monday – Friday

Executive Assistant

Thelma D'Costa

Caretaker

George McLennan

Please contact the Parish Office for all enquiries, hall bookings, baptisms, first Sacraments, marriages, and funerals. Please email any notices for the weekly newsletter to wimbledonnewsletter@rcaos.org.uk by Tuesday evening.

Please remember always to register your car when using the church car park (except Sundays) via a registration tablet at the church entrance, presbytery reception, or hall entrances.