

**20<sup>th</sup> December 2020: Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)**



**MARY, YOU HAVE WON GOD'S FAVOUR**

The Lord is always faithful to his promises. From before the time of David right up to the birth of Jesus there is no doubt that the Lord is with his people. That which has been hidden for endless ages is revealed in Jesus Christ, the son of the Virgin Mary.

Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.

**MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS**

Sat 19	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i>
18:30	<b>Martin &amp; Nora Connolly RIP</b>
Sun 20	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)</i>
09.30	<b>Intention of the Walsh family</b>
11.00	<b>Rita Fahy RIP</b>
Mon 21	
09.30	<b>Niamh Costello RIP</b>
Tue 22	
09.30	<b>Pat &amp; Mary Earley RIP</b>
Wed 23	
09.30	<b>Cancio Fernandes RIP</b>
Thu 24	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
18:30	<b>Ludmila's intention remembering Genevieve, Alojzy, Janina, Irena, Frank Taylor &amp; Eva Bread. Bridie &amp; Joe Murray and the children RIP</b>
23:30	
Fri 25	<i>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</i>
09.30	<b>Timothy &amp; Rose Murray RIP</b>
11.00	<b>The deceased of the Smyth Family RIP</b>
Sat 26	<i>Saint † Stephen</i>
09.30	<b>&gt;No Mass&lt;</b>
	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i>
18:30	<b>Intention of the Sweeney Lynch Family</b>
Sun 27	<i>THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH (B)</i>
09.30	<b>Esther Nowak RIP</b>
11.00	<b>Lesley Jane &amp; Divine Mercy</b>

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**

This Week: Apostleship of the Sea    Next Week: Priest's Christmas Collection

**OFFERTORY LAST WEEK**

Gift-Aided: £154    Non Gift-Aided: £202  
 Tap to Donate (GA): £37    Tap to Donate (Non GA): £70  
 Standing Orders: £550

**SECOND COLLECTION LAST WEEK (PETER PENCE)**

Gift-Aided: £66    Non Gift-Aided: £116  
 Tap to Donate (GA): £16    Tap to Donate (Non GA): £5

**MASS COUNT LAST WEEK**

Saturday: 6:30 pm - 36    Sunday: 9.30 am - 54, 11 am - 55

**WAYS YOU CAN DONATE**

**Gift Aid** Tax payers, please sign up. We receive an extra 25p for every £1 you donate. Visit [www.olspn.church](http://www.olspn.church) for details.

**Tap to Donate** Please use the Card Payment Machine in Church Foyer or donate via our website: [www.olspn.church](http://www.olspn.church)

**Standing Order** A/c Name: **RCAS St. Philip Neri Sydenham**  
 Sort Code: **60-21-12**    A/c No: **37298445**

**Cheques** Payable to: **RCAS St. Philip Neri Sydenham**

**Spiritual Thought**

'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me'  
 Repeating a phrase in prayer may make it go deep within us. It is like a favourite piece of music which we can hum over and over again. It is part of us. 'I am the servant of the Lord' was such a phrase for Mary, spoken first at one of the biggest moments in her life. In dry times of prayer, a sentence like that can occupy mind and heart and raise us close to God.

**THE COLLECTION AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES**

Archbishop John recognises that with the various COVID restrictions, parishioners may not be able to attend Mass on Christmas Day, but may come during the Octave period and may want to give something to their priest in the traditional way. Therefore, all of the collections (including electronic giving and standing orders) which are taken on each of the days within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, and up to and including 6th January 2021, will constitute the annual personal Christmas offering of the faithful to their priest. 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'. The Mass on Sunday 31st January 2021 at 11.00am will be offered for them. Please mark your envelope 'Christmas Flowers' – writing name (s) in block capitals. Thank you.

**200 Club**

December's £75 prize winner is Cath Watts(144). The £50 Christmas bonus winner is the Layzell family(74). Congratulations. 😊😊😊

**CONTACT POINTS**

Treasurer David Simpson [sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Secretary Steve Pearce (9 am-12 noon, Mon-Fri) 0208 778 9460 or [sydenham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenham@rcaos.org.uk)  
 Catholic Club Margaret Doherty - 07930 889632  
 Hall Enquiries Praetorium (Rita / Conor) - 01372 427651

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

## FIRST READING – 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 88

**R. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord**

## SECOND READING – Romans 16: 25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL – Luke 1: 26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.