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Newsletter for the week commencing 8th December 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Entrance antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading: from the prophet Baruch 5: 1-9

Psalms 125 Response: What marvels the Lord has worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Second Reading: from the first letter of St Paul to the Philippians 1:3-6;8-11

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6

Communion antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Father Behr writes:

Dear Parishioners

Times for Holy Mass at Christmas:

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24 December 6pm vigil Mass

Tuesday 24 December 9pm Mass with Choir and Carols

Christmas Day

Wednesday 25 December 8.30am

Wednesday 25 December 10am with Choir and Carols.

Fr Behr

Your Prayers are asked for:

Recently deceased: Emeritus Bishop/Fr. John Hine, RIP

Those ill or infirm: Roger Styles, Mary Basher, Paul Rumball, Paul Lane, Mara McDermot, June Munton, Ailish Cantwell (Jones), Sylwia Dorosz, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Patricia Hook, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those who are unwell and in need of our prayers.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time: Anne Collins, Nathaniel 'Nat' Kennell, Barbara Beresford, Gwladys Webbe-Wood, Kieran McNamara, Roy Sturdy, Norman Blackman, Nancy Gribble, Elisabeth Berardi-Cools, John Hannington, Violet Barrie, Hella Reed, Mary Ann Roberts and Margaret Maloney.

Masses and services for the week (7th – 14th December), Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.

Saturday 7th December St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	No public Mass am 10.30 -11am Confession 6pm Vigil Mass <i>People of the Parish</i> Reader: Peter
Sunday 8th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)	10am Mass <i>Bishop John Hine RIP and Family</i> Reader: Collette 12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass
Monday 9th December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	10am Mass <i>Maurice Cowley RIP (Pat Sargent)</i>
Tuesday 10th December Our Lady of Loreto	No Parish Mass Funeral of Emeritus Bishop/Fr. John Hine, RIP at St George's Cathedral
Wednesday 11th December St Damasus, Pope; St Edmund Gennings, Priest & St Swithun Wells, Martyrs	10am Service of Word and Communion

Thursday 12th December Our Lady of Guadalupe, Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary	No Mass
Friday 13th December St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	10am Mass Alex Hatch RIP 10.30 – 11am Adoration
Saturday 14th December St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church	No public Mass am 10.30 -11am Confession 6pm Vigil Mass <i>People of the Parish</i> Reader: Lorraine
Sunday 15th December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)	10am Mass <i>Deceased Davis Family</i> Reader: Collette 12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass

Official details of the funeral arrangements for Bishop John Hine RIP

Reception of the Body

Monday 9 December (the external feast of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception) at St George's Cathedral, Southwark

6.00pm Reception into the Cathedral of Bishop John Hine's Coffin, followed immediately by the Cathedral's Solemn Mass of the Immaculate Conception
Celebrant and Preacher: The Most Rev. Kevin McDonald, Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark

Requiem Mass

Tuesday 10 December 2024 at St George's Cathedral, Southwark

2.00pm Funeral Mass followed immediately by committal and internment in the Cathedral Crypt.
Celebrant and Preacher: The Most Reverend John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark

Father/Bishop John Hine's Funeral

Tuesday 10th December at 2pm in Saint George's Cathedral Southwark – There are still plenty of places on the free coach leaving at 10am from the Coach Park in Station Road. Please sign up if you need a place on the coach and a place in the Cathedral.

The service will be streamed on YouTube – just search for Bishop John Hine Requiem Mass

The Angelus

The Angelus is a beautiful traditional Catholic prayer. We will pray the Angelus before Mass during Advent and Christmastide. If you would like to learn more about the history of this devotion please visit <https://www.goodcatholic.com/the-angelus-prayer-its-history-meaning-and-graces/>

This weekend Fr Ethelbert Ukpabi, parish priest of Goudhurst, will come to celebrate the 6pm Vigil Mass and the 10am Sunday morning Mass.

Fr Ethelbert will start with a talk about Advent helping us to prepare well for Christmas. The talk starts at 4.30pm on Saturday 7 December and **Fr Ethelbert will be available to hear confessions from 5pm - 5.45pm.** Confession is a great way to get ready for Christmas and to enjoy some spiritual food in the season of Advent.

Confession Fr Behr is available for Confession every Saturday from 10.30am - 11am. He is also happy to visit those who are not able to come to church.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy at the 10am Mass is on the first Sunday of every month. All children who have not made their First Holy Communion are welcome to attend. The next lesson with Lorraine on Sunday, January 5th

Special Mass for Bishop John Hine RIP

On Tuesday 17 December at 10am we have a special Mass for Fr John. Many parishioners will not have been able to attend the requiem in the cathedral so

This is an opportunity to come and pray for Fr John, to give thanks to God for his time as our parish priest and to share the blessings we have received through Fr John's ministry as our parish priest.

