

## CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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Sunday 3 December

YR B

Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver  
020 8313 3915

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**Second collection for  
Living Well**

## COME, LORD JESUS, COME!

"Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come." These are the sobering words of Jesus in the Gospel for this first Sunday of Advent. Essentially Jesus is saying, 'As you do not know when I will return, be steadfast in your vigilance.'

The first two Sundays of Advent concentrate on the second coming of our Lord and the last two, the first coming, the Incarnation. So, in a sense, we are looking forward with faith and looking back in a spirit of thanksgiving.

Being watchful for the Day of the Lord is all about being ready, and we prepare ourselves by nourishing our souls with the Mass, the scriptures, the sacraments, our prayers and our selfless good deeds.

However, although we wait and watch for this momentous return, it doesn't mean Jesus is absent from our everyday lives; he comes to us in many ways, through people, nature, prayers, dreams and so many of the events and experiences we have in our lifetime.

Have you ever thought of yourself as a contemplative? Henri Nouwen, a Dutch Catholic priest, writer and theologian (1932-1996) believed we are called to be contemplatives, see-ers who see the coming of God in our everyday world. It's a constant action going on around us, between us and within us. But he warns us to be aware of the obstacles and blindfolds that would prevent us from recognising and benefitting from his extraordinary presence. Can you think what they might be?

Perhaps during this first part of Advent we can focus on eradicating anything that would prevent us from experiencing his loving presence.

Here is a prayer that can be a plea to our Lord for the here and now and for when he finally comes at the end of time.

*"Oh! Yes, Lord Jesus, come and reign! Let my body be your Temple, my heart be your throne, my will be your devoted servant; let me be yours forever, living only of you and for you."*

St Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868)

## WELCOME TO FATHER DAMIAN

I am delighted to welcome Fr Damian Ilodigwe who is joining us at St Edmund's for two months until I am back on my feet. Please give him your customary warm welcome.

## THANK YOU TO THE SVP

Monday lunchtime will see our SVP team hosting about seventy five people in what has become a much anticipated and enjoyable annual event.

Many thanks to the SVP for once again organising this Christmas lunch. It's always a great success and is a wonderful opportunity for people to catch up with old friends and make new ones in a relaxed atmosphere of festive cheer.

Fr Steve



FIRST SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

### CONGRATULATIONS

Deacon Ray Williamson who has been studying for his MA in Catholic Social Teaching has just been awarded a Distinction.  
Congratulations Deacon Ray

### Christmas Fair

**This Saturday 2 December  
11 am to 3.30 pm**

If you are reading an emailed copy of this newsletter, PLEASE come to the fair on Saturday.

Meet friends and fellow parishioners, buy Christmas gifts, enjoy some lovely refreshments and have some fun.

### LIGHT OF CHRIST PRAYER MEETING

The celebrant for our Mass on Wednesday 6 December will be Fr. John from St Edmund's. Mass will be followed by Lectio Divina.

The evening will commence with praise and worship at 7.40 pm for those who can join us then.

All welcome

Enquiries Tom 07982 999319

### LAW SURGERY

This Monday is the final surgery of the year. If you wish to see the lawyer please come to the Presbytery front door at 6.00 pm.

The Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver wish to thank all parishioners of St. Edmunds for your generous donation towards the sale of our Mission Calendar 2024.

Your generosity amounted to £1103.31. We are very grateful for your support and may God reward you all.

### READERS AT MIDNIGHT MASS

We need readers for the service of readings and carols immediately before Midnight Mass, and also for the Mass itself. If you will be at this service and would like to read, please contact Rosemary at [r.ekong@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:r.ekong@ucl.ac.uk)

Please don't leave it for later - get in touch now.



Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](https://cafod.org.uk/ipc) or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you.

### SHOEBOX APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who filled shoeboxes this year, and for the many donations sent to us and made online.

The boxes were collected by Blythwood volunteers and are now on their way to The Ukraine where they are bound to bring great joy and smiles. You are so wonderfully generous every year with this appeal – heartfelt thanks to you all.

Susie and Lucienne

### WALKING GROUP

You are warmly invited to coffee, mulled wine and mince pies at Margaret's house on Saturday 9 December at 11.00 am

69 Kenwood Drive BR3 6QZ

Tel: 07880 793175

Looking forward to seeing you all.



**Being formed in the likeness of Christ we strive to become a truly Christ centred community, through humble witness, love, compassion and communion**

## **PARISH ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**

**Saturday 9 December at 7.15 pm**

in the church, and online at

[www.saintedmunds.net](http://www.saintedmunds.net)

Come and enjoy carols and readings from the four Choirs in our parish.

A programme will be on the website from 6 December for online viewers.

There will be a collection after the service for St Christopher's Hospice

You can also donate online: [www.justgiving.com/page/cathy-denne-1699010107900?](http://www.justgiving.com/page/cathy-denne-1699010107900?utm_term=NWyNwYb5w)

[utm\\_term=NWyNwYb5w](http://www.justgiving.com/page/cathy-denne-1699010107900?utm_term=NWyNwYb5w) or you can post a donation through the Office door marked St. Christopher's Hospice

We do hope you are able to join us in the church and then for mince pies and mulled wine afterwards in the Church Hall!

There are flyers in the porch detailing Living Well's Christmas Appeal which this year asks you to fill a bag with specified items to make up a food parcel. Please take one home with you and see how you can help.



We are having our own collection for Living Well this weekend so please bring what you can and leave it in the trolleys in the narthex.

Our second collection this weekend will also be for them.

Follow this link to see a short video explaining Living Well's work, and showing how low their stock of food has become.

<https://www.livingwell.life/p/about>

To donate to the Crowdfunder Appeal:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/winter-crisis-appeal>

## **FR ASHLEY**

We would like to take a collection for Fr Ashley in recognition of his 27 years service at St Edmund's.

This link will take you to the donate page on the website where you should choose the option for Fr Ashley's gift:

<https://stedmunds.churchsuite.com/donate/>

Cheques and cash gifts can be put through the Office door, clearly marked for Fr Ashley, or an envelope can be put into the collection basket.

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent and the start of the new church year.

There are many resources online to help you prepare yourself for the coming of Christ and our new Catechesis, Formation and Evangelisation team has taken a look at them and recommends the following:

'Ascension' app - 'Rejoice' 5 minute daily audio reflections

Southwark Spirituality Commission daily reflections ([southwarkdsc.org.uk](http://southwarkdsc.org.uk))

CAFOD online advent calendar ([cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)) 'Hallow' app - Pray25 with C.S.Lewis

'Pray as you go' app - 'The Cry From the Manger' advent retreat

Please take a look at them and find one that helps you.

**Caritas Southwark** has produced an Advent calendar which can help us all to focus on what Advent means. There are a few copies in the porch. It is a calendar devised to help us all use Advent as a time to think about those who need extra support this Christmas. Using it you, or a group of friends can build up a food parcel that you might want to hand to Living Well. Please take a flyer home and see if you could collect the suggested items day by day.

## **CHRISTMAS MASSES**

### **SUNDAY MASSES**

**6.00 pm VIGIL Saturday 23rd**

**9.30 am**

**11.00 am**

### **CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**4.00 pm**

*This is a special Mass intended for the young children of our parish and their parents.*

**6.00 pm**

**11.30 pm**

**Carols and readings before  
Midnight Mass**

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**8.00 am**

**9.30 am**

**11.00 am**

**No evening Mass**

## MASSES BEGINNING 3 DECEMBER YR B

Please remember there are no weekday evening Masses and there is no longer an 8.00 am Mass on Sunday morning.

<b>Sunday 3 Dec</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>
6.00 pm <b>VIGIL</b>	Giuseppe Scrima RIP
9.30	For the people
	<b>FAMILY MASS</b>
11.00 am	Anthony Green RIP
5.30 pm	Josie Croft RIP
<b>Monday 4 Dec</b>	<b>Feria (St John Damascene)</b>
10.00 am	All persecuted born & unborn children
<b>Tuesday 5 Dec</b>	<b>Feria (St John Almond)</b>
10.00 am	Dec'd benefactors & promoters of the Claver Sisters
<b>Wed 6 Dec</b>	<b>Feria (St Nicholas, Bishop)</b>
10.00 am	Mary Morrin RIP (anniv)
11.45 am	Requiem for Patricia Ross
8.00 pm Hall	Charismatic Mass
<b>Thursday 7 Dec</b>	<b>St Ambrose</b>
10.00 am	Intentions of the Hodgson Family
8.00 pm Claver	Adoration
<b>Friday 8 Dec</b>	<b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>
10.00 am	Pierre & Jeanne Champetier RIP
	<b>Adoration &amp; Benediction</b>
<b>Saturday 9 Dec</b>	<b>Feria (St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin)</b>
10.00 am	James & Anne Dougan RIP
6.00 pm <b>VIGIL</b>	Crescenzo & Delisa Panetta RIP
<b>7.15 pm</b>	<b>Advent Carol Service</b>
<b>Sunday 10 Dec</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
9.30 am	Ann Moys RIP
	Rite of Acceptance
11.00 am	Giaco & Chona (wedding anniv)
5.30 pm	For the people
	Reception & