

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2021: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)**

Mass Book Page <b>87</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Zephaniah 3: 14-18 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Philippians 4: 4-7	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 3: 10-18
Hymns for 11 am Mass	<b>Entrance:</b> 339 <b>Offertory:</b> 731	<b>Communion:</b> 808 <b>Post-Communion:</b> 623
		<b>Recessional:</b> 116



**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?

**The Holy Father's Prayer Intention - For volunteer not-for-profit organisations**

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Mass Times, Intentions & Feast Days

Sat 11 18:30	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i> <b>Julia McDonagh RIP</b>
Sun 12 09.30 11.00	✘ <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)</b> <b>Doffou Nobert Ede RIP</b> <b>Rachael Matthews RIP</b>
Mon 13 09.30	<i>Saint † Lucy</i> <b>Wellbeing of Yolly Sotaridona</b> <b>Rosary</b>
<b>13:45</b>	<b>Junior School Christmas Carol Concert</b>
Tue 14 09.30	<i>Saint John of the Cross</i> <b>Wellbeing of Bridie Hogan</b> <b>Rosary</b>
Wed 15 09.30	<b>Henry &amp; Betty Vaughan RIP</b> <b>Rosary</b>
Thu 16 09:30	<b>Francis Zahringe RIP</b> <b>Rosary</b>
<b>19:30</b>	<b>Service of Reconciliation</b>
Fri 17 09.30	<b>Terry Vaughan RIP</b> <b>Exposition</b>
Sat 18 09.30 <b>10.30</b> 18:30	<b>People of the Parish</b> <b>Mass Servers Training Workshop</b> <i>First Mass of Sunday</i> <b>Wellbeing of Giuseppe Casalenuovo</b>
Sun 19 09.30 11.00	✘ <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)</b> <b>Errol Serpis RIP</b> <b>Luke, Julia, and Pat Fahy RIP</b>

**SHARING WORD OF GOD TODAY**

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday - Gaudete means rejoice. There is a clear note of joy in today's liturgy. The reason of our joy is the nearness of the Lord.

**First Reading (Zeph 3:14-18):** Writing in the seventh century BC, the prophet Zephaniah bids Jerusalem to rejoice because salvation is near. God stands in her midst and will deliver her from her enemies. God is portrayed, not only as a king and warrior, but also as a loving bridegroom, who steadfastly loves his unworthy and unfaithful bride. We too can take heart from this message of hope.

**Second Reading (Phil. 4:4-7):** The theme of joy is even more emphatic in this reading. Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice because the Lord is near. Paul was thinking about the second coming, which he believed was near. There is no need to be anxious or worried. If they need anything, they are to make their requests known to God with prayer and thanksgiving. Then the inexpressible peace of God will stand guard over their hearts and minds.

**Gospel (Luke 3:10-18):** The theme of the nearness of Lord is also at the heart of the Gospel. John the Baptist tells the people what they must do in order to prepare for the Lord's coming and to escape his searching judgement. At the same time he makes it clear that he is subordinate to Jesus.

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR 2022**

Applications are invited from all parents with children ready to receive the sacrament of confirmation. Application forms will be sent out by email to those

who ask for them. We hope to begin the programme of preparing children for confirmation in January 2022.

### SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

It is almost two years since we last held a service of reconciliation in our parish, and so this year we will hold our Christmas Service of Reconciliation on Thursday 16th December at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

### MASS SERVERS

We are happy that more and more children are coming forward to serve at Mass. To help these children to carry out their ministry effectively, we will hold a training workshop for our children on 18th December at 10.30 am.

### MISSIO CALENDARS 2022

We have Missio Calendars on the table at the back of the church. Please take one for yourself and another for a friend. This calendar can help you to keep appointments. It can help you to follow the daily feasts, saint days and major hold days of the church.

### 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 30<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am will be offered for them. Please mark your envelope 'Christmas Flowers' – writing name(s) in block capitals - and pop it in through the presbytery letterbox. Thank you.

### CHURCH DECORATION FOR CHRISTMAS

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Thursday 23 December at 7 pm. All are welcome to join in.

### OUR SAINTS OF THIS WEEK

#### Monday 13th December: St Lucy

St Lucy dedicated herself to Christ at a young age, but was denounced as a Christian and martyred after she resisted a would be rapist. One version of the story says that Lucy whose name means "light", blinded herself to deter her attacker, entrusting herself to the Light of Christ.

#### Tuesday 14th December: St John of the Cross.

St John of the Cross was a Carmelite priest, spiritual director, writer, mystic, and reformer who lived during the early years of the Counter-Reformation. His prose and poetry express a deep wisdom learned from his personal experience of the paschal mystery. His efforts at reform met with opposition, misunderstanding, and even imprisonment- the fate of so many prophets, including John the Baptist. Advent reminds us of the paradox of light revealed in the darkness. Our journey of faith always includes both.

### RIGHT TO LIFE UK

The abortion lobby are now running a large campaign in the media to put pressure on the Government to make temporary 'DIY' abortion schemes permanent before the end of the year. It is therefore vital that as many MPs as possible write to the Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, asking the Government to end these dangerous 'DIY' abortion schemes.

Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website today which makes it easy for you to send an email to your MP asking them to write to Sajid Javid. Please visit [www.righttolife.org.uk/endDIY](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/endDIY) to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds.

Please join us in this prayer:

"Today we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of the unborn. We ask for her guidance and inspiration as we, the Church, seek to support all pregnant mothers and unborn children, and that we would become models of support to all in society."

#### LAST WEEK

##### Offertory

Gift Aided **£169** • Not Gift Aided **£375**

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection

Pew Kneelers: **£199**

##### Mass Count

Sat 18:30 (37) • Sun 09.30 (81), 11.00 (144)

##### THIS WEEK

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: **Pew Kneelers**

##### NEXT WEEK

2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.olspn.church) for details.

##### Tap to Donate

Payment Machine in Church Foyer or [www.olspn.church](http://www.olspn.church)

##### Standing Order

Please contact the parish house for details.

##### Cheques

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

#### CONTACTS

##### Treasurer

David Simpson • [sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk)

##### Secretary

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##### Catholic Club

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##### Hall Enquiries

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