

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY
20 Village Way, Beckenham BR3 3NP
Email beckenham@rcaos.org.uk
Website: www.saintedmunds.net
Parish Office 020 8650 0970
Monday to Friday 9 - 1pm



2 December 2018 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT(B)



Fr. Steve Wymer - Parish Priest 020 8650 3390 - stephenwymer@rcaos.org.uk
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There is a second collection today for the SVP

TAKE ADVENT SERIOUSLY!

It has become a bit of a commonplace that clergy moan at this time of year about how Advent, in the way in which the Church has understood it for many centuries, is effectively eclipsed by people's determination to celebrate in some way or other, Christmas, nearly a month early - in shops the passing of Remembrance Sunday is now the point where this all begins: poppies quickly give way to poinsettias. I will try to avoid this and instead concentrate on the opportunities Advent gives us for deepening our faith as Catholics, and for recognising things in our lives which need his forgiveness. This exercise is something which the Church asks us to go through as a source of real joy and renewal in our lives, not as a drudge. It also needs to be marked by a spirit of penitence about our own community, as Archbishop Peter reflects about in the pastoral letter we are hearing at all Masses this weekend. The Church teaches that the reconciliation we need to find with God, because of the gift of his grace and forgiveness, needs to operate on two levels - the personal and the corporate. We warn against spiritualities which stress one level at the expense of the other. The personal: in Advent, as in Lent, the Church urges us to go to confession and here, as elsewhere, there will be a special opportunity to do this the weekend before Christmas. The beginning of a new Christian year in Advent enables us to take stock of our lives, our relationship with God, our relationships with other people. Where are we going in life? There are some things we may not consider: in his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*, about the care of creation, Pope Francis urged us to think about how our personal lives and choices impact on the beautiful but damaged world we live in (damaged by us, as he pointed out). So using less heating or air conditioning, using our cars less (and considering the type of car we use), thinking about the sort of lights we use and not leaving them on in a room, not wasting water, recycling and so on: these are moral issues and if we make the wrong choices we commit a sin (in line with this we have recently reviewed and cut down the times when heating is on in the church; there is of course much more we can do as a parish to implement the pope's teachings). When the encyclical came out Mrs Beirne at our primary school and the staff did some very good work with the children to explain the pope's teachings, drawing on excellent material produced by our aid organisation CAFOD. More Catholic schools should be doing this.

Laudato Si' is clear that you can't be a faithful Catholic and a climate change denier: our attitudes are among the things we should consider when we examine our consciences before going to confession. Taking stock in Advent is also about how we look at the world in general. When we examine our consciences we pray for one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the gift of the discernment. Discernment is about how we look at things and recognise reality. The message of the prophets which we hear repeatedly in Advent is of the coming reign and kingdom of the Messiah which we see as made real in the birth of Jesus: and that kingdom is marked by justice, reconciliation, peace and right relationships. If we take the Advent prophetic message seriously then we will recommit ourselves each year to what the Church does in the world to witness to justice and peace as part of our moral teachings. At the moment in the world it is clear that we need discernment to recognise the pervasive power of wickedness, the presence of evil, the activity of Satan - 'Father of sin and prince of darkness', as the Baptism service describes him, or the 'father of lies' - around us. The ugly rise of populist nationalism - here, in the rest of Europe, the United States, Brazil and many other countries - is a direct challenge to Christian teachings in every way; it is all the worse when the people promoting it claim to be Christians or Catholics. These attitudes are made particularly nasty through increasingly negative attitudes towards migrants, refugees and 'foreigners'. It's astounding how Christian leaders, apart from the Holy Father, seem often unable to discern the wickedness here, let alone the rest of us. Advent is a good time to be open to how the Holy Spirit is guiding the Church to resist evil, to see through the deceit and falsehood which always accompany evil. Serious stuff, but Advent is a serious time!



