



1. This Sunday is the **First Sunday of Advent**. In Advent, we naturally begin to think about Christmas. However, on this first Sunday of the season, the readings speak rather about the **SECOND** coming of Christ, at the end of time. Throughout the season, we will hear the voice of the Prophet Isaiah (pictured above in a medieval sculpture) who calls us to open our hearts to Christ when he comes – at Christmas, at the end of time, and in the Holy Eucharist, at Mass.
2. The beginning of Advent is the beginning of a new Church year – which means **we need to change over the Mass books we keep in the porch**, for people to follow the readings. We hope to do this on Saturday evening, either before (preferably) or after the 5.30 Mass, if we can get some volunteers to help us. **Please do help if you can!** As ever – many hands make light work...
3. It has been suggested that some parishioners might appreciate the opportunity to attend a lunch time Mass, now that more people are working from home. Therefore, we will offer some **lunchtime Masses during Advent**, so that more people are able to attend Mass on a weekday. These Masses will take place on Mondays and Fridays during Advent, at 12.30 pm and will be celebrated in the Lady Chapel (the dates of these Masses are – 29th November, 3rd December, 6th December, 10th December, 13th December, 17th December, 20th December).
4. We will also be holding a **Christmas Carol Service** this year, on Sunday 12th December at 4.00 pm. As is traditional, the service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Due to the

pandemic, we have not been able to sing Christmas carols for the past two years, so this is a good opportunity to make up for lost time! Please make a note of the date – and do come and join us.

5. As one of our Acts of Kindness for this year's Parish Christmas Fundraising, **we are collecting used children's books for The Children's Book Project**. The Children's Book Project finds new homes for books that our children have outgrown, by donating them to children across London with few or no books of their own. If you are having a pre-Christmas clear-out and have some used children's books to contribute, donations can be left in the Church porch.
6. **We are currently collecting winter coats** for the homeless as part of #wrapuplondon. Please leave any winter coats you'd like to donate on the rail as you enter the church. The deadline is Wednesday 24th November. [@HandsOnLondon](#) [#wrapuplondon](#)
7. Once again, **the Holy Ghost PTA is supplying the best quality super grande Nordman Fir Christmas trees at competitive prices**. Please complete Google order form: [Here](#). Tick a job off your festive to-do list AND help raise funds for the Holy Ghost school by ordering your Christmas tree from the PTA. They can even deliver to your door if you wish! Prices are as follows - 4-5ft - £30: 5-6ft - £42 : 6-7ft - £56 : 7-8ft - £70. Trees will be available for collection from the church courtyard on the morning of **Saturday, 4th December**, or for an additional £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. This service is available to any local household and all profits will go to the school. The trees will be blessed by the priests before being sold, so they will be extra special! **Please note the order deadline is Sunday, 28th November**.
8. **Do you have a sofa you no longer need?** Members of the Parish have been working with the SLRA (offering support to refugees) to support a family (mother with three young children) who have recently been rehoused from their one-room home. One request we have yet to fulfil is to supply a small sofa for the family. If you happen to have, or know of a small sofa that is no longer in use but has life in it, please contact liz.leelondon@gmail.com. Many thanks.
9. You can still contribute to our **parish consultation** regarding the Synod. Here is a link to the on-line form: <https://forms.gle/u7jsuCwb16MBfkhG9>. There are also postcards at the back of church, which you can use to make your responses. We will continue to keep you updated on the Synodal process in the weeks to come.
10. **Your parish choir needs your help**. We sing at the 11.30 Mass on Sundays as well as on major festivals of the Christian Year. We are a group of dedicated and hard-working singers who are happy to welcome new members in all voice parts. The choir is composed entirely of members of Holy Ghost Parish who serve their community and their God through song in the liturgy. This is an ideal opportunity to join a group, to perfect or learn new skills and to serve your Christian community in a meaningful way. Join us on a Thursday at 8pm for a rehearsal. For singers who wish to participate in the Carol Service, you will need to attend rehearsals from 18th November onwards. I look forward to seeing new singers in our ranks.
Darquise Bilodeau, Choir Director

- 11. School Admission forms.** You should drop off your forms – together with any accompanying documentation – in the post box at the Parish Office, 27 Nightingale Square. Once Father Richard has signed them, you will be contacted to collect them – we do not forward them to the schools on your behalf. If he has any questions Father Richard will contact you directly. Please note, since Mass attendance has obviously been disrupted by the pandemic, forms will be signed on the basis of Mass attendance prior to the pandemic. If you have moved to the parish in recent months, you may wish to contact your previous parish for supporting evidence. Some schools ask for a ‘Certificate of Catholic Practice’ to be signed. These must be downloaded from the internet, by the parents of the applicant, and you must fill in your own details, leaving father Richard to sign the document – the Parish Office does NOT supply these certificates. **Please submit any remaining forms as soon as possible.**
- 12. Holy Ghost Catholic Primary School are seeking to appoint a Premises Assistant** to work alongside the current Premises Officer – Monday to Friday 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Please contact Linda Humphries - lhumphries@holyghost.wandsworth.sch.uk or telephone 0208 673 3080 for further details.

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni