



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

020 8946 0305
wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk
www.sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk
@SHWimbledon /sacredheartwimbledon

Sacred Heart Wimbledon
Edge Hill
Wimbledon
London SW19 4LU

24th December 2023

Newsletter

Vol 9, Issue 44

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)
Day of prayer for Expectant Mothers

Sunday 24th December: 4th Sunday of Advent

(Saturday 6.30pm and Sunday morning Masses)

First Reading: God did not want King David to build him a house. However, God promised that David's house, his dynasty, will be established forever. Jesus is the fulfilment of that covenant, and was born in Bethlehem, the place where David was anointed (*1 Samuel 16*).

Psalm: the second verse alludes to God's covenant with David related in the *First Reading*. The birth of Jesus Christ, in the house of David through Joseph, is the completion of this promise and covenant.

Second Reading: St Paul concludes *Romans* with a doxology, that is giving glory to Jesus Christ, who was kept "secret for endless ages" but who has now been revealed.

Gospel: as Christmas draws near Mary moves to centre stage, and today we hear the account of the Annunciation to Mary. *Luke* is emphatic that Mary, although betrothed to Joseph, was a virgin; this is known as the virginal conception (a better term than 'virgin birth').

Fr David

Sunday 24th & Monday 25th: The Nativity of the Lord

(Sunday evening and Monday morning Masses)

Children's Christmas Crib Service at 3.30pm.

There are different Readings for the Vigil Masses (at 5.00pm and 7.30pm), the Midnight Mass (at Midnight), the Mass of the Dawn (at 8.00am), and the Mass of the Day (at 10.00am and 12.00 noon). Carols from 7.10pm before the 7.30pm Mass and from 11.30pm before the Midnight Mass. During the Creed all kneel at the words 'and became man'.

The **Gospel** at the Vigil Masses is the genealogy of Jesus in *Matthew*, outlining his ancestry to Abraham; it is meant to emphasise that although God he shares our human nature.

The **Gospel** at the Midnight Mass is from *Luke*, who takes great care to locate Christ's Incarnation at a particular place - Bethlehem - and at a particular date. Notice that the first to acknowledge Christ's birth are shepherds, poor people on the margins of society.

The Mass of the Dawn is sometimes called the Mass of the Shepherds because of the **Gospel** reading which continues the Bethlehem narrative started at the Midnight Mass and which focusses on the shepherds. Mary also has a special place, 'pondering these things in her heart'.

At the **Gospel** at the Masses of the Day we hear the great prologue of *John's Gospel*, a theologically rich explanation of the mystery of the Incarnation. The **Second Reading** from *Hebrews* is another classic text about God the Son.

Fr David

THE PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr David Gibbons, KCHS

Parish Clergy: Fr Matthew Donnelly, Fr Jackson Sebastian and Deacon Julian Burling

Team member: Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU

This Week

FR MATTHEW

is away on his Christmas break this week.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office is closed this week. Frs David and Jackson will do their best to answer calls etc, but please defer routine matters until the Office reopens in the New Year on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. Newsletter distribution will resume on the 6th/7th January.

TUESDAY (BANK HOLIDAY)

One Mass only on this day, at 10.00am. No Confessions at 6.00pm or Mass at 6.30pm. Holy Mass and Confessions at the normal times for the rest of the week.

WEDNESDAY

Funeral Mass of Norma Patton at the 10.00am Mass, followed by burial at the Merton & Sutton Cemetery.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.25pm to 6.25pm this day.

FRIDAY

As it is in the Christmas Octave Friday 29th December is not a day when you are requested to fast and abstain from meat.

Next Week

NEXT SUNDAY

This is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We are expecting that there will be a Pastoral Letter from His Grace the Archbishop to be read out at Mass, in place of the Homily. The 8.00pm Mass next Sunday, however, being after first Vespers will be a Mass of Monday's Feast of Our Lady. It does count as your Sunday obligation.

MIDNIGHT MASS FOR THE NEW YEAR

At Midnight next Sunday we shall celebrate a special Mass for the New

Year; this will be a Mass of Monday's Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Come and dedicate the new year to God, and come and pray for peace in the world, especially in Israel and Palestine and in Ukraine. It also counts for your Sunday obligation. If you have previously attended Mass earlier on the Sunday you may receive Holy Communion again at this Mass.

MONDAY 1ST JANUARY (BANK HOLIDAY)

Mass at 10.00am only. No Confessions or 6.30pm Mass on a Bank Holiday.

SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is observed next year on Sunday 7th, not the usual 6th January. Just to confuse everyone further, the Saturday evening Mass at 6.30pm will be the Epiphany Vigil Mass; this has different prayers from the Mass of the Day on the Sunday.

Parish Notices

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

By diocesan rule, the Christmas Collection is for the three priests of the parish. Along with the Easter Collection this forms a major part of their income, so Frs David, Matthew and Jackson thank you in advance for your generosity.