I've asked Jolyon to preach and we will have refreshments after Mass.

Parish WhatsApp

Our parish has a WhatsApp group. We will post parish events including social events, special occasions and requests for help in the parish as well as general parish news.

If you would like to join please get in touch. Fr Behr

Spirituality Commission Advent reflections. The Spirituality Commission will be sending daily reflections during Advent featuring Scripture, thoughts and prayers. You can sign-up to receive them directly into your inbox each morning here: tinyurl.com/adventreflections2024.

Praying the Mass with Archbishop John. Advent is a time people return to Mass, sometimes after many years - for others Mass is the cornerstone of their spiritual lives. To help people, wherever they are on their spiritual journey, connect more prayerfully with the Lord Jesus, Archbishop John has [recorded a message\(tinyurl.com/prayingthemass\)](http://tinyurl.com/prayingthemass) which guides us on how to pray through the Mass. Archbishop John said: 'the Eucharist is at the very heart of the Mass, but also the Church. It is an invitation from the Lord Jesus to participate in His sacrifice'.

St George's Cathedral Carol Service - 12 December. Join Archbishop John and the St George's Cathedral Choir for a Carol Service at St George's Cathedral [on Thursday 12 December at 7.30pm](#).

Baby Basics

We now have an official collection box and thanks so much everyone for their generosity

Food Bank

Regrettably. The need for this collection continues and again many thanks to all the generous donors

Advent Reflective Services – Women of the Nativity – 9am – followed by light breakfast

The next services will be:

- Saturday 7th December – St. Peter's Newenden – Abigail's Story
- Saturday 14th December – St. Peter and St. Paul's Appledore – Mary's story

Christian Meditation

This will re-start on Wednesday 15th January 2025 and for the foreseeable future will be in the family room at Saint Andrew's, because of the Saint Mildred's refurbishment

Town Carol Service

This annual ecumenical event will be on Wednesday 18th 2024 at 7:30pm in Saint Mildred's

Christmas Concert

This Saturday 7th December at 7:30pm in Saint Mildred's

Community Carols Event

Because of the Town Hall refurbishment for this year, there is no Town Christmas Tree or Community Carols event

Christian Unity Week 2025

Next year this begins on Saturday January 18th. We will be having our usual Christian Breakfast in Saint Mildred's Church Hall, followed by our Annual Service. A service booklet with prayers/readings for the week will be provided at the breakfast.

The World Day of Prayer (formerly the Women's World Day of Prayer)

In 2025, this will be on March 7th and will be hosted by Saint Andrew's.
The material has been compiled by the women of the Cook Islands.

Pat Sargent urgently needs volunteers PLEASE.

St. Andrews Social and Advent Fair

Very many thanks to everyone who supported these two events last weekend. The various tables in the Hall were laden with all the generous donations that had been left over the past few days and was festively full, particularly for Saturday evening's Social and after the 10.00am Mass. It was lovely to see so many people relaxing with fellow parishioners.

In total, your support helped raise £1054.37 for CAFOD, which well exceeded the Social Committee's expectations. A number of raffles and competitions contributed to this total, and the results of these are as follows:

- Winners of the quilts made by Kathy Gibbs: Barbara Ann Hunt (square) and Chris Leahy (rectangular).
- Winner of the cake baked by David Green: Pat Sargent (weight of cake, 8lbs 3oz)

- Winner of the jar of chocolates: Isaac and Jan Colquhoun (119 chocolates in the jar)

Additional Coffee Morning:

Thanks to the overflowing generosity of parishioners there were many gifts left over, so it's been decided to hold an additional coffee morning after the 10.00am Mass on Sunday 15th December with a lucky dip and bottle tombola, and also a further chance to buy Christmas cards

Congratulations to the Social Committee on a great Advent Fair. There was a great atmosphere and lots of different stalls. Liz Leahy and Peter Lonergan counted the money and the total was £1054.37. After we have deducted expenses we will send a cheque to Cafod.

And finally: a message from Frances (01233 732657)

Christmas is fast approaching, and we will soon be making our church look beautiful to celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you would like to help, please put together a flower vase or arrangement to decorate a windowsill.

The colour scheme is red, gold, white and green.

Please let Frances know if you can help. They need to be ready for 23rd December.

Thank you.

And finally finally...

Next Weekend we have a second collection for Christmas flowers. We all appreciate the beautiful flower arrangements we have in our church so please support this collection.