



1. This Sunday is the **Second Sunday of Advent**. The Gospel speaks about the mission of St John the Baptist (pictured above in a painting by Raphael)
2. During December we are offering 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). The run up to Christmas can be so hectic! These quiet Masses offer a chance to spend a few peaceful moments with God during the busy working day.
3. We will 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.
4. 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.

5. **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.
6. 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.
7. **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.**
8. **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