You can make a bank transfer for the Christmas Collection (to RCAS Wimbledon, 60-24-07, 33138672; please put 'Christmas Collection' as the reference; the Parish receives the Gift Aid refund) or you can use either selection on the card readers.

CRIB OFFERINGS

The Christmas Crib is displayed in the St Ignatius Chapel. Please take care when lighting votive candles, especially if children are involved.

The Crib Offerings this year - in view of what is happening in Palestine and Israel - will be sent to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, earmarked for medical and humanitarian needs, via the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, of which Fr David is a Knight Commander. This will ensure the aid gets to where it is most needed. It used to be unlawful in the UK to send aid to Gaza, but the government has temporarily suspended this, so our donation can be used to provide food, water, shelter and medicines to the people there, as well as elsewhere in the area.

PRIMARY SCHOOL FORM SIGNING

If you wish Fr David to countersign your application to a Catholic Primary School for a place in next year's Year R,

please come to the Lower Hall on Tuesday 9th January at 4.00pm or 7.00pm. Parents should attend along with the child concerned & the form/s. Do not hand forms in in advance. If you cannot attend, then for a good reason you will need to make an appointment through Thelma in the Office.

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

In 2024 the *Churches Together in West Wimbledon* annual Unity Service in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be here in Sacred Heart Church, at 6.30pm on Sunday 21st January. It will take the form of Vespers. Please make every effort to come and pray for Unity.

FINANCE

The total First Collection received in November was £35,827.38. Thank you.

Parish Organisations

MEMORY LANE CLUB

Memory Lane Club will pause for the Christmas period and reopen its doors on Wednesday 10th January 2024.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Please join us on Friday 5th January at 2.30pm in the Lounge for New Year fun and games, everyone welcome!

Diocesan Notices

ARCHBISHOP JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Archbishop 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 or use the QR code below.



Exploring our Faith

PEACE SERVICE

Saint John Fisher Justice and Peace Group invite you to a Peace Service on Monday 1st January at 4.00pm, at St John Fisher Church, SW20 9DB, followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. The service can be joined at: www.churchservices.tv/Merton

MEĐUGORJE RETREAT

The Međugorje Apostolate invite you to their annual retreat from Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th February 2024 at the Kairos Centre, Roehampton, led by Fr Svetozar Kraljević OFM, a Franciscan who has spent 16 years serving the parish of Međugorje, the author of several books about Our Lady's apparitions in Međugorje has given many talks on the subject and conducted many retreats. This is a residential retreat (places for day participants available). Information & booking: Paul Spencer at pilgrims.ofmary@hotmail.com.

PILGRIMAGE 2024 YOUNG ADULTS 20s & 30s CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

A great opportunity, and an invitation, to join the British Province of Carmelites on pilgrimage, Easter week 2024. It is currently too early to confirm exact details and dates as the flights have not yet been released.

The walk starts from Sarria on the *Camino Francés*, and pilgrims will walk 70 miles to Santiago de Compostela, staying in hostels each evening. Travel will consist of a week away, walking for 5 days. For further details and to register interest please visit <https://carmelite.org/camino-2024/> or email hello@carmelite.org.

A DAY WITH MARY PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

A Day with Mary are organising a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Saturday 9th - Sunday 17th March 2024.

Pilgrimage outline: Nazareth, Lake Galilee, Tabgha, Capernaum, Tabor, Beatitudes, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ain Karem, Bethany, Mt. of Temptations, etc. A Catholic priest will accompany this pilgrimage as spiritual director, spiritual conferences, daily Mass and Rosary. Cost £1,890.00/pp, twin room (supplement for single room), full board; tips, taxes, entry fees and service charges included. British Airways return flight LHR-Tel Aviv, coach travel in the Holy Land, personal guide to all places visited.

For more detailed information and booking please visit adaywithmary.org.uk or email adwmary.uk@gmail.com.

New to the Parish?

Please introduce yourself to a member of the Parish Team after Mass and register online at <https://sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/> or by filling in a registration form, available at the back of the church.

PARKING

Please note that the car park at Wimbledon College will remain open as follows:

Sunday 24th December from 9.00am - 2.00am (25th Dec)

Sunday 31st December from 9.00am - 2.00am (1st Jan)

From January onwards, the car park at the College will no longer be available to parishioners for parking during Mass times.

Please do take special care when parking in our neighbouring roads, only park in authorised parking places, do not block driveways of the residents!

SURPLUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Parishioners are invited to donate their surplus gifts and bring them to the Parish Office after the Christmas break. Unwanted Christmas presents will be donated to a charity, some presents will be raffled to raise money for the crib appeal. All donations are welcome!

