The second collection today supports youth work in the diocese and beyond and especially the Catholic Youth Service.

CHRIST THE KING, SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

Christian martyrs have always rejected all these claims because the true King whom we adore and serve is Our Lord Jesus Christ, and we bring this month and these weeks to a climax today on the feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the Church’s year - Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the World, Salvator Mundi, depicted in this painting by Leonardo da Vinci which was in the headlines earlier in the month. As often Our Lord is shown holding a globe, symbolising the world of which he is the true King. The feast of Christ the King was only instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925, in reaction to secularism and the growth in the power of the State over people’s lives (particularly at that time in Soviet Russia and Fascist Italy); we also mark the feast (as other churches do) by a Procession of the Host and Benediction at one of our Masses. This reminds us that Catholic belief in the Real Presence, in Transubstantiation, has often been seen as a threat by secular rulers (as in this country at the Reformation): if your King is in the tabernacle, you may not listen as much to the King in the palace.

We are also hearing at the moment a great deal about national sovereignty, here and elsewhere in the world. Much of this is malign and deceptive, at odds with what we celebrate on this feast day. The answer to so much which is disordered in the world, in our own country and elsewhere, can really only be countered by faith in Christ the King, the Saviour of the world.

Our faith, if it is strong and authentic, helps us always, as it has helped those being persecuted and martyred, to get our priorities and loyalties right.

IF you go to weekday Mass now, towards the end of the Church’s liturgical year leading up to Advent, the Scripture readings day by day focus on particular themes such as the Last Judgment and martyrdom. Those from the Old Testament come from the latest books in that part of the Bible, from the 2nd century BC and the time of the Maccabean revolt of the Jewish people against oppression by the Greeks. Persecution and martyrdom are major themes in these weeks, and this was reiterated last Wednesday by the Big Wednesday events, organised by Aid to the Church in Need, in support of Christians undergoing persecution in different parts of the world (Westminster cathedral lit up is shown here).

For Christians in particular, persecution and martyrdom are about the power and claims of the nation state - national sovereignty. Throughout history Christians who have been persecuted or killed because of their faith have essentially denied the absolute claims often made by rulers - the Roman Emperor, Stalin, ‘ISIS’ or the present rulers of China - over religious belief and a person’s conscience. To their persecutors, such Christians are traitors, atheists, infidels. It boils down to the power which the State claims over our lives, the many ways in which the nation state claims absolute and unthinking loyalty. Quite by chance in November the ways in which we recall those who have lost their lives in war reminds us of where such loyalty leads.
Our parish SVP group is organising a Christmas lunch on Monday 11 December in the Church Hall.

The lunch is from 12.30-3pm and transport will be available for anyone who needs assistance. There will be no charge, but if you are able to make a contribution for your lunch, this would be gratefully received and would help preserve our charitable funds for those in need.

A primary objective of the SVP is to befriend and visit those who may be somewhat lonely and isolated so, even if they have not had contact with the SVP, other parishioners are welcome to come and enjoy this festive meal with us.

Please contact Fiona Ross on 020 8460 2322 or email fiona@businessjunction.co.uk.uk

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CAROL SINGING AT WAITROSE

Outside Waitrose
Saturday 9 December 1 - 2 pm

This event organised by CTiB will be raising money for Christian Aid. Please come along and join with Fr Steve and a few others. Not only will you be bringing Christmas cheer to weary shoppers and collecting money for Christian Aid but you'll also be giving yourself an hour of fun in the stressful run up to Christmas. If you can join the group please contact Sarah on 07946 382 032

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If you have returned your Missio box for emptying, please look in the porch where it will have been put for you to collect. Some have been there for quite some time.

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PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS FAIR
Sunday 3 December

Desperately needed -

- Books
- CD’s and DVD’s
- Linens
- Sweets
- Toiletries
- Bric a Brac
- Bottles

And also VOLUNTEERS!

Please contact Sue Owen on 07828 132 921 or email: sueowenwolf@gmail.com for more information.

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CLAVER CHAPEL REFURBISHMENT

The Claver Sisters are having their chapel painted. From the 27th November until the 9th December all the 8.15 Masses normally held at the Claver Convent will be at St Edmund’s.

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If you have enjoyed a book and would like to recommend it to other readers, a few of us will meet on Tuesday, 5 December, at no 11 Village Way after the 10.00 am Mass. Over a cup of tea or coffee you can tell us about it, and if you can part with it, you can leave it on the book table where, for a small donation someone else can take it to read. Books recommended last month: A Witness to Joy by Chiara Corbella Petrello (Father Steve), In The Day of Rain by Rebecca Stott (Phil), Bel Canto by Ann Patchett (Mavis).

Mavis Alagar

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CONFIRMATION 2018

Enrolment forms for the next Confirmation programme can be completed and the enrolment fee paid online at https://stedmunds.churchsuite.co.uk/events/mdhhfoa3

The form is also available to download from the parish website. Completed applications must be received at the office by 3 December so the Confirmation group administrator can complete the paperwork and arrange the groups before Christmas.

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300 Club

Our winners for November are:
No 57 - Philippa Ryan £100
No 7 - Mr P J Naughton £75
No 71 - Mary Lambeth £50
No 73 - Mr J W Martin £25

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PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS

READERS FOR CHRISTMAS VIGIL & MIDNIGHT MASS
Sunday Night - 24 December

Several readers are required for this important Christmas Service which starts with the Vigil of Readings at 11.15 pm before proceeding to Mass at Midnight.

If you would like to read at these celebrations please contact Rosemary by phone (07956 109465) or email r.ekong@ucl.ac.uk.

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The Mother General of our Salesian Sisters, who visited the convent last week, sends her most grateful thanks to our parishioners who have made the Sisters so very welcome in Beckenham and thanks the large number that packed into no 25 to meet her. She sends her blessing to all who came and also to those who weren’t able to.
Dear 300 Club Members,
Firstly, thank you all very much for your generous support of the Parish 300 Club. However, there are a considerable number of subscribers, who despite several reminders, have outstanding subscriptions, some going back as far as last March. So in order to help remind members of when their subscriptions are due, there is now a list in the porch with the due date, and the member’s last method of payment. If you are not paying by standing order, I would be very grateful if you could check when your sub is due and pay it promptly on the renewal date. From January 2018, members who are more than three months behind with their subscriptions will be suspended from the draw. Just to remind you, there will be the Christmas Prize draw next month for £500 and £250 instead of one prize of £750. These changes were announced in a note in January 2017. It would be great to have the list as up to date as possible by then. If you would like a number please contact Anthony Pontifex on 0208 650 5842 or at apontifex@hotmail.com

SICK LIST READ OUT AT MASS
You will have noticed that the list of the names of the sick which is read out at Mass each day has been reduced considerably. This list should contain the names only of those people who are in sight of death or who are to undergo a major operation in the next day or so. The place for the long term sick is the list on the back of the newsletter. We are starting again with the Mass Sick List. Please do not ask for a name to be included if it is more appropriate for the list in the newsletter.
Our Bidding Prayers always ask for all the sick to be remembered.

The pre-reference forms for admission to Saint Mary’s are now available. They may be obtained from one of the clergy after any Sunday Mass. They are not available from the Office.

POWER ASSISTED ARMCHAIR
Thank you so much to the family which has generously donated a power assisted armchair. It will make such a difference to the recipient’s everyday comfort.

WEDDING PREPARATION
If you intend to get married anytime next year please get in touch with the Office soon after Christmas to request a preliminary marriage application form. If your wedding is taking place outside the parish our clergy is still responsible for completing all the preparatory paperwork. Time is needed to contact overseas churches and if either of you has a previous marriage there are additional processes to complete. Ideally you should not confirm a date until you have seen a priest.

COLLECTION FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES
Our collection of items for asylum seekers and refugees in London living at the London Catholic Worker community in north London is THIS WEEKEND. This centre relies ENTIRELY on donations. As this is our last collection before Christmas maybe you could put some special treats in for the men to enjoy

THE PASSAGE
Double your Donation, Double your impact
The Passage is raising funds through the Big Give from 12 noon Tues 28 November - 12pm Tues 5 December to support its work with homeless people this winter. **Double your Donation, Double your impact.** This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (it can be a 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 020 75921855 or email andrew.h@passage.org.uk https://secure.thebiggive.org.uk/project/27756

The maximum is £5,000 from any one person/body. It is not a limit per household but per person.

SS JOSEPH & SWITHUN’S PARISH COMMUNITY
Advent Focus
Open to the Spirit - Led by the Spirit
**Monday 27 November**
Morning 11-12
Afternoon 1.30-2.30
Evening 7.30-9pm
Internationally renowned speaker David Wells
Further details from St Joseph’s Parish Office or 020 8402 0459

MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF SOUTHWARK
Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit http://catholicnews.org.uk/ or search for ‘Catholic Education’ in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS
Please take a Cafod gift catalogue from the porch and take it home with you. It has some wonderful Christmas gifts inside that could change lives and bring health, education and prosperity to people who have so little.
MASSES AND INTENTIONS
November 26 - 3 December

Sunday 26
8.00 am Church Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (A)
For the people
9.30 am Church Anthony Leonard RIP (Enrolment Mass)
11.00 am Church Richard Graves RIP
**Procession of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction**
5.30 pm Church Trevor Binley RIP
7.00 pm Church Pattie Reeve RIP

Monday 27
8.15 am 27 V Way Feria John Sullivan RIP
10.00 am Church Willie Dalton RIP
11.30 am Church Requiem for Dorothy Appleyard
7.30 pm 27 V Way Adoration Hour

Tuesday 28
8.15 am Church Gregory P K Leung RIP
10.00 am Church Geoff Alagar (80th birthday)

Wednesday 29
8.00 am Challoner Feria Dr Pralhad Jhaver RIP
8.15 am Church Prince lyke family - thanksgiving
10.00 am Church Weal-Walkington ints.
7.30 pm Church Anna Murphy - wellbeing

Thursday 30
8.15 am Church St Andrew, Apostle Welfare of Ron Dempster
10.00 am Church Dick, Sean and Paul RIP
8.00 pm Church Adoration

Friday 1
8.15 am Church Feria Promoters and benefactors of
9.00 am Challoner Private intention
9.10 am St Mary’s Private Intention
10.00 am Church Adorers
Adoration and Benediction

Saturday 2
8.15 am Church Feria (Our Lady) The Forgotten Holy Souls
10.00 am Church Anthony Leonard RIP (1st anniv) and John McCarthy RIP
5.30 pm Church Fatima-First Saturday devotions
6.00 pm Church In memory of Mary Porter (vigil)

Sunday 3
8.00 am Church First Sunday of Advent (B)
For the people
9.30 am Church Paul Bones RIP
11.00 am Church Giovanni Campanaro RIP
3.00 pm Church Rehearsal for children’s Advent Service
5.30 pm Church Josie Croft RIP and Aileen Coupland (birthday)
7.00 pm Church Welfare of Jean Francois Panglose

Reconciliation on Saturdays from 10.30 - 11 am & from 5.00 - 6.00pm. Other times by request.

Readings for First Sunday of Advent (B)
Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8
Psalm 79
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

We pray for those who have died recently:
Dorothy Appleyard, Harry Leamon, Baby Edward, Paul Lang, Sarah Hartley and Penny Wood

Those whose anniversaries are this week:

We pray for the sick:

(Please advise the Office when names can be removed)

COLLECTIONS: the collection at Mass last Sunday came to £2,202.00.

DIARY DATES

**NOVEMBER**

Meditation - Every Monday in no11 from 5.30pm to 6.15pm
Monday 27 - Requiem Mass for Dorothy Appleyard 11.30am

**DECEMBER**

Meditation - Every Monday in no11 from 5.30pm to 6.15pm except 25th and 1st January
Sunday 3 - Christmas Fair
Friday 8 - Christmas Dinner and Dance
Saturday 9 - Advent Reconciliation Service
Sunday 10 - Children’s Advent Service
Monday 11 - SVP Christmas Lunch
Saturday 16 - Walking Group
Parish Advent Carol Service

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

A letter and a guide to correct practice for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist prepared by Deacon Sean has been emailed to all whose email addresses we have. Please will all who receive it read it. It answers many questions you might have.

If you do not have an email account please let the office know.