A WORD FROM FR STEVE

The season of Advent is upon us once again. It has always been a treasured time for me, especially as a child. The build-up and the anticipation of Christmas Eve and Christmas day was a magical time. A special feature was always the Advent Calendar and we as children delighted in taking it in turns to open a window to reveal a candle, a shepherd, an angel or some such seasonal image. I'm not sure whether our children today engage in the Advent calendar as we once did but I certainly hope they still have that sense of expectancy and the great gift of awe and wonder, and that some of it will be passed on to us adults.

APPLYING TO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

If you are applying to a Catholic primary school you will need to download from the school website what is called a 'SIF', which stands for *Supplementary Information Form*. This needs to be signed by a priest, attesting that your child is baptised and that your family comes to Mass. Please leave these at the presbytery for *me* - I sign them before the cut off date in January and send or take them direct to the school.

To help us in this process you also need to complete an internal *Pre-reference form*. These are in the porch. Again, when you have completed it please leave it for *me* at the presbytery. It doesn't go to the school; it is simply to give us the information we need. Please don't give us *originals* of documents such as baptism, birth or marriage certificates as getting them returned to you is a time-consuming exercise. If there are any problems with your application we will contact you. Even if you know one of the other clergy better, we have for many years run a system where I deal with all the applications, so material should be left for me rather than my colleagues.

Fr Ashley



CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION 2019

Registration for our Confirmation Course for 2019 is now open. Candidates need to visit the parish website

www.saintedmunds.net and click on SACRAMENTS - scroll down to the Confirmation section at the foot where there is a link for further details and to apply online. Course fees can also be paid online.

The direct link for this page is

<https://stedmunds.churchsuite.co.uk/events/ohugalf8>

There is a short window in which to register as the closing date for applications is **16 December**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION ST MARY'S Y3 - ST EDMUND'S PARISHIONERS

For those parents of children in Y3 who haven't yet applied to join the Thursday Class please visit the parish website www.saintedmunds.net home page and scroll down until you reach LATEST NEWS. There you will find information on how to register for the classes.

The direct link for this page is

<https://stedmunds.churchsuite.co.uk/events/9d2whavu>



CHILDREN'S ADVENT SERVICE

This will be on Sunday 9 December at 3.00pm. It is a lovely service and we are looking for lots of children to get involved. We will need readers, musicians and singers for the choir, as well as little ones coming dressed up in nativity costumes.

As well as lots of angels and shepherds, we would also like to have Mary, Joseph and the Three Kings, so if you think your children could play one of these (walk-on) roles, then let us know.

Readers only will need to attend a rehearsal at the church on Sunday 2nd at 3.00pm. To help us plan the service and allocate readings, please contact Maria Crowe at mariabrigthouse@hotmail.com

CHRISTMAS VIGIL & MIDNIGHT MASS IN THE CHURCH 24 December

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 email r.ekong@ucl.ac.uk by December 17 or call the parish office on 020 8650 0970 and leave your name and phone number. Thank you, Rosemary Ekong

ST EDMUND'S CHRISTMAS FAIR
Sunday 9th December

Thank you for all the wonderful donations we have received for the Parish Christmas Fair.

We are still short on the following items:

- BOTTLES for Cannon Jack's bottle stall
- CAKES
- MULLED WINE
- MINCE PIES
- TOILETRIES
- RAFFLE PRIZES

Please bring any items to the PARISH OFFICE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT
- It's not too late to VOLUNTEER. If you do have some time we are holding our final Volunteer Meeting on Monday 3 December at 7 pm, No 11 Village Way - All Welcome!

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE FORECOURT

ST EDMUND'S WALKING GROUP

Saturday 15 December
Leaving St Edmund's after 10.00am mass.
A gentle walk around Kelsey Park and Harvington Estate
followed by coffee, mulled wine and mince pies at
69 Kenwood Drive BR3 6QZ
All welcome, just turn up

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 15 December
7.15 pm in the Church
Why not come and enjoy carols and readings
to help you get ready for Christmas?
All our Parish choirs are involved.
Service will be followed by mulled wine
& hot mince pies in the Church Hall.