SAFEGUARDING

It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England and Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased. If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police, using 999 if a child or adult is believed to be in immediate danger. Further safeguarding information can be found on the parish website.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday 24 December 4th Sunday of Advent
 8.00am, 10.00am, 12noon Holy Souls
 5.00pm, 7.30pm Peace in the World
 12.00 midnight People of the Parish

Monday 25 December The Nativity of the Lord
 8.00am, 10.00am, 12noon Holy Souls

Tuesday 26 December St Stephen, Protomartyr
 10.00am Frank Curran RIP

Wednesday 27 December St John, Apostle and Evangelist
 10.00am Funeral Mass of Norma Patton RIP
 6.30pm Margaret McNerney RIP

Thursday 28 December The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
 10.00am Marie Duffy RIP
 6.30pm Bertha Caravana-Dingli RIP

Friday 29 December St Thomas of Canterbury, B, M
 10.00am David White RIP
 6.30pm Edward Barden Ints.

Saturday 30 December Sixth Day/Christmas Octave
 10.00am For Victims of War
 6.30pm Mary Matilda Bastiampillia RIP

Monday 1 January Mary, the Holy Mother of God
 10.00am Queen of Peace

Tuesday 2 January SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
 10.00am Edward Galvin RIP
 6.30pm Michael Zarraga RIP

Wednesday 3 January The Most Holy Name of Jesus
 10.00am Elizabeth Mary Campell
 6.30pm Maureen Casey RIP

Thursday 4 January The Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese
 10.00am Frances Barden Ints.
 6.30pm Siam Hobbs RIP

Friday 5 January Christmas Feria
 10.00am Christy Joseph RIP
 6.30pm Gerry McBride RIP

Saturday 5 January Christmas Feria
 10.00am Fr Michael Beattie SJ RIP
 6.30pm Patricia Howell RIP

CELEBRANTS FOR THIS SUNDAY

6.30pm (Sat) Fr Matthew Donnelly
 8.00am Fr Matthew Donnelly
 10.00am Fr Jackson Sebastian
 12 noon Fr David Gibbons & Deacon Julian Burling
 5.00pm Fr Matthew Donnelly
 7.30pm Fr Jackson Sebastian
 12.00 midnight Fr David Gibbons & Deacon Julian Burling

MUSIC AT THE 12 NOON MASS

Introit (choir): *Rorate coeli desuper* (plainsong)
 Offertory motet: *Ave Maria*, Jacques Arcadelt
 Communion: The 'O' Antiphons (plainsong)
 Communion hymn: 138 *Creator of the stars of night*

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those who have died recently: John Abreo, Tom Kinsella, Finuala Holford and Norma Patton

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Bernadette Coyle, Ann Coomes, Gerard Evans, Christine Walker, Silvia Wilkinson, Bridget Curly, Jeanne Garcia, Lee Abberton, Peter Abberton, Eileen Ridge, Gervaise Milward, John Baldesare, Beatrice Nyeko and Rui Braganza

The sick: Olivia Chiemieliska, Frances Barden, Jason & Kevin Moreno, Ken Wogan, Jane McVeigh, Harriette Cahill, Martin Moretti, Hui Lee Ng, Audra Wamsteker, Paul Stromborg, Luca Buttaci, Ryan Lyndsey, Samar Staussi, Emily Grey and Andrew Tan

Please note that for data protection reasons, individuals must explicitly agree for their names to be mentioned in our newsletter. Please let the Parish Office know in writing if either your name or the names of your relatives and friends should appear in our sick list.



EXPOSITION

Wednesdays & Fridays
 after the 10.00am Mass
 and from 5.25 - 6.25pm

RECONCILIATION

Monday - Saturday:
 6.00 - 6.20pm
 and Saturday morning
 10.30 - 11.30am

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Feast of the Holy Family (B)

First Reading Gn 15:1-6.21:1-3
 Responsorial Psalm 104:1-6. 8-9. Rvv7.8
 Second Reading Heb 11:8.11-12.17-19
 Gospel Lk 2:22-40

If you wish to include items in the weekly newsletter, please keep them brief, - if possible no more than 40 words - send them by Tuesday before publication to newsletter@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk / wimparish@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk

PARISH SERVICES

Parish Office/Reception Hours: 9am - 4pm (Mon-Fri), 020 8946 0305
Executive Assistant & Hall bookings: Thelma D'Costa (Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm) Caretaker: George McLennan
Parish Pastoral Council: ppc@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk
Baptism, Marriage, First Sacraments, Funerals contact the parish office.
Bereavement Support: one to one support or bereavement drop-in, for more information please contact the co-ordinator by email bereavement.group@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk
Sacred Heart SVP Conference meets to help those living locally in need. All enquiries are dealt with confidentiality. Leave contact details with the parish office or email presidentA190704@svp.org.uk.

For donations, please scan the QR Code with your phone; your donation will help fund the wide range of liturgical, spiritual and cultural activities which run in the parish. Thank you.

