

## 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) / THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS (B)

Mass book: p90    1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16    2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 16: 25-27    Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

11am Mass  
Hymns

Entrance: Hymn Sheet  
Gloria: 489

Gospel Accl.<sup>n</sup>: 72  
Communion: 113

Offertory: 107 & 88  
Post-Communion: 111

Euch.<sup>c</sup> Prayer: 490  
Recessional: 366



### Mary, you have won God's favour

The Lord is always faithful to his promises. From before the time of David right up to the birth of Jesus there is no doubt that the Lord is with his people. That which has been hidden for endless ages is revealed in Jesus Christ, the son of the Virgin Mary.

Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.

### 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 23 18:30	First Mass of Sunday Deceased of Lee and Connelly families
Sun 24 09:30 11:00	✠ <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</b> Tim & Rose Murray RIP Jack & Mary McCarthy and Anna Murphy McCarthy RIP <b>THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS</b>

#### 18:30 VIGIL MASS

Rita & Joseph Rajakariar RIP

#### 23:30 MIDNIGHT MASS

Genevieve, Alojzy, Janina and Irine Przybylek RIP

#### Mon 25 ✠ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

10:30 Luke, Julia & Rita Fahy & Lesley Jane RIP  
Rosary

#### Tue 26 Saint † Stephen

09:30 Steve Florence  
Rosary

#### Wed 27 Saint † John

09:30 Paul McCarthy RIP  
Rosary

#### Thu 28 The Holy Innocents

09:30 Intention of the Cherry family  
Rosary

#### Fri 29 Saint Thomas of Canterbury

09:30 Intention of the Lynch family  
Exposition

#### Sat 30

09:30 People of the Parish  
18:30 First Mass of Sunday  
Intention of the Walsh family

#### Sun 31 ✠ THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH (B)

09:30 Birthday Thanksgiving - Jean Assemien  
11:00 Shelia & Patrick O'Driscoll

### 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](mailto:regisrubaya@rcaos.org.uk).

### Sharing the Word

#### First Reading

Now that David was king of a united country, with Jerusalem as the capital, he set about building a house (temple) for the Lord. But the Lord pre-empted David's plan. Instead it is the Lord who will build a dynasty for David, a dynasty that will last forever. God's promise to David was fulfilled in Jesus. Gabriel's words to Mary echo the words of God's promise to David. Jesus fulfilled the messianic hope of Israel, and now he fulfils our hopes.

#### Second Reading

The three verses from Paul's letter to the Romans remind us that human beings, cannot understand how God works within human history. The mystery of God is revealed in the person of Jesus the Christ, the one whose mystery we ponder this season.

#### Gospel

Luke is the only evangelist who recounts for us the annunciation of the births of both John the Baptist and Jesus. Today we focus on Mary's response to the announcement that she will give birth to a son and name him Jesus, and that he will be recognized as "Son

of the Most High." Further Mary is told that the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Mary is the model disciple; one who hears the word of God and does it.

### Christmas Message from Archbishop John Wilson

Archbishop John Wilson has recorded his annual Christmas message for the Archdiocese, calling for us all to embrace prayer and welcome Christ into our hearts. He reminds us that: "if we ask, we will be heard. If we seek, we will be found. If we knock, the Lord Jesus will open the door". So, let 2024 be the year we all give prayer a go and welcome Christ into our hearts. To read or watch the message, head to [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk) or use the QR code on the left.



### 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.

### 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> December to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

### Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning in the parish house will be after 9.30am Mass on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Do come for a cuppa, biscuit and a chat.

### 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. There are envelopes at the back of church 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.

Last Week

**Offertory:** Gift Aided: £141, Not Gift Aided: £354

**Mass Count:** Sat (48), Sun 09.30 (102), 11.00 (103)

Second Collection

**Last week: Church Heating Fund (£259)**

**This week: None**

*Christmas Masses: Christmas Offering*

**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**

**Steven Pearce**

**Margaret Doherty**

Treasurer: [sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk)

Secretary: weekdays 9<sup>am</sup>-12<sup>noon</sup>

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

Catholic Club: 07930 889632