A collection will be made in aid of
St. Christopher's Hospice
Everybody is very welcome
Please do invite your family and friends!



From April next year we will be running an Alpha course to give people in Beckenham - whether inside the church or not - the chance to explore the Christian faith and develop a relationship with Jesus



This is an important step in our parish mission to 'announce the Gospel of the Lord' and you are all invited to come along, and perhaps to bring a friend or relative with you. More details will follow in the new year.

LAW SURGERY

The final Law Surgery of 2018 is on Monday 10th in no 11 from 7.00pm. Please arrive early and remember that the solicitor will leave when the final person has been seen.
Our very grateful thanks to the team of solicitors who so generously give their time and expertise to provide this service.

CRIB OFFERING 2018



This Christmas our Crib Offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society's Southwark Crisis Fund. This fund provides emergency grants for children and families in our Archdiocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Every single penny donated to the Crib will be given out via these grants.



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

PENGE NIGHT SHELTER

This recently opened shelter has put out an urgent call for bed linen. Single duvet covers, single sheets and pillow cases are all required, but as these are for adults, PLEASE nothing designed for children. Please put any donations in bags and leave them in the church porch
Thank you



CAKES FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Last year the fair organisers received **nine** cakes from parishioners to sell on the stall. All the other items, tray-bakes, breads, cup cakes, fruit cakes, pizzas, crumbles, biscuits were made by the two ladies who ran the stall. Please could all of the bakers bring in something to sell.
Everyone loves to leave with a home made treat.
Donations can be brought to the hall from 3-6pm on Saturday 8th or on Sunday morning.



SVP CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Monday 10 December at 12.30 - 3.00pm
Last call for those who would like to attend this lunch. If you are one of our older parishioners and haven't yet booked your place, and to reserve transport if required, please phone Fiona on 020 8460 2322 or email fiona@businessjunction.co.uk

For those on low income there will be no charge, but otherwise, the lunch will cost £15 per person.
Children from St Mary's will be singing carols and musicians will also entertain.

BOOK APPRECIATION GROUP

Will meet on Tuesday, 4 December, after the 10.00 am Mass at no11 Village Way. Do join us for a discussion about books that we have enjoyed and you might like to read. All are welcome to join us.
Refreshments are available



FATHER KIERAN BARRY-RYAN RIP

Many of you will remember with great fondness Fr Kerry Barry-Ryan SJ who spent many years living at St Anthony's in Penge and was a regular visiting priest to St Edmund's and a popular and insightful speaker on parish courses. Fr Kerry died peacefully in St Vincent's, Dublin with his family around him.
Please remember this good man in your prayers.
May he rest in peace.



Masses this week

Sunday 2 December

8.00 am Church
 9.30 am Church
 11.00 am Church
 5.30 pm Church
 7.00 pm Church

First Sunday of Advent

Forgotten Holy Souls in Purgatory
 For the people
 Richard Graves RIP
 Umberto Ferrando RIP
 The Howard family

Monday 3 December

8.15 am Church
 10.00 am Church
 7.30 pm 27 VW

St Francis Xavier, Priest

Paola Zorrilla - health
 Josie Croft RIP & Aileen Coupland - birthday
 Adoration

Tuesday 4 December

8.15 am Claver
 10.00 am Church
 2.30 pm Church

Feria

John Cotter
 Howard Anthony Long & Mum & Dad RIP
 CWL

Wednesday 5 December

8.00 am Challoner
 8.15 am Claver
 10.00 am Church
 7.30 pm Church

Feria

Private intention
 Ernest Fraser & family
 John Ransford RIP
 Sheila Erhart RIP

Thursday 6 December

8.15 am Claver
 10.00 am Church

Feria (St Nicholas, Bishop)

The Forgotten Holy Souls
 Roy Brocklehurst RIP

Friday 7 December

8.15 am Claver
~~9.10 am St Mary's~~
 10.00 am Church

St Ambrose, Bishop

John Cotter
~~Sheila Erhart RIP~~
 Margaret & Stanley Rivers RIP

Adoration and Benediction

Saturday 8 December

8.15 am Claver
 10.00 am Church
 6.00 pm Church

The Immaculate Conception

John Murnane, orphans & benefactors
 Henry R King RIP
Reconciliation from 10.30 - 11 am and 5 - 5.55 pm
 Geoffrey Cotton RIP

Sunday 9 December

8.00 am Church
 9.30 am Church
 11.00 am Church
 3.00 pm Church
 5.30 pm Church
 7.00 pm Church

Second Sunday of Advent

Henry King RIP
 For the people
 Theresia Halpin RIP
Children's Advent Service
 Louise Denny RIP
 Rite of Acceptance for RCIA candidates
 Philip Kieman Sr RIP & son Phil RIP

The Rosary is prayed from 9.40 every Monday - Saturday before 10.00 am Mass. After Mass there is exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

During this sacred hour the church should be in total silence as the Blessed Sacrament is venerated.

**Readings for Sunday 9 December
 Second Sunday of Advent (C) Cycle 2,
 Psalter Week 11**

Baruch 5:1-9
 Psalm 125
 Philippians 1:4-6,8-11
 Luke 3:1-6

DIARY DATES

Meditation every Monday in no11 from 5.30-6.15pm except 24 & 31 December.

There is an open door for the bereaved on the first Wednesday of every month from 10.30am in no11

Law Surgery is every second Monday of the month at 7 pm in no11

Drop In for those living with memory loss and their carers is every Thursday at 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm in the Hall

DECEMBER

Monday 3 - 7pm - Final Fair Planning Meeting in no 11

Friday 7 - Parish dinner and dance ★

Sunday 9 - Parish Christmas Fair ★

Sunday 9 - Children's Advent Service - 3pm ★

Monday 10 - SVP lunch for older parishioners

Monday 10 - 7pm in no11 - Law Surgery

Saturday 15 - after 10.00 am Mass - Christn ★ Walk

Saturday 15 - 7.15 - Advent Carol Service

Saturday 22 - 4.30 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service

Saturday 29 - Contemplative Saturday - 11-12 in no 11

COLLECTION

Last weekend the plate collection came to £1970.30 with a further £1865.83 received through ChurchSuite and standing orders. The second collection for Catholic Youth Work came to £898.06



We pray for those who have died recently: Sean O'Connor, Pat McQuaid, Joan Walsh, Kevin Costelloe, Sr Kathleen Jones, Fr Kerry Barry-Ryan and Virginia Lee

We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week: Barbara Poltera, Jeanne Ingram, Margaret Cantwell, Angela Deeny, Bella Walter, Helen Shipsey, Rachel Elias, Leonard Cook, Mary Beck.

We pray for the sick:

Andrew, Bernice, Edith Campos, Paul James Claridge, Arthur Cromwell, Christine Curl, Daniel Dennehy, Giacomo Dillon, Sheba Davies, Joan Davies, John Dillon, Rosanna Domenissini, Bridget D'Souza, Iolene Durham, Ann Elmer, Elizabeth, Margaret Fennessy, Hans Halpin, Anisah Hassan, Eileen Hayes, Kathleen Heneghan, Jim Henry, Frances Hughes, Monica Hyland, Jerry Jacob, John Kelsall, John, Sarah Marie Kench, Ken Francis Kench, Keith Kench, Ann Kingston, Richard Kirin, Grace Knight, Agnes Yuen Man Leung, Paul McQuinny and family, Maria McWay, Patrick Metters, Eddie Mitchell, Orla O'Regan, Patsy O'Reilly, Catherine Phelan, Hilary Pitt, John Quaipe, David Rogers, Rosa, Colleen Schroeder, Siobhan, Paula Shaw, Paul Stevenson, Charlie Wynn, Barry Thorpe, Patricia Weal, Joan & Alfred.