

HOLY GHOST NEWS

1st Sunday of
Advent (A)

1 December 2019

Mass Book p. 82



Advent - awaiting the coming of Christ

The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin 'Adventus', meaning 'Coming'. During this season of Advent, we await the coming of Jesus Christ.

There are in fact three 'comings' of Christ.

Firstly, he came two thousand years ago, when He was born at Bethlehem to save us from our sins and win for us eternal life.

Secondly, we believe He will come again at the end of time, when He comes in glory to judge the living and the dead.

Thirdly, He also comes here and now, by faith – He is present in the Church, in the Sacraments and in the souls of all who believe in Him.

We need to use this season of Advent to become ever more aware of Christ's living presence among us – we need to cultivate His presence, and sincerely try to deepen our friendship with Him. In that way we will be better prepared to celebrate the anniversary of His birth on Christmas Day – and also better prepared to meet Him when He comes again in glory.

WHAT'S ON ...

MONDAY 2	
6.30 - 8pm	Open House Parish Centre
7.30pm	Advent Talk - Fr John Hemer Church Crypt
TUESDAY 3	
7.30pm	Emmanuel Prayer Group (1st Tues) Church
8pm	St Vincent de Paul (SVP) (2nd & 4th Tues) Plunkett Room
WEDNESDAY 4	
10am	Church Cleaning Church
THURSDAY 5	
8pm	Choir Practice Parish Centre
FRIDAY 6	
6pm	Galilee Groups Vocational Discernment (1st Fri) Church
SATURDAY 7	
7pm	Parish Bingo Plunkett Room

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Seniors' Christmas Lunch -
Sunday 8th December.

Parish Christmas Carol
Service - Sunday 15th
December

Quiz Night at Balham Bowls
Club - 12th March 2020

More details to follow soon!

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms: 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:37-44

PARISH FINANCES - LAST WEEK

Thank you for your support. Last
week's collection was as follows:

Gift Aid	£1240.04
Loose	£1114.58
Total	£2354.62

BAPTISMS

A warm and loving welcome to Marco Sanzin Baptised at Holy Ghost last weekend. Please keep Marco - and his Parents and Godparents - in your prayers.

CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE

Thank you for your generosity in raising £721.20 in last week's second collection for *Catholic Youth Work*.

URGENT NEED OF MALE VOICES

Holy Ghost Choir, which sings at the 11am Sunday Mass, is urgently seeking male voices. **TENORS ARE EXPRESSLY NEEDED FOR THE COMING WEEKS, AS WE MAY BE LEFT WITHOUT A TENOR LINE FOR CHRIST THE KING AND FOR THE TWO CHRISTMAS MASSES.** If you are a singer, are keen to help or know anyone who could sing with the choir, it would be immensely appreciated. Please contact: darquise.bilodeau@morleycollege.ac.uk

OPEN HOUSE

Open House takes place this Monday 2nd December from 6.30pm till 8.00pm in the Parish Centre. Open House is an opportunity for parishioners to meet a priest without an appointment, to discuss routine matters such as registering for Baptism or Marriage - simply turn up between the times stated and wait your turn downstairs until called.

ADVENT TALK - FR JOHN HEMER 2nd DECEMBER - 7.30pm

On Monday 2nd December we welcome Fr John Hemer, who will give an Advent reflection. Fr John is a Mill Hill Missionary and Scripture scholar, currently lecturing at Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea. As those who have attended his talks will know, he conveys his learning and love of Scripture in a lively and accessible way. Advent can be a very busy time, with so many distractions which make it more difficult to prepare spiritually for Christmas. So, do come along to hear Fr John and enter into the real spirit of this Advent season. The talk

will take place in the Church Crypt, at 7.30pm.

8.30 MASS ON FRIDAYS

The 8.30 Mass on Friday mornings is specially timed so that pupils at Holy Ghost School can attend Mass before school begins. We invite all the pupils and their families to come and share in this Mass, which is the perfect way to say THANK YOU to God at the end of the week. If your child would be interested in reading at this Mass, please speak to Fr Richard or Fr Tom. Children who have been trained as altar servers are also warmly invited to serve - again, just let one of the priests know you would like to help.

PARISH BINGO

Next Saturday, 7 December, at 7pm in the Plunkett Room of the Parish Centre (27 Nightingale Square). All welcome.

SENIORS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

As you know, the Seniors' Christmas lunch will take place on Sunday 8 December. This enjoyable event is only possible with all your kind generosity and this w/end the detailed requests for help are out in the form of sign up lists which can be found in the Church porch. Would you all please kindly take a look at these lists to see in what areas you are able to help, namely: Could you prepare some of the food and deliver it on the day? Offer a gift towards the raffle to ensure all seniors receive a Christmas prize? Help set-up, clear up or serve on the day? Donate a bottle or two of wine and so on...etc..... Please ensure you add your name and contact details (email or phone). Should you have any questions or wish to discuss anything, please contact Stefano Rigo who is coordinating the event at: stefano.rigo@gmail.com 07785 716 794

ALTAR SERVERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our existing Altar Servers are invited to a servers' practice followed by their CHRISTMAS PARTY on Saturday 14th December, from 11.30 - 1.00 pm (pizza included...)

CHRISTMAS TREES TO ORDER

Why not tick a job off your festive to-do list AND help raise funds for Holy Ghost school by ordering your Christmas tree from the school PTA? They can even deliver to your door if you wish! Once again, Holy Ghost PTA are supplying best quality (super grade) Nordman Fir Christmas trees at competitive prices: 4-5ft - £28; 5-6ft - £40; 6-7ft - £54; 7-8ft - £68. Trees will be available for collection from the churchyard on the morning of **Saturday 7th December** or, for an additional charge of £10, can be delivered to your home address on the same day. Not going to be around that day? Don't worry - your tree can be left outside with no ill-effect until you are ready to put it up. To place an order, simply email sarahjanefranklin@hotmail.co.uk Order deadline - **Friday 29th November**. This service is available to any local households and all profits will go to Holy Ghost School PTA who kindly donate our Christmas trees for the church and priest's house.

SCHOOL REFERENCES

Many people have begun asking about school references. If you need a reference to be signed by Fr Richard, there is no need to make an appointment to see him, please just give him the relevant paperwork, or drop it off at the Parish Office. Fr Richard will use the well-established system of the school reference forms which are filled in on Sundays to enable him to complete your paperwork. If there are any exceptional circumstances you feel Fr Richard needs to be aware of, please put these in writing and include them with the other documentation. If Fr Richard then feels he needs to speak to you personally, he

will be in touch to make an appointment.

Most schools ask for evidence of three years regular Mass attendance - if a particular school is asking for evidence of attendance over a longer period, you must make this clear when asking Fr Richard to provide a reference.

EMMANUEL PRAYER GROUP - THIS WEEK

The prayer group meet every first Tuesday of most months: **Dec 3rd**; Jan 7th; Feb 4th; Mar 3rd; May 5th, June 2nd & July 7th. The meetings are from 8pm - 9.30pm in the church, and include praise, formation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for Confession. All are very welcome. More information can be found at www.emmanuelcommunity.co.uk

GALILEE GROUPS VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

The Galilee Group is an open group for men discerning their vocation. The group meets here at Holy Ghost on the First Friday of most months for prayer, faith formation and as an opportunity to get to know others searching for the will of God in their lives. The meetings begin with Benediction in church at 6pm. For more information please contact the vocations' team at southwarkpriest@gmail.com

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA (STELLA MARIS) CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 12 DECEMBER

Many seafarers will not be home for Christmas this year, working at sea and in ports during the festive period. But that doesn't mean that they'll be forgotten. This year Apostleship of the Sea invites you to attend our Christmas Carol Service at The Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, 10 Warwick St, London W1B 5LZ on Thursday 12 December 2019 at 7pm,

paying tribute to seafarers for all they do. We are delighted to be joined this year by the choir of St Columba's College, St Albans, and afterwards, there will be traditional refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies. Please RSVP by emailing roland@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk or calling us on 020 7901 1931

THE PASSAGE

The Passage is raising funds through the Big Give from 12 noon Tues 3rd December - 12 noon Tues 10th December to support its work Helping Homeless People this winter. Double your Donation, Double your impact. This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 02075921856 andrew.h@passage.org.uk Donate at <https://bit.ly/2KJ29hH>

**MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE
PILGRIMAGES APRIL - OCT 2020**
7 Night Stay and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €266 per person sharing. Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further info and book the dates that suit you. Tel. 020 3239 8662 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com

EVENING CONFESSIONS
Confessions available this
Sunday, 1st December,
5 - 5.30pm.

MASSES etc ...

SAT 30		5.30pm	Holy Mass	Trustram Eve Family (Thanksgiving)
SUN 1	1st Sunday of Advent	8am	Holy Mass	Olga Marie RIP
		9.30am	Family Mass	Jenny McGovern RIP
		11am	Sung Mass	In Memory of Chlöe Martine Coyle
		5pm		Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
		6pm	Holy Mass	Pro Populo
MON 2	Feria	6.45am	Holy Mass	Christina Peck RIP
		9.30am	Holy Mass	Lee Preston RIP
TUE 3	St Francis Xavier	6.45am	Holy Mass	Fr Thomas Creagh-Fuller RIP
		9.30am	Holy Mass	Elzbieta Kaplinska RIP
WED 4	St John Damascene	6.45am	Holy Mass	Private Intention (Fr Richard)
		9.30am	Holy Mass	Philomena Ruggiero RIP
THU 5	Feria	6.45am	Holy Mass	Mr & Mrs Bennertz & Relatives Living & Dead
		9.30am	Holy Mass	Mary McNally RIP
FRI 6	St Nicholas	8.30am	Holy Mass	Marianne Hayward (Intention)
		9.30am	Holy Mass	Philomena Ruggiero RIP
SAT 7	St Ambrose	10am	Holy Mass	Kieran Fry RIP
		5.30pm	Holy Mass	Mr & Mrs Ferncombe & Martin Ferncombe RIP
SUN 8	2nd Sunday of Advent	8am	Holy Mass	Raymond Helin RIP
		9.30am	Family Mass	Pro Populo
		11am	Sung Mass	Private Intention (TD)
		5pm		Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
		6pm	Holy Mass	Pilar Pongian (Intention)



EXPOSITION

On Fridays there is generally Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from after the 9.30am Mass, concluding with Benediction at 6pm.

CONFESSIONS

Confessions are generally available every day after the 9.30am Mass (Mon - Fri), Thursdays 2.45 - 4.30pm, and Saturdays 10.30 - 11am.

REQUESTING A MASS

To request a Mass, please use one of the envelopes available in the Church Porch - printing all details. You can place it in the Collecting bag or through the Parish Centre letterbox. When requesting a specific date, please leave your contact number. Masses cannot be booked by email or telephone.

MASS CARDS

Mass Cards are available from the Parish Office on weekday mornings (9.30 - 11.30am).

PRIESTS

Fr Richard Whinder BA STL
(Parish Priest)
Father Richard's email:
richardwhinder@rcaos.org.uk

Fr Thomas Bakulumpagi BTh
(Assistant Parish Priest)
Father Tom's email:
thomasbakulumpagi@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE

(Mon - Fri 9am - 12 noon)
Mrs Valerie Slezak
(Parish Secretary)
Holy Ghost Parish Office
27 Nightingale Square
London SW12 8QJ
T: 020 8355 0211
F: 020 8355 0212
E: balham@rcaos.org.uk
W: <http://www.hgbalham.com>

PRIESTS' HOUSE

36 Nightingale Square
London SW12 8QN
Tel: 020 8355 0211

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