

Our Lady &amp; St. Philip Neri Church, Sydenham

# NEWSLETTER

Third Sunday of Advent • Year C

**Mass Book** Page 87**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Zephaniah 3: 14-18**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** Philippians 4: 4-7**Gospel** Luke 3: 10-18

## THE LORD IS VERY NEAR

**W**e have no need to worry, and if we ask the Lord for anything he will not refuse us. We can look to the future with confidence and without fear, because the Lord is with us. He is the cause of our happiness. We are a people of hope and joy.

◀ What must we do?

### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

**In the Service of Transmission of Faith** - That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

### MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND FEAST DAYS

Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 <sup>pm</sup>	Celebrating Mollie Lewis' 96th birthday	First Mass of Sunday
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 <sup>am</sup>	Thanksgiving for the Assemien family	Third Sunday of Advent (C)
	11.00 <sup>am</sup>	Rachael Matthews RIP	
	3.00 <sup>pm</sup>	<b>Christingle Service</b>	
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 <sup>am</sup>	Holy Souls	
Tue 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 <sup>am</sup>	Gerry Forde RIP	
	7.00 <sup>pm</sup>	<b>Penitential Service</b>	
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 <sup>am</sup>	Patrick & Marie Laffey RIP	
Thu 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 <sup>am</sup>	Tommy & Kathleen Laffey RIP	
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 <sup>am</sup>	Niamh Costelo RIP	
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00 <sup>am</sup>	Morning Prayer & Exposition	First Mass of Sunday
	9.30 <sup>am</sup>	People of the Parish	
	6:30 <sup>pm</sup>	S <sup>r</sup> . Agnes O'Shea RIP	
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 <sup>am</sup>	Holy Souls	Fourth Sunday of Advent (C) S <sup>t</sup> . John Kanty
	11.00 <sup>am</sup>	Wellbeing of Irene Clarke	

**P**lease note the parish office will be closed from 12<sup>noon</sup> on 21<sup>st</sup> December, and will re-open 9<sup>am</sup> Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Also please note that with immediate effect the Parish email accounts have changed as part of the diocesan GDPR initiative to make Church communications more secure.

**Parish Priest**

Fr Regis Rubaya • regisrubaya@rcaos.org.uk

**Parish Secretary & Hall Enquiries**

Steve Pearce • Mon—Fri, 9am to Noon • sydenham@rcaos.org.uk

**Parish Treasurer**

David Simpson • sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk

**Catholic Club Enquiries**

Margaret Doherty • 07930 889632

208 Sydenham Road, Sydenham, London SE26 5SE • 0208 778 9460

[www.rcchurch.org.uk/sydenham](http://www.rcchurch.org.uk/sydenham) • [www.olspn.church](http://www.olspn.church)

### PRAYERS

Please Pray for the sick and the housebound, for those recently deceased and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. Our blue "Prayers for Wellbeing", and black "Prayers of Remembrance" books are located at the back of the Church.

### CONFESSION

Confession times are: Monday - Friday • 9am, Saturday • 9am & 6pm, Sunday • 9am, and by appointment.

### COLLECTIONS

£381 Not Gift Aided	<i>Last Week</i> £266 Gift Aided	<i>This Week</i> <b>Knights of S<sup>t</sup>. Columbia Charities</b>
£300 Standing Order Gift Aided	£289 <b>Parish Development Fund</b>	<i>Next Week</i> <b>Parish Development Fund</b>

### THE COLLECTION AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

Catholic Priests do not receive a salary in the way that ministers of other denominations do. The collections at the Christmas and Easter Masses are the only source of personal income for Priests. This is the system adopted in Catholic parishes in our Diocese.

An envelope will be attached to next week's newsletter for donations, and if you wish to donate via cheque please make them payable to "St Philip Neri, Sydenham".

If you are on the GIFT AID scheme please use your Gift Aid Christmas Offering envelope. Do not use the envelopes attached to the newsletter, as we will not be able to Gift Aid your donation.

Thank you.

### COME AND WATCH BISHOP BARRON'S TALKS

As a follow up to the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool earlier this year and as a way to help our preparations, during Advent, for Christmas, you are warmly invited to come and watch the inspirational talks that Bishop Robert Barron gave at the Congress. The first talk was shown on 9<sup>th</sup> December after 11<sup>am</sup> Mass and the second talk will be shown on 16<sup>th</sup> December after 11<sup>am</sup> Mass. Both last about 50 minutes, so come and join us - normal teas and coffees will be available.

16<sup>th</sup> December: What makes us holy-The 3 paths

### TAKE SOME TIME TO REFLECT THIS ADVENT

Advent is a very special season of the year, but it can sometimes pass us by, as we're so busy preparing for Christmas. Our diocesan Spirituality Commission has produced a series of short daily emails to help us focus on the true meaning of Advent. To sign up, please visit [www.southwarkdsc.org.uk](http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk)

### NEW YEARS EVE - MONDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER MASS & CELEBRATION PARTY

This year we will be celebrating the New Year with a new Mass at 8<sup>pm</sup>. If you attend this Mass, and would like to join the celebration in our hall afterwards, please contact Paula on 0776 153 0739.

Tickets are free, but a ticket is required for each person (adult or child). 55 of our 150 tickets have already gone. The party is from 8.30<sup>pm</sup> to 1<sup>am</sup>, music will be provided, but please bring your food and drink, which can be left in the hall before Mass.

### ALTAR SERVERS - 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER MASS, 11<sup>AM</sup>

A reminder to all altar servers & their families, that we celebrate being part of the Guild of S<sup>t</sup>. Stephen by attending Mass on S<sup>t</sup>. Stephen's feast day. Thank you.

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH

It is the custom of this parish to donate money for the flowers and decorations of the Church at Christmas in memory of the 'faithful departed'. A Mass will be offered for them after Christmas. Please mark your envelope 'Christmas Flowers' - writing name(s) in block capitals - and pop it in through the presbytery letterbox. Thank you.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION '19

Our next lesson is **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 10<sup>am</sup>** in the hall.

**Chapter 6:** The Word of the Lord.

### CONFIRMATION '19

Our next lesson is **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30<sup>pm</sup>** in the hall.

**Chapter 6:** Baptisms.

### CHRISTMAS IN THE CHURCH

We will be decorating the Church on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December starting at 6<sup>pm</sup>. Anyone from the parish is welcome to join us.

### CARER HELP REQUIRED

A carer for a local parishioner is required. Help is required twice a day, three days a week, between 1-2<sup>pm</sup> and 6.30-7.30<sup>pm</sup> and the carer will be paid £10.20/hour. No experience is required as training is provided. If you are interested please email: [melissa.dyer1@virginmedia.com](mailto:melissa.dyer1@virginmedia.com)

Please do not park in the Church grounds, this is reserved for blue badge holders, or those who need to drop off those with ability considerations. Thank you.

During Mass, please keep your children with you at all times, and accompany small children to the toilet.