

**19<sup>th</sup> December 2021: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)**

Mass Book Page <b>90</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Micah 5: 1-4 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Hebrews 10: 5-10	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 1: 39-45	
Hymns for 11 am Mass	<b>Entrance:</b> 339 <b>Offertory:</b> 733	<b>Communion:</b> 111 <b>Post-Communion:</b> 329	<b>Recessional:</b> 824



**MARY, MOTHER OF THE LORD**

**M**ary does the will of God perfectly. When God speaks to her she is quick to obey, and in her flesh God's Word becomes incarnate. Of all women Mary is the most blessed because she believed that God's promises would be fulfilled in the humblest of his creatures. She was for Elizabeth the cause of her joy. She is the same for us.

Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

**The Holy Father's Prayer Intention - Catechists**

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mass Times, Intentions & Feast Days	
Sat 18 18:30	<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>
Mon 20 09.30	<b>John Sullivan RIP</b> <b>Rosary</b>
Tue 21 09.30	<b>The Deceased Members of the Doran Family</b> <b>Rosary</b>
Wed 22 09.30	<b>Elizabeth Dunman RIP</b> <b>Rosary</b>
Thu 23 09:30	<b>Lional Bay RIP</b> <b>Rosary</b>
Fri 24 10.30	<b>Francesca M. De Masi RIP</b> <b>Exposition</b>
<b>THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS</b>	
<b>18:30</b>	<i>Vigil Mass</i>
<b>23:30</b>	<b>Intention of Adam Dancau D'Souza</b> <i>Carol Service followed by Midnight Mass</i> <b>For the deceased family and friends of Ludmila Przybylek</b>
Sat 25 09.30 11.00 18:30	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> <b>Carl &amp; Christine Burrows RIP</b> <b>Wellbeing of the Smyth Family</b> <i>First Mass of Sunday</i> <b>Mass</b>
Sun 26 09.30 11.00	✘ <b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (C)</b> <b>Steve Florence RIP</b> <b>Paul McCarthy RIP</b>

**SHARING WORD OF GOD TODAY**

**First Reading (Micah 5:1-4):** When Micah was writing (late eight-century BC) Jerusalem was under siege and David's dynasty was in jeopardy. But he said that salvation would come from a comparatively insignificant place – Bethlehem . From there a new leader would come to gather together the scattered exiles and unite the nations once more. We see this oracle as foreshadowing the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who was born in Bethlehem and descended from the line of David.

**Second Reading (Heb 10: 5-10):** This reading states that Jesus didn't come to offer the sacrifices of the old law, but to do the will of God. His sacrifice was essentially one of obedience, (an obedience which meant accepting death on a cross). His one perfect sacrifice did what the sacrifices of the Mosaic Law were unable to do; it brought about the reconciliation between God and his people.

**Gospel (Luke 1:39-45):** The story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth is an appendage to the two annunciation stories, and brings together the mothers affected by them. Mary is portrayed as making her way in haste – a haste inspired by friendship and charity but yet more by her recognition of a divine invitation. At Mary's greeting Elizabeth felt the infant stir in her womb. This indicates the connection there is between John and Jesus. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognises the blessedness of Mary and hints at the uniqueness of the child she has conceived.

## 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 is attached to this week's newsletter for donations, and if you wish to donate via cheque please make them payable to "RCAS St Philip Neri, Sydenham". If you are on the GIFT AID scheme please use your Gift Aid Christmas Offering envelope or enter your Gift Aid number on the attached envelope. Thank you.

## CRIB OFFERING - CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Throughout the pandemic the Catholic Children's Society (CCS) has provided emergency support for thousands of vulnerable children and families. Their Southwark Crisis Fund provides immediate help for local families who are facing real hardship and have nowhere else to turn.

Every penny you donate will go into the Catholic Children's Society's Southwark Crisis Fund to provide emergency support for families in our Archdiocese.

Our Crib Offering box will be placed at Our Lady's chapel next week, or if you would prefer to donate online please visit [www.cathchild.org.uk/crib](http://www.cathchild.org.uk/crib)

## 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.

## PARISH SECRETARY

Please note the parish secretary will not be in the office from Monday 27th December to Friday 7 January 2022.

## 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.

## 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:

"As we celebrate this Christmas season, we pray especially for all expectant parents who are worried about the practical means of supporting their child, that they would find hope and consolation in the story of the Holy Family and, by the power of God, be able to overcome all obstacles."

### LAST WEEK

**Offertory** Gift Aided **£136** • Not Gift Aided **£241**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection** Pew Kneelers: **£209**

**Mass Count** Sat 18:30 (41) • Sun 09.30 (94), 11.00 (63)

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

**NEXT WEEK** 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: **Christmas Offering**

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

0208 778 9460 • [sydenham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenham@rcaos.org.uk)

**Catholic Club** Margaret Doherty • 07930 889632

**Hall Enquiries** Praetorium (Rita / Conor) • 01372 457651