

10th DECEMBER 2023: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Mass book: p85 1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3: 8-14 Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

11am Mass Hymns	Entrance: 94 Gloria: 489	Gospel Accl. ⁿ : 72 Communion: 892	Offertory: 116 & 902 Post-Communion: 112	Euch. ^c Prayer: 490 Recessional: 341
--------------------	-----------------------------	--	---	--



Prepare a way for the Lord!

We prepare each day of our lives for the coming of the Lord. We are called to straighten out those things in our behaviour and attitudes that prevent us from living holy and saintly lives. The Lord promises a new heaven, and new earth, where he will reign for ever. This is the source of our joy.

Make his paths straight.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention - For person with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

Mass Times, Intentions & Feast Days

Sat 09 18:30	First Mass of Sunday Charles Dean RIP
Sun 10 09.30 11.00	✠ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) Wellbeing - Dyer family Rose Zinder's Intention
Mon 11 09.30	Wellbeing - Bridie Horgan Rosary
Tue 12 09.30	Mr & Mrs O'Connor RIP Rosary
Wed 13 09.30	Saint † Lucy Francis X Zahringe RIP Rosary
Thu 14 09.30	Saint John of the Cross Thanksgiving - Our Lady of Vailankanni Rosary
19:00 Fri 15 09.30	Service of Reconciliation Mary McCarthy RIP Exposition
Sat 16 09.30 18:30	People of the Parish First Mass of Sunday Wellbeing - Rodneal Dyer
Sun 17 09.30 11.00	✠ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) Birthday Blessing - Pope Francis Rachael Matthews RIP

Prayer Requests

If you request for yourself or an immediate family member to be listed in the Parish Newsletter, it will run for a month per request. Please send an email to: regisrubaya@rcaos.org.uk.

Sharing the Word

First Reading

This is a message of hope and consolation addressed to the exiles in Babylon. At that time there was little hope, and yet the prophet assures the people that God is about to come to set them free and lead them back to their land. The reading includes a call to repentance. People are urged to make a straight highway for God, which means to change their way of life.

Second Reading

Today's second reading assures us that God is patient and does not use the same timetables we do. In divine reality one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The delay is so that all have time to accept the transforming love of God that enables them to reshape their lives.

Gospel

Mark begins his gospel by affirming the identity of Jesus. He is the Christ and the Son of God. He then introduces us to Jesus' forerunner, John the Baptist. John appears in the desert and announces the coming of one far greater than he, who will pour out the gift of the Spirit. He urges the people to prepare for the

imminent coming of the Saviour by a radical conversion that finds symbolic expression in baptism. John wore a garment made of camel-skin, and his food was locusts and wild honey, indicating that he is the Elijah who was to come.

Bromley Borough Foodbank

They have contacted me to say they will not send 50 food hampers any more

"We hoped to have about 50 people as well. We did not have many people nominated this year in your postcode area. Some are much further in Mottingham, Bromley, Orpington and far away from your Parish. It is a real shame but we are extremely grateful for the support. We look forward to working with your church in the future"

About 20 parishioners had volunteered to deliver the food hampers on 17th December. Now we will not need so many people. We will show respect to the senior members of the parish and not include them. The following will deliver the food hampers on behalf of our parish community.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Phil Cavanagh | 2. Katalin Gego |
| 3 Tina Maduaka | 4 Chukwuma Onyekwelu |
| 5 Stanley Akhagbemhe | 6 David Moran |
| 7 Valeria and Salvatore | 8 Avril Vaz |
| 9 Joseph Jemmotte | 10 Philip Ross |

The food hampers will be picked up from the presbytery on Sunday 17th December at 1.00pm

Sick and Housebound

If your neighbour or anyone you know is unable to attend mass because they are in poor health, please let Fr Regis know and he will take them Holy Communion.

Decorating the Church for Christmas

Our usual group of volunteers will be decorating our Church on Thursday 21st December at 7pm.

However, if you would like to join in, just pop along - the more the merrier.

Altar Servers Christmas Practice

This will be held on Saturday 23rd December at 10.30am in the Church.

Children's Books Appeal

We would like to restart the practice of providing suitable religious books for young children to look at and enjoy during Mass.

This is an appeal to parishioners to donate books which can be left at the back of the church for children to choose from, when they come to Mass.

If each family brought just one book this would provide a large enough selection.

Thank you.

Foodbank Appeal

The SVP and Knights of St Columba are appealing for food items for the Lewisham Foodbank on the 16th and 17th of December 2023.

Urgently needed items (No Pork Please)

UHT Milk (Semi-skimmed or Full Fat ONLY), Non-Dairy Milk, Long-Life Juice, Cereal, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Sweetcorn, Tinned Pulses, Tinned Meat, Halal Canned Meat, Tinned Fish, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Rice Pudding, Biscuits, Rice, Cooking Oil, Pasta Sauce, Tea Bags, Vegetarian Meals (Non-Perishable), Shower Gel, Toilet Rolls, Sanitary Towels (No Tampons) Nappies, Baby Wipes, Washing Up Liquid, Strong Carrier Bags.

Christmas Flowers

It is customary in this parish to make donations for the flowers and decorations for the Church at Christmas in memory of the 'faithful departed'.

The 11am Mass on Sunday 28th January is dedicated to them. Please mark your envelope "Christmas Flowers", and write the name (s) of those being remembered in block capitals. Please post your envelope at the parish house.

Last Week

Offertory: Gift Aided: £139, Not Gift Aided: £328

Mass Count: Sat (55), Sun 09.30 (90), 11.00 (88)

Second Collection

Last week: Church Heating Fund (£330)

This week: Church Heating Fund

Next Week: Church Heating Fund

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

Steven Pearce

Secretary: weekdays 9^{am}-12^{noon}

sydenham@rcaos.org.uk

Margaret Doherty

Catholic Club: 07930 889632