

HOLY GHOST NEWS

2nd Sunday of
Advent (A)

8 December 2019

Mass Book p. 85



Preparing Spiritually for Christmas

As we light the second candle on the Advent wreath this Sunday, it is a reminder that Christmas will soon be here. With that in mind, let us look ahead to some of the events coming up soon.

On Sunday 15th December, at 4.00 pm, we have our Parish Carol Service, with Advent readings, music from the choir and congregational singing. To finish, there will be mulled wine and mince pies (either outside or in the Parish Centre, depending on the weather!) There will also be a retiring collection for Royal Trinity Hospice, which does such good work locally.

Advent is a good time to go to Confession. As always, we offer Confessions every Saturday 10.30 – 11.00 and after the daily 9.30 Mass. There will also be additional Confessions on Saturday 21st December from 10.30 – 11.30 and from 4.00 – 5.00 pm. On Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve) there will be Confessions from 3.00 – 6.00 pm

And looking ahead to Christmas itself, our Mass times will be as usual – Christmas Eve 6.00pm – Midnight Mass (preceded by carols from 11.30pm) – Christmas Day 8.00am, 9.30am and 11.00am (but, please note, no evening Mass on Christmas Day).

WHAT'S ON ...

MONDAY 9	
TUESDAY 10	
7.30pm	Emmanuel Prayer Group (1st Tues) Church
8pm	St Vincent de Paul (SVP) (2nd & 4th Tues) Plunkett Room
WEDNESDAY 11	
10am	Church Cleaning Church
THURSDAY 12	
7 - 8pm	Confirmation Preparation Church Crypt
8pm	Choir Practice Parish Centre
FRIDAY 13	
6pm	Galilee Groups Vocational Discernment (1st Fri) Church
SATURDAY 14	

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 11:1-10

Psalms: 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

PARISH FINANCES - LAST WEEK

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

Gift Aid £1288.50

Loose £ 869.21

Total £2157.71

PARISH BINGO

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

CHRISTMAS FAIR - THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all those who took part and made our Parish Christmas Fair go so well last Saturday. It was very much a team effort, but special thanks are due to Linda, Bee, Cristiana and Nicole – but also very many others too numerous to list! These events take a lot of work to pull together, but are very much appreciated by the community – as well as raising much needed funds for our church.

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

NO OPEN HOUSE THIS WEEK

Please note there is NO Open House this coming Monday, 9th December – the last Open House before Christmas will take place on Monday 16th December. 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.

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.

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...)

LEPRA APPEAL ON 14/15th DECEMBER

Next weekend, there will be an appeal by the charity LEPRA, a UK-based specialist charity working to fight leprosy in different parts of the world, especially India.

NO CONFESSIONS

THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER

Please note Fr Frank will not be present for his usual afternoon Confessions on Thursday 19th December, as he is leading a retreat elsewhere.

'SYCAMORE' EVENINGS

BEGINNING IN JANUARY

In January, we hope to begin running a short course based on the new 'Sycamore' programme – an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance today. Each session involves a short, high quality film and time for discussion, exploring the richness of our Christian tradition from a Catholic perspective (the name 'Sycamore' comes from the story of Zacchaeus who climbed a Sycamore tree to see Jesus better...). The course will run on Monday evenings and the dates for your diary are – 28th January, 4th February, 11th February and 23rd February. More information to follow soon.

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

The prayer group meet every first Tuesday of most months: 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. For more information please contact Fr Richard at richardwhinder@rcaos.org.uk

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>

LOVE & MERCY : FAUSTINA FILM

"Love and Mercy: Faustina" was released on the 18th November in the UK and Ireland to great success. Due to demand an additional 50 cinemas are showing the film on 10th December, including the Odeons in Streatham, Wimbledon and Kingston. The full list of cinemas with screenings are at: <http://loveandmercyfilm.co.uk/tickets/> .There are more promotional materials on: www.loveandmercyfilm.co.uk/press-pack

SW LONDON CHORAL SOC. CONCERT Sat 14 DECEMBER

The South West London Choral Society's have a concert on Saturday 14 December at St Anne's Church, St Ann's Square SW18 2RS, at 7.30pm - £15 on the door. The music with orchestra and soloists includes Charpentier's Te Deum, Lalande's De Profundis and Mondonville's Coeli enerrant gloriam Dei.

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

**Additional evening
Confessions every first
Sunday of the month, 5.00 -
5.30pm. NEXT AVAILABLE
ON SUN 5 JANUARY.**

MASSES etc ...

SAT 7		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 (Intentions)
MON 9	Immaculate Conception	6.45am	Holy Mass	Fr Patrick Cope & Arthur Cope RIP
		9.30am	Holy Mass	Private Intention
TUE 10	Our Lady of Loretto	6.45am	Holy Mass	Mary Cummins RIP
		9.30am	Holy Mass	Gertie McDarby RIP
WED 11	St Damasus I	6.45am	Holy Mass	Wyn Davies (Wellbeing)
		9.30am	Holy Mass	Sr Imelda RIP
THU 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe	6.45am	Holy Mass	Mary Kirnan (Intentions)
		9.30am	Holy Mass	Paul Davies (Intentions)
FRI 13	St Lucy	8.30am	Holy Mass	John Hanrahan RIP
		9.30am	Holy Mass	Denis McCarthy RIP
SAT 14	St John of the Cross	10am	Holy Mass	Philomena Ruggiero RIP
		5.30pm	Holy Mass	Mary & Richard Duggan RIP
SUN 15	3rd Sunday of Advent	8am	Holy Mass	Trustram Eve Family (Thanksgiving)
		9.30am	Family Mass	Marcia Maric RIP
		11am	Sung Mass	Pro Populo
		5pm		Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
		6pm	Holy Mass	Joe Byrne RIP



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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