



1. This Sunday is the **Fourth Sunday of Advent** – the last Sunday before Christmas
2. This Monday, **20th December**, we offer the last of our 12.30 Masses for the season of Advent. These quiet Masses offer a chance to spend a few peaceful moments with God during the busy working day.
3. A list of our **Christmas Services** is available here. **Please note there is no 8.00 Mass on Sunday 26th December (Boxing Day)**
4. Please note that **Paget, our Parish Secretary, will be on Christmas leave from December 23rd till January 4th inclusive.** Please leave any routine matters (booking Masses, etc.) until Paget is back in the office.
5. In the church porch there are some **booklets** which have been provided by our Diocese – ‘The Ultimate Relationship’ – please feel free to take one. They would also be suitable for giving to people who do not normally come to church. Similarly, there are some **postcards** which could be given to people who may be thinking of returning to Mass, but have not yet done so. There is a space for you to add the church website (www.hgbalham.com) and your own name, if you wish. Of course, some people may still be cautious about attending church, given the on-going pandemic, but others may welcome an invitation to return.
6. **The ‘Backpack’ program builds human and spiritual development.** It has been run in schools, parishes, youth groups, and used with addiction recovery. The formation provided is described by participants as a life-changing. The lessons offer skills in emotional self-regulation, with practical tools for mind and body calming. People flourish as they develop increased self-awareness and learn to instil boundaries for healthier relationships.

Contemplative prayer cultivates their choice to make their relationship with God both private and personal. A virtue-based approach to life builds resilience and peace, which are more essential than ever before. **The Backpack program for adults is available from January in our parish.** 12 sessions of 1h30 on Thursday in the Parish Centre (27 Nightingale Square), from 12 to 1:30 pm. Lunch and the backpack book are included. Price is £140. Contact laetbery@yahoo.fr

7. We would like to compile a list of **volunteers who could offer lifts to older parishioners** who might otherwise be unable to attend Sunday Mass. If you could help, please email the Holy Ghost Volunteers – the email address is: hgbalhamvolunteers@gmail.com or call 07512 082376. Please note, we would need to obtain a DBS (safeguarding) check for volunteers before they could begin offering rides.
8. **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.**
9. **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