

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY  
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29 November 2020  
First Sunday of Advent

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## GOD AND VACCINES



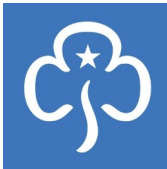
FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, one of the final documents of the Second Vatican Council contained these words: **‘Humanity judges rightly that by his intellect he surpasses the material universe, for we share in the light of the divine mind. By relentlessly employing his talents through the ages we have indeed made progress in the practical sciences and in technology and the liberal arts. In our times humanity has won superlative victories, especially in the probing of the material world and in subjecting it to itself. Still it has always searched for more penetrating truths, and finds them’.** While we might worry today about what some people might understand by ‘subjecting’, this is an important affirmation of scientific enquiry. The Church and the world of science have not always had an easy relationship, and in our own age we will insist, as in every area of life, that ethical standards are followed, but the Church is in dialogue with scientists and respects what they discover. The best example of this affirmation is Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si’* about care for creation. The pope, probably the first pope to have a degree in physics, made it clear that faithful Catholics can’t be ‘climate change deniers.’ The Church, which has always promoted high quality education, will have no time for politicians who say things like ‘People in this country have had enough of experts’.

So respect for medical and scientific evidence during this pandemic has led the Church to encourage people to follow advice they are given, in the interests of the Common Good; and we have also accepted restrictions on public worship – but for the recent cessation of public worship, mercifully about to end, we tried to seek out what the evidence was

to justify this step, without much success. But overall Christians are no more likely to be among those denying what this virus is about than we are to be among those denying climate change, if we’re considerate towards other people and not selfish.

Therefore with others we will be thankful about the recent announcements about the development of three vaccines against Covid-19. As with other vaccines there are some ethical concerns, addressed recently by the Bishops Conference ([Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://CatholicBishopsConferenceofEnglandandWales.cbcew.org.uk)), and it has been made clear that we can take these vaccines with a clear conscience, even when we have reservations. Moreover, Catholics will want to insist that distribution of the vaccine is not carried out worldwide in the interests of the rich. Being thankful to God after these last very difficult months is what really matters, and as Advent and a new year in the life of the Church is beginning this weekend, we’re offered a new beginning and a path out of sadness and the danger of death. Human reason and intelligence which leads us in scientific and medical enquiry *is a gift from God* (and I write this is as one who was terrible at Science subjects at school). We are created in the image of God as a free act of love on his part: this means that our use of these gifts, if we do so ethically, reflects God’s nature; as Vatican II says, we **‘share in the divine mind.’** This phrase helps us understand the doctrine of the Incarnation. Because Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully human, we believe that he bridges the gulf between God and humanity; the early Church Fathers write of humanity being ‘deified’ and taken into the Godhead. This is why mainstream Christianity sees humanity as noble and exalted – though scarred by sin – rather than dirty and contemptible. This dignity which we possess as God’s children, created in his image, is at the heart of our moral teaching, not least in relation to the ethics of healthcare provision at this time. For these reasons we should be thankful to God for the advances which have been made in different parts of the world (there’s no excuse for flag-waving) on the basis of international cooperation. These advances speak to us of the gifts of ingenuity which God gives us, a sign of his love; and we share in the mind of God because of Jesus Christ. Please pray at this time for those completing the vaccine trials and those who will be responsible for their manufacture and administration, here and all over the world.

## GIRL GUIDES



The guide leader for the group that meets in St Edmund's Hall, Lorraine Wilson-Cousins is retiring after many year's service. If anyone is interested in taking over the role or just finding out more about the post, please email the office and we will put you in touch with Lorraine. Formal applications must be made through the website [girlguiding.org.uk](http://girlguiding.org.uk) where more information about the movement can be found.



## ADVENT SERVICE

We are unable to hold our Advent Celebration of Carols and Readings in the usual way, so this year we are going online.

