

21st December 2025: © 4th Sunday Of Advent

Mass book: P 90

Preface: II P 66

Eucharistic Prayer II P 24

9.30am Hymns at the back of this Newsletter: Entrance: Offertory: Post-Communion: Recessional

11.00am Hymns: Gathering: 113, Entrance: 100, Gospel Acclamation: Prepare ye the way, Offertory: 339 and 88, Communion: 607, Post Communion: 989, Final: 880

Mass Times, Intentions & Feast Days

SAT 20th

09.30 Mass: Sally Kennedy- Well being
10:00 Rosary
18.30 Mass: First Mass of Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Margaret Healy RIP

SUN 21st Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30 Mass: Heather Browne: Welfare
11.00 Mass: Noel Howe-Well being

MON 22nd

09.30 Mass: Samuel Lowel RIP
10.00 Rosary

TUES 23rd

09.30 Mass: Irene Clarke - Birthday Blessings
10.00 Rosary

WED 24th Christmas Eve

09.30 Mass: Samuel Lowel RIP
18.30 Vigil Mass Mary & Peter McDonagh RIP
23.30 Midnight Mass Special Intention

THURS 25th Christmas Day Holiday of Obligation

10.30 Mass: The Nativity of the Lord
 Margaret Healy RIP, Rose Green RIP

FRI 26th St Stephen The First Martyr

09.30 Mass: Steve Florence RIP
10:00 Rosary

SAT 27th St John, Apostle and Evangelist

09.30 Mass: Intention of the Walsh family
10:00 Rosary
18.30 First Mass of Sunday Paul McCarthy RIP

SUN 28th Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9.30 Mass: Intention of Sweeney Lynch Family
11.00 Mass: Noel Abeydeera - Birthday

If you request for yourself or an immediate family member to be listed in the Parish Newsletter, please send an email to: gregoryackron@rcaos.org.uk.

Please Pray for the wellbeing of:

Ann Baker, Henry & Philomena Hutcheon, Nkechi Roberts, Margaret Doherty, Kathleen Edkins, Germani Vemalaragni, Steven Pearce, Carol Bonehill, Kamila Silke, Elizabeth De Masi, Matilda Ongutu, Irene Clark, Heather Browne

Please Pray for those who have died recently:

James (Jim) Darmody, Ann Manly-Rollings, Giorgina Mabea, Albert James McElroy, Etelvina Rodrigues, Ann Maria Jalees, Sam Lowell, Tony Rawsthorne, Adam Taylor, Iris Scott

Sick & Housebound

If your neighbour or anyone you know is unable to attend Mass because of poor health, please inform Fr Gregory and he will take them Holy Communion.

Sharing The Word

This year is gradually coming to an end. We have lived through it with all the challenges it poses to us individually and collectively as parishioners. We are constantly called upon to make a decision like Ahaz in the first reading and Joseph in the Gospel reading. Ahaz made a choice based on human convenience but Joseph's choice was in obedience to God's command.

I thank all parishioners who have supported our parish and continue to do so either in cash or kind. All our volunteers have worked tirelessly to keep our parish going. The parish social events during the Summer and before Christmas brought many parishioners together in joyful celebrations. The choices we have made are indeed for the growth of our parish and for the glory of God. May the lord continue to grant all of us good health, Grace and peace.

I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Fr Gregory

Catholic Women Praying Together (CWPT)

Join **CWPT Group at Our Lady & St. Philip Neri Church** every 4th Sunday of the Month, after 11 am Mass. See you all there.

December (No meeting)

The Collections at Christmas Masses

The collections at Christmas and Easter Masses are the main source of personal income for the priests.

An envelop for making these donations was attached to last week's newsletter and further supplies of the envelop are available at the back of the church.

If you are a GIFT AIDER please enter your Gift Aid number on the envelop.

Forgotten your Gift Aid number? Email the treasurer on: sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk

Christmas Feast

The Christmas Feast last Sunday in the hall was a wonderful occasion. So many people working together made it happen. Too many to mention individually! The Balloon Arch was a work of art! The enthusiasm and attendance encourages us to organise future parish events Any ideas or comments please email Robert at: roberthero1@hotmail.com

Sacrament of Reconciliation

There will be confessions before and after each Mass (except on Sundays) throughout Advent.

Christmas Flowers

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

The 9.30 mass on Sunday 11 January - The Baptism of the Lord - is dedicated to them. Please mark your envelope "Christmas Flowers" and write the name(s) of those being remembered in block caps. Please post your envelope through the door of the parish house.

Sydenham Catholic Social Club

Just nearby in Watlington Grove - 2 minutes walk.

Available for hire at weekends, during the week for celebrations, funerals, any special occasions or business use.

Call Mags on 07930 889632

The Club opens for drinks and socialising with friends at weekends. Come and join us on Fridays at 7-11pm, Saturdays 4pm to 12.00am (live music) and Sundays 12.00 noon - 11pm

WALK WITH ME

A journey of Prayer for the Advent Jubilee 2025.

These booklets (£1.50 each) are available at the back of the Church in the CTS stand.

Offertory:

Cash collections

Gift Aided: £169, Not Gift Aided: £362

Second Collection: £.00 Gift Aided

Second Collection: £.00 Not Gift Aided

Standing Orders Gift Aid Av week £433

November Card Donations

Gift Aided: £181, Non Gift Aided: £154

Mass Count: Sat 6.30: 41

Sun 09.30: 70, 11.00: 146

Second Collection

Last week: None

This week: None

Next week: None

Gift Aid: Tax payers, please sign up, using the white envelopes at the back of the church, so we can claim 25p for every £1 donated.

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

Standing Order: Payable to RCAS Sydenham, Accnt no: 37298445, sort code 60-21-12

Cheque: Payable to 'RCAS Sydenham'

Contact

David Simpson Treasurer:

sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk

Steven Pearce Secretary: currently on sick leave
sydenham@rcaos.org.uk

Margaret Doherty Catholic Club: 07930 88 9632

ENTRANCE ANTIphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen

FIRST READING – Isaiah 7:10-14

In those days: The LORD spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 23

R. Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

1. The LORD'S is the earth and its fullness, the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas; on the rivers he made it firm.
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD? Who shall stand in his holy place? The clean of hands and pure of heart, whose soul is not set on vain things.
3. Blessings from the LORD shall he receive, and right reward from the God who saves him. Such are the people who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

SECOND READING – Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel – which means, God with us. Alleluia.

GOSPEL – Matthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' – which means, God with us.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.

R. **Amen**

COMMUNION ANTIphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

R. **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen