



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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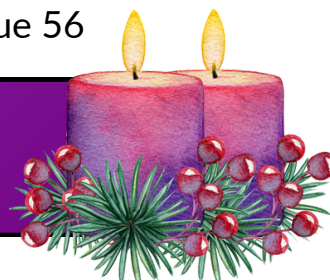
Sacred Heart Wimbledon
Edge Hill
Wimbledon
London SW19 4LU

Sunday
21 December 2025

Newsletter

Vol. 11
Issue 56

Year of Jubilee 2025 • Fourth Sunday of Advent
Fourth Week of Advent



The Parish Clergy and Pastoral Team wish everyone – visitors, friends, and particularly parishioners – a very happy and holy time at Christmas.

Our thoughts and prayers go especially to the sick and the housebound, to all who have suffered bereavement, and to all those in need.



Edge Hill Players Panto: Puss in Boots
2.30pm and 7.00pm
Saturdays 31 January and 7 February 2026

Come and see Puss in Boots on his amazing journey to fame and fortune, meeting a cast of characters, both good and evil, along the way! For tickets and further information, please visit edgehillplayers.com or call 07742 230493.

Parish Pastoral Team

Parish Priest	Canon David Gibbons KCHS
Parish Clergy	Fr Edwin Raj
	Fr Peter Mudu Frank
	Deacon Julian Burling
Team Member	Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU
Faith Minister	Rob Hitchcock

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Burlington Road, KT3 4ND
school@sacredheart.merton.sch.uk
Headteacher: Sarah Norville

Today's Mass

In the **First Reading** (Isaiah 7:10–14), Isaiah foretells the Messiah's virgin birth. While much scholarly ink has been spent debating this prediction, especially whether the original Hebrew really means 'virgin', it is perfectly acceptable for us to interpret it as Matthew does in the Gospel. The prophet rebukes King Ahaz for entering into an alliance with foreign powers instead of placing his trust in God, but God will send this sign to ensure that David's dynasty endures.

The man referred to in verses 2 and 3 of **Psalm 24(23)** is often taken to refer to King David, bringing the Ark into Jerusalem.

The **Second Reading** (Romans 1:1–7) is from the beginning of St Paul's letter to the Church in Rome. The good news is that Jesus, a 'descendant of David', is both human and divine.

Gospel (Matthew 1:18–24): Matthew depicts God's preparations for the birth and explains how this fits within Scripture, quoting the verse from Isaiah in today's First Reading. Notice how prominent Joseph is in this story: God takes the initiative in offering his grace, but we humans must make an active response.

While 'virgin birth' is often used, a more accurate term to designate Jesus' birth is 'virginal conception'. Emphasised by both Matthew and Luke, it helps us to understand Jesus as divine, the Son of God, but also as the long-anticipated Messiah, born into the house of David (to which Joseph belonged).

Canon David

'The beautiful truth of Christmas is that because of God in Christ, we are never lost. God chose to be near us, to stay close to us always, to draw us to himself, always.' Watch and read **Archbishop John's Christmas message** at rcaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025.



We are a Jubilee Church! Find out more about the Year of Jubilee 2025 for 'Pilgrims of Hope' at cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025.

**7.00pm Friday 13 February 2026
Parish Dinner in the Upper Hall**

Tickets are £80 per person, to include a welcome glass of prosecco and a glass of wine. Bottles of wine will be on sale at the bar. Places are limited to 100. Choose your menu, indicate your dietary requirements, and book at tinyurl.com/shwparishdinner. Your ticket will be confirmed by email after payment verification.

This week (commencing Sunday 21 December)

The **Parish Office** will be closed from this Wednesday 24 until Sunday 28 December inclusive.

David Moffatt RIP

Funeral Mass at 12.30pm on Monday.

The next newsletter will be on Sunday 11 January 2026.

**10.30am – 11.30am
Saturday 27 December
Bereavement Support Group**

Are you coping with the loss of a loved one? Join us in the Lounge for our confidential drop-in session for all who have been bereaved, whether recently or a while ago. For more information, please call 07865 204995 or email bereavementsacredheart@gmail.com.

Liturgies and Confessions this week (commencing Sunday 21 December)

Saturday 20 December

10.00am Holy Mass [John Fennelly (RIP)]
10.30am Advent Penitential Service
with individual Confessions
5.45pm – 6.15pm Confessions
6.30pm Holy Mass [Seamus McGlone (RIP)]

Sunday 21 December • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Usual Sunday Mass schedule: 6.30pm (Saturday),
8.00am, 10.00am, 12 noon, 5.00pm, and 8.00pm

Monday 22 December

10.00am Holy Mass [Molly & Maurice Mealin (RIP)]
10.45am Christmas Children's Crib Service Rehearsal
12.30pm Funeral Mass of David Moffatt (RIP)
5.45pm – 6.15pm Confessions
6.30pm Holy Mass [Niamh O'Brien]

Tuesday 23 December

10.00am Holy Mass [Jim Roddy]
5.45pm – 6.15pm Confessions
6.30pm Holy Mass [Mary Hoey (RIP)]

Wednesday 24 December

10.00am Holy Mass (of 24 December) [Tim Daly (RIP)]
3.30pm Children's Christmas Crib Service
5.00pm Vigil Mass [Brauer Family (Thanksgiving)]
7.30pm Vigil Mass [Francis & Onnie Saldanha (W'bing)]
preceded by **Carols** from 7.10pm
Midnight Midnight Mass [People of the Parish]
preceded by **Carols** from 11.30pm

Thursday 25 December • The Nativity of the Lord

8.00am Mass of the Dawn [Shirley & Adrian Donaghan]
10.00am Mass of the Day [John Diego Abreo (RIP)]
12 noon Mass of the Day [Staussi & D'Costa Family]

Collection at Christmas Masses: By diocesan rule, the Collection at all Christmas Masses is your gift to the priests of the parish.



Are you in Years 8 to 13? Would you like to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** next year? Registration is now open! Please ask your parent or guardian to complete the online form before Monday 5 January 2026 at tinyurl.com/shwconf26. If you have any questions, please contact Rob, our Faith Minister, at wimbledonpfm@rcaos.org.uk.

Friday 26 December • S Stephen, Protodeacon, Protomartyr

10.00am Holy Mass [Amy Mollenhauer]

Saturday 27 December • S John, Ap Ev

10.00am Holy Mass [Fr John Nguyen (RIP)]
10.30am – 11.30am Confessions
6.00pm – 6.20pm Confessions
6.30pm Holy Mass [Jessica & Vanessa (Birthday)]

Children's Christmas Crib Service at 3.30pm on Wednesday 24 December: There will be a rehearsal for the Crib Service from 10.45am to 12 noon on Tuesday 23 December for children aged 4+ who would like to be involved as actors and children aged 8+ wishing to read. Please email Rachel at rachel@marshallemail.net. Offers of help from parents are also most welcome.

Reserved seats for Christmas Eve Masses: The front four rows of seats on the left-hand centre aisle (Ambo-side) of the church will be reserved for frail and elderly persons and wheelchairs, until 5 minutes before the Carols begin. Thereafter, they will be available to everyone.

Parking: Additional car parking spaces will be available at Wimbledon College from 3.00pm on Wednesday 24 until 2.00am on Thursday 25 December. The parking registration system in the church car park will be deactivated for Masses on Wednesday 24, Thursday 25, and Friday 26 December.

Crib Offerings: The Christmas Crib will be displayed in the St Ignatius Chapel. Please take care when lighting votive candles, especially around children. The **Crib Offerings** 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 Canon David is a Knight Commander. They will support humanitarian aid convoys, enable the provision of schooling and clinics, and help to rebuild communities devastated in the Holy Land.

Vacancy: School Transport Driver at Marymount International School – Marymount International School London is an independent day and boarding school for girls, with Catholic ethos. It is seeking a School Transport Driver to take over an existing route in the Kew/ Richmond or Twickenham area on a term-time only basis. For more details, please call 0208 9490571.

Next week (commencing Sunday 28 December)

Fr Edwin will be away from Monday 29 to Wednesday 31 December.

The **Parish Office** will be closed from Wednesday 31 December until Sunday 4 January inclusive.

Timothy Hayes RIP

Funeral Mass at 11.45am on Tuesday 30 December, followed by cremation at the Putney Vale Crematorium.

Thomas McGovern RIP

Funeral Mass at 11.00am on Friday 2 January, followed by cremation at the North East Surrey Crematorium.

2.30pm Friday 2 January Friendship Group

Do join us in the Lounge for party games, tea, and cakes! All are welcome.

First Friday Devotion

This First Friday 2 January is a monthly day of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Can YOU attend Mass, Adoration, and/or Confession? Evening Adoration takes place from 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

On sale at the Reception: A selection of **Christmas cards**, including from Aid to the Church in Need, and the **Archdiocesan Catholic Directory 2026**.

Week of Sun. 4 Jan.

7.00pm First Monday Adoration

Adoration will start promptly after the 6.30pm Mass. This time of community worship will be led by musicians from the Jesuit young adult community at No. 9 Edge Hill.

Tuesday: The Epiphany of the Lord Holy Day of Obligation

On this Holy Day of Obligation, you should attend Mass if at all possible. Please see the times of Masses below.

Liturgies and Confessions next week (commencing Sunday 28 December)

Sunday 28 December • The Holy Family

Usual Sunday Mass schedule: 6.30pm (Saturday), 8.00am, 10.00am, 12 noon, 5.00pm, and 8.00pm

Monday 29 December • S Thomas Becket, B, M

10.00am Holy Mass [Mary Byrt]
6.00pm – 6.20pm Confessions
6.30pm Holy Mass [Zdzisław Szachraj (RIP)]

Tuesday 30 December

10.00am Holy Mass [William Capstick (RIP)]
11.45am Funeral Mass of Timothy Hayes (RIP)
5.45pm – 6.15pm Confessions
6.30pm Holy Mass [Amy Mollenhauer]

Wednesday 31 December

10.00am Holy Mass [Enrique Ruiz (RIP)]
6.00pm – 6.20pm Confessions
6.30pm Holy Mass (of Mary, Mother of God) [Thanksg.]

Thursday 1 January • Mary, Mother of God

10.00am Holy Mass [Wang Family, Past & Departed]

Friday 2 January • SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

10.00am Holy Mass [Thomas Page (RIP)]
11.00am Funeral Mass of Thomas McGovern (RIP)
6.00pm – 6.20pm Confessions
6.30pm Holy Mass [Thanksgiving]
followed by **First Friday Adoration**

Saturday 3 January

10.00am Holy Mass [Francis Pietersz (RIP)]
10.30am – 11.30am Confessions
6.00pm – 6.20pm Confessions
6.30pm Holy Mass [Mary Byrt]

Parking: The parking registration system in the church car park will be deactivated for Masses on Wednesday 31 December and Thursday 1 January.

Liturgies and Confessions in the week commencing Sunday 4 January

Sunday 4 January • Second Sunday of Christmas

Usual Sunday Mass schedule: 6.30pm (Saturday), 8.00am, 10.00am, 12 noon, 5.00pm, and 8.00pm

Monday 5 January

10.00am Holy Mass [Michael Ogonovsky (RIP)]
6.00pm – 6.20pm Confessions
6.30pm **Vigil Mass** [Roger Bayat (RIP)]
followed by **First Monday Adoration**

Tuesday 6 January • The Epiphany of the Lord

9.00am **Holy Mass** at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School [Burlington Road, KT3 4ND]
10.00am **Holy Mass** [Mary Cogan]
6.00pm – 6.20pm Confessions
6.30pm **Holy Mass** [Forster Family]
8.00pm **Holy Mass** [People of the Parish]

Wednesday 7 January

10.00am Holy Mass [Therese Nguyen (RIP)]
6.00pm – 6.20pm Confessions
6.30pm Holy Mass [Tony McGrory]

Thursday 8 January

10.00am Holy Mass [Latina Coelho]
6.00pm – 6.20pm Confessions
6.30pm Holy Mass [Dan McGrory]

Friday 9 January

10.00am Holy Mass [Sharon McGurk (RIP)]
6.00pm – 6.20pm Confessions
6.30pm Holy Mass [Ann Traynor (RIP)]

Saturday 10 January

10.00am Holy Mass [Kirsten & John Cummins (Anniv.)]
10.30am – 11.30am Confessions
6.00pm – 6.20pm Confessions
6.30pm Holy Mass [Kit O'Brien (RIP)]

Celebrants this Sunday 21 December

6.30pm (Sat)	Fr Edwin Raj
8.00am	Canon David Gibbons
10.00am	Fr Peter Mudu Frank & Dcn Julian Burling
12 noon	Fr Edwin Raj
5.00pm	Canon David Gibbons
8.00pm	Fr Peter Mudu Frank & Dcn Julian Burling

We remember in our prayers

Those who have died recently

Timothy Hayes • David Moffatt
Thomas Michael McGovern • Janet Gemmill Campbell
Brian McQuaid • Doroteia Pereira

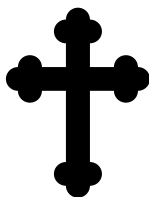
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time

John Diogo Abreo • Tom Butters • Dylan Kelly
Mary Razvi • Maureen May • Marion Blech • John Lush
Eileen Ridge • Antoinette 'Sylvia' Peters • Victoria Villejo

Those who are sick

Finley Kennedy • Samar Staussi • Maria Tinker • Emily Grey
Electa Almeida • Karolina Masica • Mark Capra
Teresa Escalona • Simon Potter • Angela White
Peter Gent • Margaret Brauer • Karoline Wilhelm-Brown
Valeria Kucharsky • Debbie Gargan • Patricia Codd
Hilary Brazier • Ethan Costa Peruzzo • Sheila Morrissey
Peter Hayes • Brian McQuaid • Mary Fripp • Sadie Smith
Warlita Villejo • Ryan Lewis • Joseph Lewis

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. For data protection reasons, individuals must explicitly agree for their names to be mentioned in our newsletter.



Exposition

Wednesdays and Fridays
10.30am – 12 noon and
5.25pm – 6.25pm

First Mondays and Fridays
of the month
7.00pm – 8.00pm

Reconciliation

Mondays to Saturdays
6.00pm – 6.20pm

Saturdays
10.30am – 11.30am
5.45pm – 6.15pm until Christmas:
please see all times inside

Hospital contacts

If you or a member of your family are admitted to a local hospital, please let the hospital's Catholic chaplain know.

St George's: Fr Peter Littleton (020 8725 3069
or 020 8672 1255)

Epsom and St Helier: Fr Philip Pak (020 8296 2000)

Kingston: Fr Tony Oleh (020 8546 7711)

Your generosity helps to fund our parish's wide range of liturgical, spiritual, and cultural activities.

To donate, scan the QR code or visit sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/donate.
Thank you.



New to the parish?

Welcome! Please introduce yourself to a member of the parish team after Mass and register online at sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk or by filling out a registration form from the back of the church.

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 at sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/safeguarding.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

Victoria Wheatley (wimbledonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)
Siobhán Heffron (wimbledonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)
Maria Christopher (wimbledonsg5@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

Music at the 12 noon Mass

Introit (choir): *Rorate coeli desuper* (plainsong)

Kyrie: *Missa 'Dixit Maria'* (H.L. Hassler)

Offertory motet: *Ave Maria* (L. Vierende)

Communion motet: *Ecce concipies* (J. Handl)

Communion hymn: (243) Hark! A herald voice is calling

The above list is for this Sunday 21 December. For the music list at other Sunday Masses, please visit sacredheartmusic.co.uk.

Music at the 5.00pm Mass

Scan the QR code or visit
sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/5pm



Parish services and contacts

Parish Office

020 8946 0305

wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk

9.00am – 4.00pm

Monday – Friday

Executive Assistant

Thelma D'Costa

Caretaker

George McLennan

Please contact the Parish Office for all enquiries, hall bookings, baptisms, first Sacraments, marriages, and funerals. Please email any notices for the weekly newsletter to wimbledonnewsletter@rcaos.org.uk by Tuesday evening.

Please remember always to register your car when using the church car park (except Sundays) via a registration tablet at the church entrance, presbytery reception, or hall entrances.

The Sacred Heart SVP Conference meets to help those living locally in need. All enquiries are dealt with confidentially. Please leave your contact details with the Parish Office or email presidentA190704@svp.org.uk.