

28th November 2021: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)



YOUR LIBERATION IS NEAR AT HAND.

We have no reason to fear the second coming of Christ if we allow God to teach us how to grow in holiness. We ask God to help us to love one another with generosity and integrity. In this way we can hold our heads high and have the strength to survive all that will happen in our lives; and so when the time comes we will be able to stand with confidence before Christ and his saints.

Your liberation is near at hand.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention - People who suffer from depression

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

Mass Times, Intentions & Feast Days

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| Sat 27 | <i>First Mass of Sunday</i> |
| 18:30 | Brendan Casey RIP |
| Sun 28 | ✠ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) |
| 09.30 | Deceased members of the Knights of St. Columba |
| 11.00 | Theresa Hector RIP |
| Mon 29 | |
| 09.30 | Wellbeing of Benardo V. De Masi Rosary |
| Tue 30 | <i>Saint † Andrew</i> |
| 09.30 | Thomas Carabine RIP Rosary |
| Wed 01 December | |
| 09.30 | Albert & Mary Browne RIP Rosary |
| Thu 02 | |
| 09:30 | All Souls in Purgatory Rosary |
| Fri 03 | <i>Saint Francis Xavier</i> |
| 09.30 | Wellbeing of Giuseppe Casalenuovo Exposition |
| Sat 04 | |
| 09.30 | People of the Parish |
| 18:30 | <i>First Mass of Sunday</i> |
| | Charles Dean RIP |
| Sun 05 | ✠ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) |
| 09.30 | Philip Senior, Philip Junior, and Jan Kiernan RIP |
| 11.00 | Rita Fahy and Lesley Jane RIP |

Sharing Word of God Today

There is a twofold aspect to Advent: it is a time of preparation for Christmas in which the first coming of Jesus is recalled; at the same time, it directs our thoughts to the second coming of Jesus. It is divided into two parts. The first part which runs from the beginning of Advent until December 16, expresses the eschatological aspect of Advent. The second part, which runs from December 17 to December 24, focuses on the first coming of Jesus at Bethlehem. The scripture readings during this time speak of the two comings of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament readings focus on the messianic hope of Israel as it takes shape and grows. The Gospel readings focus on Jesus in whom the messianic prophecies are fulfilled, and on his forerunner, John the Baptist.

First Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

God will send the promised one, the Messiah who will be descended from the stock of David. His reign will be marked by wisdom, justice and integrity. He will inaugurate the reign of God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3: 12 – 4:2

Paul prays that the Thessalonians may deepen the love they have for each other, a love that will then reach out to all people. He urges them to live the life God wants so that they may be blameless in the sight of God when the Lord comes.

Gospel: Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

The early Christians believed that the second coming was near, and would be preceded by cosmic signs. Using apocalyptic imagery borrowed from the Old Testament, Luke describes the second coming of Christ. The disciples are urged to await the Lord's coming with confidence, vigilance and prayer.

First Holy Communion Programme

The next meeting of the children with their catechists will take place on 5 December at 10.00am. On this day the parents will make their commitment at the 11.00am Mass.

Parish Pastoral Council 9th November 2021

In this meeting we discussed:

- The First Holy Communion and Confirmation programme for 2022.
- Preparations for the Christmas period.
- The various projects being undertaken and planned for around the parish
- The new arrangement with the hall, now we have the residency of Lucy Lovett's school of dance.
- The Diocesan Synod and our parish response (please see the update below).
- The latest update from our headteacher Matthew Ringham concerning the school building project.

1st Parish Synodal Meeting 19th November 2021

We had a very useful and productive and first Synodal meeting at which a number of points were raised and suggestions made for consideration.

1) We need to encourage those who currently watch Mass 'online to return in person. Virtual presence is no substitute for real presence.

2) Our parish website is to be refreshed and given a more engaging and welcoming look.

3) To encourage parishioners to take home the newsletter.

4) The parish to make greater use of the Catholic Club.

5) Return to Children's Liturgy in the New Year.
Volunteers needed!

Other areas that were mentioned and may merit further discussion include music in liturgy, youth involvement, evangelization, Christmas celebrations and suggestions for a Celebration of Renewal for Easter 2022.

Christ the King Sixth Forms Christmas appeal

As a community CTK are always called to action, our annual Christmas Toy Appeal aims to make Christmas magic for the children in our local community, by providing them with a gift they may otherwise not have had. CTK and EKC group are happy to announce that we will be running the Christmas Appeal again this year.

CTK won an SFCA Aware for community impact for our Christmas appeal last year, which raised a total of £5,395. The money was split evenly between three charities: St Vincent de Paul Society, Refuge, Demelza Hospice, and a Women's refuge.

For many of us, Christmas is a magical time, however, for the families we support it can often cause added stress and difficulty. Family and financial pressures and the fallout from a challenging year mean many of the families we support are struggling. By supporting our Christmas Toy Appeal, you can make a difference.

For many children, the present they receive from our Toy Appeal is the only one they will get at Christmas. With your support, this year we hope to reach even more families and make Christmas magic for even more children.

Please bring your toys to the Parish, could you also label the presents with age appropriateness. The last day for donation will be Friday 17th December.

Finally, financial contributions are also welcome, and can be given via the CTK finance team. For more details, email: FinanceStaff@ctksfc.ac.uk

The Passage - to ending homelessness

The Passage, a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme. Every £1 donated online between 12.00 noon on Tuesday 30 November and 12.00 noon on Tuesday 7 December makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. At a time when The Passage's finances are stretched and they are helping more homeless people please consider supporting this charity through the link <https://bit.ly/PassageBG2021>

CAFOD

Sign up for our daily Advent reflections: These reflections have been very popular and offer an opportunity to pause and reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Visit our Interactive [online Advent calendar](#) for more details.

Like many women around the world, Garmah in Liberia had no legal rights to her home when her husband died. CAFOD worked with local experts to help her and now Garmah and her children live rightfully and happily together in their family home. "I feel safe, my children have a place to rest their head and I can make a garden to feed them and myself. God sent redeemers to fight for my land rights. I am overfilled with joy." Thank you for your support which enables hundreds of women like Garmah remain in their homes during times of struggle. Other examples of our work can be found in our World Gift catalogues or website worldgifts.cafod.org.uk. Have a wonderful Christmas.

LAST WEEK

Offertory Gift Aided £207 • Not Gift Aided £335

2nd Collection Catholic Youth Services: £262

Mass Count Sat 18:30 (35) • Sun 09.30 (82), 11.00 (134)

THIS WEEK 2nd Collection: **KSC Charities**

NEXT WEEK 2nd Collection: **Pew Kneelers**

DONATING

Gift Aid Tax payers, please sign up. We receive an extra 25p for every £1 you donate. Visit www.olspn.church for details.

Tap to Donate Payment Machine in Church Foyer or www.olspn.church

Standing Order Please contact the parish house for details.

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

CONTACTS

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Secretary Steve Pearce • (9 am-12 noon, Mon to Fri)

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