A **virtual** Advent Carol Service will be live-streamed from the Church on **Saturday 12 December at 7.15 pm.**

Should you wish to join in with the carol singing and follow the readings, a programme will be on the website from 5 December.

We usually raise money to support St. Christopher's Hospice, so if you wish to donate to this charity you can do so online:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rosieschoirchristmasevents](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rosieschoirchristmasevents)

or you can post a donation through the Presbytery door marked 'St. Christopher's Hospice'.

We do hope you are able to join us on online - where you watch our parish Masses

## ADVICE FOR COMPLETING THE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM FOR ADMISSION TO ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass was announced on 18th March by Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. If a parent/carer attended Mass at a particular parish (or parishes) prior to 18th March 2020 then they will be considered to have attended Mass in that parish (or parishes) regularly since that time. This will remain the case until the Sunday obligation is re-introduced by the Bishops. Fr Ashley is the priest dealing with school admissions. Please contact him at the email address on the front page and not the parish office or the school office. In the current circumstances it is best if you email your SIF direct to him, containing your details, and he will email the priest's part back to you; this way we can avoid the use of hard copies or having to arrange collection from the presbytery while the physical office is closed.'



We put this item in week after week as it could be such an easy way to boost the finances of our parish which have been badly affected by the lockdowns. Many of you shop online and will be doing so over the next few weeks so we urge you to take a look at this and see if you can help.

It's easy and completely FREE. 4,300 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up and share today:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stecb/?invite=U95BCP%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utmcampaign=admin-trigger%26utmcontent=srt>

**Thank you to those who have recently signed up to this. We are very grateful.**

## 300 CLUB

Congratulations to our November winners

No 294, Mrs Rosemary Chrumka, £100

No 120, Mrs Fiona Ross, £75

No 213, Mrs Gillian Moore-Martin, £50

No 105, Mrs Celia Doran, £25

## SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY PLACES 29 November

This second collection is for the upkeep of the Holy Places - the places connected with our Lord's Passion, and also to help maintain Christian schooling in this area. This collection would have been taken in our Catholic churches throughout the world on Good Friday, and the diocese has directed that it be taken this weekend.

Please use the *DONATE* option on ChurchSuite to make a donation to the Holy Places

The parents of Sarah Webb, and Sarah herself, want to thank all the parishioners who have been praying for Sarah and for them, over the last few weeks. Sarah has defied the odds and is back at home. She is in good spirits and sends her love to all.

## Would you like a Mission Calendar 2021?

These are available from  
The Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver  
89 Shortlands Road, 020 8313 3915

A missionary calendar is a very simple way of keeping the flame alive, of reminding ourselves during the year, of the need to pray and support the missions.

**We are looking for volunteers who can help build 5 or 10 Sleep Pods.**

No experience or technical knowledge needed!  
A Sleep Pod is a **one-person shelter** designed to self-warm and protect the user from rain and wind. It can be put up and packed away into its own bag in seconds and is extremely lightweight. We do not ask you to pay for the ones you assemble.

One Sleep Pod can be made in about 1 hour and you will need a space approximately 3m x 2m in order to lay out the materials and build in comfort. You will be sent a "how to build" video to follow. We work with charities and groups who distribute to rough sleepers. We rely on people power to make our charity work.

For more information visit our website:  
[www.sleepod.org.uk](http://www.sleepod.org.uk)

Each pod costs £30 - if you can help by fundraising or donating to our online fundraising campaign go to:  
<https://www.fundsurfer.com/crowdfund/sleep-pod-fundraising-campaign>

When you become a Sleep Pod home builder you become a part of something much much bigger and we thank you for being part of the story.

*Thanks to those of you who have already assembled some pods*

**The Sleep Pod Team**  
Registered charity – Charity number 1187295

**Life turned upside down in these Covid-19 times?**

Join us to reflect on some of the characters in the Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed.

How is God speaking to us through these stories today?

email us for the link:  
[CompassInAdvent@gmail.com](mailto:CompassInAdvent@gmail.com)

**COMPASS IN ADVENT  
Preparing for Christmas**

Our lives are being turned upside down at the moment due to Covid-19.

Join us to reflect on some of the characters in the Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed.

How is God speaking to us through these stories today?

Each Friday we will focus on one set of characters. The meeting will also include a sharing of a contemporary story of vocation/call. There will be time for sharing, questions, and discussion.

Who? - Young adults 18-35  
When? Fridays - 27 Nov, 4, 11, 18 Dec  
Time? 7pm for one hour

Zoom link: email us on [CompassInAdvent@gmail.com](mailto:CompassInAdvent@gmail.com) for the link and for any other information.  
Facebook event: <https://bit.ly/CompassInAdvent>

*Compass is a project of CVP (Catholic Vocations Project). CVP is supported by a group of religious women and men in the UK who are interested in promoting a culture of vocation in our Church.*

**SLEEPOUT FOR  
BROMLEY HOMELESS SHELTER**

Thank you very much to those who sponsored this event. Fortunately, I was blessed with a rain free night with clear skies. My total raised (including gift aid) was £663.75.

Anne Unseld

**Night Under The Stars 2020**  
3 Dec

**Night Under the Stars goes virtual  
Our special 20th anniversary virtual event**

Hosted by comedian Rory Bremner and classical music radio broadcaster Petroc Trelawny, with special performances filmed at the London Coliseum from British baritone Huw Montague Rendall; British lyric soprano Nadine Benjamin; violinist Shlomy Dobrinsky; The Orion Orchestra; Conductor, Toby Purser and song pianist, Gary Matthewman.

With festive readings from one of Britain's best-loved story makers, Michael Morpurgo and broadcaster and journalist Sue Lawley.

Book your tickets at <https://givergy.uk/theassage/>  
**Suggested donations are £12 a ticket, but please give as generously as you are able.**







**CAFOD ONLINE REFLECTIONS** - Cafod has a lovely online Advent calendar, which can be found at <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-calendar> You can also find other versions there, such as an Advent calendar for families and one for children.

**CAFOD WORLD GIFTS** - Cafod's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Visit [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](https://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts)

We can also stretch out our hands to people living in poverty and refugees by donating to CAFOD's Advent Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/advent](https://cafod.org.uk/advent).

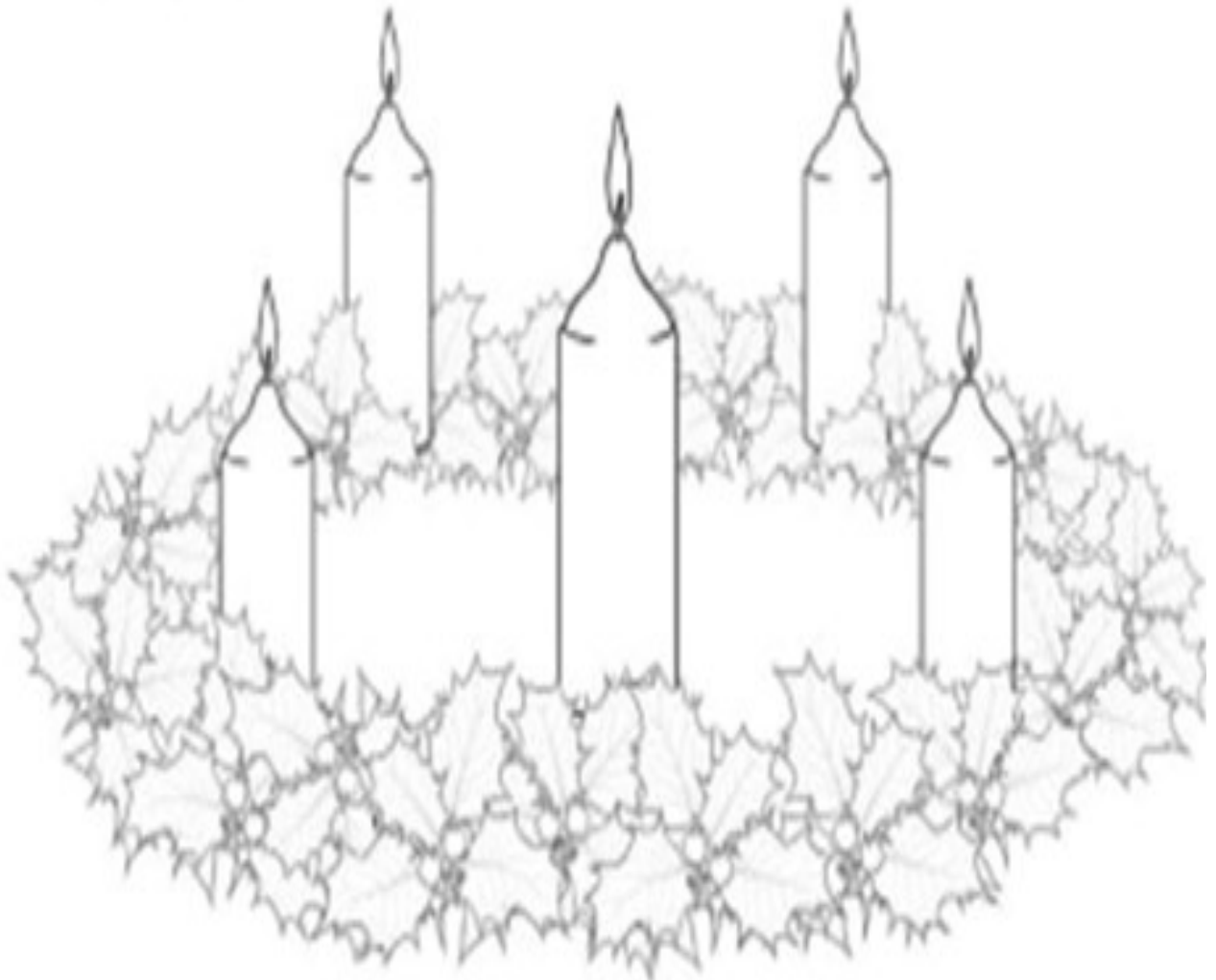


**THE BIG GIVE  
FOR ONE WEEK STARTING 1 DECEMBER**

**The Passage** is raising funds through the **Big Give** from noon on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December to noon on Tuesday 8 December to support its work *Helping Homeless People* this winter.

**Double your Donation, Double your impact.** This is a matched-giving scheme for online donations. If someone gave £10 online, matched-giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals, to £22.50 with Gift Aid). For more information please contact Andrew Hollingsworth on 020 75921886 or [andrew.h@passage.org.uk](mailto:andrew.h@passage.org.uk)

Please give online at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/PassageBigGive>



## MASSES THIS WEEK

Masses are closed until Thursday morning

<b>Sunday 29 November</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> 9.30 am Adam Aniskiewicz RIP 5.30 pm For the people
<b>Monday 30 November</b>	<b>Saint Andrew, Apostle, Patron Saint of Scotland</b> 10.00 am Gladys Walsh 6.00 pm Faustino Cabilin RIP
<b>Tuesday 1 December</b>	<b>Feria</b> 10.00 am Anthony Leonard RIP (anniv) 6.00 pm Winnie Lewis RIP
<b>Wednesday 2 December</b>	<b>Feria</b> 10.00 am John Brookes RIP 6.00 pm Sean McGrath RIP
	<b>Church re-opens</b>
<b>Thursday 3 December</b>	<b>St Frances Xavier, Priest</b> 10.00 am Josie Croft & Aileen Coupland (b'day) 6.00 pm Peter May RIP
<b>Friday 4 December</b>	<b>Feria</b> 10.00 am John Ransford RIP 6.00 pm Riccardo & Stella Ling RIP
<b>Saturday 5 December</b>	<b>Feria</b> 10.00 am Int's of Michael & Christine Parker 6.00 pm <b>Confession from 5.00 pm until 5.55 pm</b> Howard Long & his mum & dad RIP For the needs of the Priests & the parish
<b>Sunday 6 December</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 9.30 am John Cotter 5.30 pm For the people of the parish Richard Graves RIP

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is on the webcam each weekday from 11.00 am until 5.00 pm.

*Some Mass intentions have had to be moved from their booked date as we are celebrating fewer Masses at the moment. The intention will be moved to another Mass as close as possible to the date originally given.*



## READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Year B

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalm 84:

2 Pet 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Last week's online collection raised £

To make your regular donations electronically please click here <http://saintedmunds.net/index.php/donations/> or to set up a standing order, our bank details are:  
St Edmund's Church Sort Code: 60-02-12  
Ac no: 14282887

## OUR ADVENT WREATH



Advent Candles are made up of three purple candles with one rose or pink.

The candles recall the weeks until Christmas.

Purple candles symbolise waiting, also penitence but not in the same way as Lent.

Rose or Pink is used on the third Sunday of Advent to symbolise rejoicing, since the third Sunday of Advent is referred to as Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday.

They are lit because light is as a symbol of Christ being the light of the World coming through the darkness.

Sometimes a white candle is placed in the middle, people focus on this when lit as the representation of Christ entering the world.

**We pray for those who have died recently:** Denise Ricketts, Rita Dixon, Angela Stolle, Fr Uche Iwuala, Rosi Baruffi.

**We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week:** Henry Alfred Jones, Ernest Galea, Eileen Macey, Ivy Ballard, Mary Porter, Agnes Michell, Anthony Leonard, Barbara Helen Poltera, Jeanne Ingram, Hugh 'Gerry' Gerish, Margaret Cantwell, Angela Deeny.

**We pray for the sick:** Angela, Evelina Armani, Rob Burns, Carmel Cardiff, Chant, Christine, Mark Clapson, Jorge Corrigan-Zorilla, John Crouch, Kevin Curtis, Sorcha Davis, Niamh Dawson, Giacomo Dillon, Bridget D'Souza, Joshua Dunford, Nicholas Dunford, Alex Dufort, Cecil Dutton, Suzanne Eilbeck, Epiphany Fernandes, Antonio Ferrara, Felicity, Mary Flood, Flora, Sarah Gallagher, Erika Geddes, Gaetan Goa, Tony Hallett, Hans Halpin, Margaret Halpin, Michael Harper, John Harrow, Pauline Hatfield, Eileen Hayes, Kathleen Hayes, Ann Higgs, Lesley Hill, Glen Jack, Rosemary Jackson, Mim Jennings, Peter Anthony Jones, Catherine Kelly, Eileen Kelly, Antony & Richard Kirin, Kevin Kurtis, Andrew Kuzan, Pierre Lane, Margaret Lilley, Rosy Lobo, Amelia Macdonald, Rose McDonnell, Mary McGrath, Paul McIndoe, Eddie Mitchell, Salvador Moreno, Barbara Moyce, Eva Perjesi, John Quaiife, Brian Russell, Brigitte Savreux-O'Driscoll, Margaret Pietrzyk, Mary Shipsey, Coleen Shroeder, David Silk, Siobhan, John Stokoe, Philippa Tolley, Pauline Ullisak, Deborah Walcott-Grappie, Joan, Alfred, Susan & Wendy Waller, Jimmy Walters, Patricia Weal, Sarah Webb, Sue Wingfield and Charlie Wynn.

Priest's Day Off -Fr Ashley – Monday, Fr Steve - Tuesday, Fr David – Wednesday