

## 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Mass Book Page <b>85</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 15: 4-9	Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12	
Hymns for 11 am Mass	Entrance: 94 Communion: 989	Gospel Acclamation: 710 Post-Communion: 78	Offertory: 892 & 603 Recessional: 116



### Prepare a way for the Lord!

We prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ through repentance. We are called to change the pattern of our lives in order to be ready when he comes. John the Baptist calls us to look again at our lives, to make sure that the Lord will have no obstacle in his path.

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

### 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 03	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i> 18:30 Charles Dean & Kathleen Johnson RIP
Sun 04	✠ <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)</b> 09.30 Antoine Paraiso RIP 11.00 Wellbeing & Birthday Intention for Nell Higgins
Mon 05	09.30 Wellbeing for Ria and her family Rosary
Tue 06	09.30 William Annie & Liz Doran RIP Rosary
Wed 07	<i>Saint Ambrose</i> 09.30 Wellbeing of Jennelle Campbell Rosary
Thu 08	<i>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i> 09.30 In honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary Rosary
Fri 09	09.30 Francis X Zahringe RIP Exposition
Sat 10	09.30 People of the Parish 18:30 <i>First Mass of Sunday</i> Richard Marbaix RIP
Sun 11	✠ <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)</b> 09.30 Thanksgiving for Jean, Pauline, Priscilla, Rosemonde & Pierre-Marie Assemien 11.00 Rita Fahy & Lesley and Jane RIP

#### Sharing the Word

**First Reading:** The reign of David was the high point in the history of Israel. But his successors failed wretchedly. Still, the hope remained that a future king would succeed where his predecessors failed. Isaiah foretells that even though the family tree of Jesse (David's father) has been reduced to a mere stump, nevertheless from that stump a new shoot will spring. The new king will be filled the Spirit of Yahweh and he will be endowed with the virtues of his ancestors; the wisdom and understanding of Solomon, the prudence and might of David, the knowledge and fear of the Lord of the patriarchs and prophets. Endowed with these gifts, he will judge fairly and be the champion of the poor.

**Second Reading:** Paul sees Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promises. He emphasises the important of the value of hope. Those who hope refuse to give up. By urging us to great others in the same friendly way Christ treated us, the reading continues the theme of peace and of harmony of the First reading.

**Gospel:** Jesus is the one who fulfils the Old Testament promises. John the Baptist appears in today's gospel. John is preaching in the wilderness as Isaiah had foretold, and baptising with water in anticipation of the one who would baptise with the Holy Spirit. John is presented as the Elijah who was to come. John's message is: Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.

### Christmas Church Decoration

We are decorating our Church for Christmas on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6pm. All are welcome to join in.

### Recently Deceased

Anne Murtagh was called to the Lord on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The requiem mass for her will be celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10am for, Chapter 4: God helps me get it right (Reconciliation).

### Confirmation Programme 2022-23

We meet in the parish house on Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Dec at 5pm for, Session Four: To know the Holy Spirit.

### 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 27<sup>th</sup> Nov) and Sydenham (Sun 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 28<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 29<sup>th</sup> Nov to 12:00 noon, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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: £185, Not Gift Aided: £386

**Mass Count:** Sat (59), Sun 09.30 (90), 11.00 (88)

Second Collection

**Last week: None**

**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](http://www.olspn.church)

**Standing Order:** Email Treasurer for details.

**Cheque:** Payable to 'RCAS Sydenham'

Contact

**David Simpson,** Treasurer: [sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk)

**Steve Pearce,** Secretary: weekdays 9<sup>am</sup>-12<sup>noon</sup>

[sydenham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenham@rcaos.org.uk)

**Margaret Doherty,** Catholic Club: 07930 889632