

17th DECEMBER 2023: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

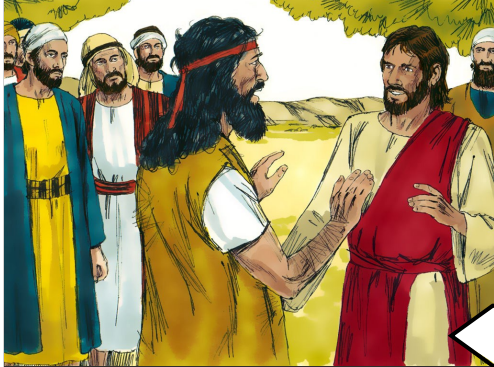
Mass book: p87 1st Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

11am Mass
Hymns

Entrance: 100
Gloria: 489
Gospel Accl.ⁿ: 72
Communion: 339

Offertory: Hymn Sheet & 902
Post-Communion: 881

Euch.^c Prayer: 490
Recessional: 864



Be happy at all times!

Happiness is our birthright as Christians. We give thanks to God for the Holy Spirit who lives in us and makes us aware of our wonderful mission to spread the Good News of redemption. The Spirit brings us deep peace, because the God who called us will not fail us.

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

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 16 18:30	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
Mon 18 09.30	Wellbeing - Susan Murphy Rosary
Tue 19 09.30	Michael Lynch RIP Rosary
Wed 20 09.30	Wellbeing - Margaret Fisher Rosary
Thu 21 09.30	Deceased of Kouadjo, Ndoman & Assemien families Rosary
Fri 22 09.30	David Courtney RIP Exposition
Sat 23 09.30 18:30	Birthday Blessings - Irene Clark First Mass of Sunday Deceased of Lee and Connelly families
Sun 24 09.30 11.00	✠ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) Tim & Rose Murray RIP Jack & Mary McCarthy and Anna Murphy McCarthy RIP
18:30	VIGIL MASS Rita & Joseph Rajakariar RIP
23:30	MIDNIGHT MASS Genevieve, Alojzy, Janina and Irine Przybylek 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

The writer declares that he has been sent by God to usher in the age of salvation for Jerusalem and all God's people. He is anointed with the Spirit of God to proclaim good tidings to the poor, that is, the afflicted of every kind. Jesus used this prophecy to announce the programme of his own ministry. (Luke 4: 16-21)

Second Reading

This is taken from the end of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. Paul summarises the life he recommends for them: a life characterised by joy, prayer, and thankfulness. He prays that God will enable them to live good and holy lives as they await the second coming of Christ.

Gospel

The subject of the gospel is the same as that of last Sunday: the witness of John the Baptist who summons all to faith in Jesus. John comes as a witness to the light. The Baptist declares that he is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah, who was expected to precede the Messiah, nor is he the prophet like Moses, who was to come. He is merely the voice of the wilderness prophet

of Isaiah (40:3). His task is to prepare the way for the Messiah, who is already among the people, though they do not recognise him.

Christmas Service of Reconciliation

We came together for our service of reconciliation on Thursday evening. It was a wonderful time to come into the presence of the merciful Father and to hear him say, "I absolve you from all your sins, go and try not to sin again." I would like to say, thank you to all those who were able to attend the service of reconciliation.

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 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.

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 6pm.**

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.

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.

Parish Secretary

The secretary will be away on leave from Saturday 23rd December to Sunday 7th January 2024.

Last Week

Offertory: Gift Aided: £144, Not Gift Aided: £301

Mass Count: Sat (47), Sun 09.30 (115), 11.00 (80)

Second Collection

Last week: **Church Heating Fund (£320)**

This week: **Church Heating Fund**

Next Week: **Church Heating Fund**

Christmas Masses: **Christmas Offering**

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