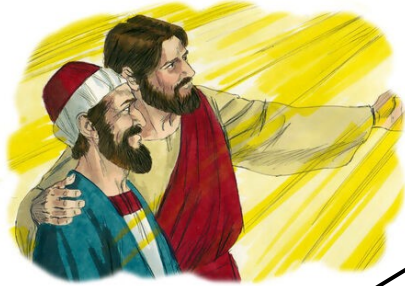


27th NOVEMBER 2022: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Mass Book Page 82	1 st Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5 2 nd Reading: Romans 13: 11-14	Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44	
Hymns for 11 am Mass	Entrance: 112 Communion: 989	Gospel Acclamation: 710 Post-Communion: 111	Offertory: 932 & 873 Recessional: 84

Be Prepared!



During Advent we prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ. We make ourselves ready as the new homes into which he will come. The long hours of waiting are nearly over and the dawn of our salvation is about to break. Soon we will walk in the light of the Lord.

Stay awake so that you may be ready.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention - For children who suffer

We pray for the children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

Mass Times, Intentions & Feast Days

Sat 26	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i> 18:30 All Souls in Purgatory
Sun 27	✠ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) 09.30 Birthday thanksgiving for Desiree Paraiso 11.00 Theresa Hector RIP
Mon 28	09.30 Jerzy Kielek [Ieshi Kyewek] RIP Rosary
Tue 29	09.30 Brendan & Colum Earley RIP Rosary
Wed 30	<i>Saint Andrew</i> 09.30 Forgotten Souls in Purgatory RIP Rosary
Thu 01	09.30 Albert & Mary Browne RIP Rosary
Fri 02	09.30 Intention of Teresa Strolla Exposition
Sat 03	<i>Saint Francis Xavier</i> 09.30 Wellbeing for Andrew King 18:30 <i>First Mass of Sunday</i> Charles Dean RIP
Sun 04	✠ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) 09.30 Antoine Paraiso RIP 11.00 Wellbeing & Birthday Intention for Nell Higgins

Sharing the Word

Advent: Advent is a time when, as a Church, we journey together and realise our need for the Lord to save us. It is the same plea of the disciples to a sleeping Jesus on the storm-torn Sea of Galilee: "Save us, Lord, we are going down" (Mt 8:25). We all have our personal storms, where we tend to feel God is asleep in the middle of the messiness and mayhem of our lives. Our Church has been navigating a seemingly endless journey through choppy waters. Advent enables us to see the present world as a signpost to a larger reality. Advent gives us a glimpse of hope amidst the ruins in our lives. Advent anticipates and waits for Christ's return, who pledges a solemn promise to free us from all that corrupts and defaces our personal and collective lives. (SacredSpace)

First Reading: Today's passage from the prophet Isaiah contains a vision of a world at peace under God. We have the image of nations turning their weapons of war (swords and spears) into farm implements (ploughshares and sickles). But this can happen only when all nations come to the mountain of the Lord. It is Israel's task to focus attention on Yahweh, the merciful God who desires the unity of the nations. And so Israel is called to walk in the light of the Lord. The messianic blessings are meant for all the nations.

Second Reading: The theme is that of the second coming of Jesus. The first Christians believed that this was imminent. Paul urges the Romans to turn away from the darkness of evil, and to walk in the light of Christ.

The reading continues the theme of walking in the light of the Lord, which is mentioned in the first reading.

Gospel: The gospel emphasises the importance of readiness. Since the exact time of the Lord's coming is not known, the disciples are urged to be ready to greet him at any time. The phrases 'stay awake' and 'stand ready', convey a sense of urgency.

Recently Deceased

Anne Murtagh was called to the Lord on 9th November 2022. The requiem mass for her will be celebrated on 8th December at Our Lady and St Philip Neri church.

Cleaning of Altar Servers' Garments

When I appealed for help with the cleaning of the altar servers' albs, several members of the parish came forward and washed these garments. We would like this to be a permanent ministry. This service needs to be coordinated so that we do not have the same albs washed over and over again. I am therefore kindly asking all those who would like to take up this ministry on a permanent basis to submit their names to me so we can come together to organize how we will carry out this important service.

First Holy Communion Programme 2022-23

We meet in the hall on Sun 4th Dec at 10am for, Chapter 3: Celebrating our rescue (Reconciliation).

Confirmation Programme 2022-23

We meet in the parish house on Sat 3rd Dec at 5pm for, Session Three: To know Jesus.

St. Christopher's Hospice

Support your local hospice in remembrance of our loved ones. You are invited to dedicate a light and gather together with family, friends and those not yet met at St Christopher's Hospice this winter. For the first time in three years, our supporters will gather to light up the trees at our events in Orpington (Sun 27th Nov) and Sydenham (Sun 4th Dec). Each light is a visible sign of hope and a way to remember those who have died and are never forgotten. Coming together to remember those we love and whose memory remains with us is a shared act both of celebration and grief. To dedicate a light in memory of someone you love, and to register for the events visit: www.stchristophers.org.uk/lights

Manna Society

We have a golden opportunity to increase our funding by 100% this Christmas! The Aviva Community Fund have very kindly offered to match £ for £ on all donations we receive (up to a maximum of £250) until 28th December.

We would like to raise one month's running cost £40,800. This figure ties in very nicely as we have been offering our services to the homeless & those in need since 1982 - 40 years. To donate visit: www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/the-manna-day-centre.

A free short reflection for each day of Advent

Advent can be such a busy demanding time, but we encourage you to make some space to reflect and pray this advent. Sign up for our free Southwark Diocesan 'daily advent reflections' to aid your prayer. Every day during advent you will receive an email with a very brief thought for the day based on the daily reading. It is an opportunity to listen to Gods invitation to you this advent. All you have to do is sign up and then set aside a couple of minutes each day to reflect! Sign up via the Commission web site: <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/> clicking on the Advent Reflection box. Alternatively, if you are viewing this online, you can sign up directly by clicking here: <https://southwarkdsc.us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=a3e1dce7f8f666e9d64edd867&id=4f880b3b9c>

Westminster Cathedral Fundraising

The Friends of Westminster Cathedral are raising funds towards the cost of replacing the sanctuary floodlighting. It is very old, replacement parts are not available and it uses a great deal of power generating a huge output of heat. There is a unique opportunity to do this through 'The Big Give' where donations made online after 12:00 noon, Tuesday 29th Nov to 12:00 noon, Tuesday 6th Dec are matched by generous funders. A donation of £100 would contribute £200 or £225 for taxpayers agreeing to gift aid their donation. Please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/FriendsBG22>

Last Week

Offertory: Gift Aided: £173, Not Gift Aided: £289

Mass Count: Sat (58), Sun 09.30 (93), 11.00 (149)

Second Collection

Last week: Youth Sunday (£248)

This week: None

Next Week: None

Donate

Gift Aid: Tax payers, please sign up, so we can claim 25p for every £1 donated. Email Treasurer for details.

Card: Card Machine in Church Foyer or www.olspn.church

Standing Order: Email Treasurer for details.

Cheque: Payable to 'RCAS Sydenham'

Contact

David Simpson, Treasurer: sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk

Steve Pearce, Secretary: weekdays 9^{am}-12^{noon}

sydenham@rcaos.org.uk

Margaret Doherty, Catholic Club: 07930 889632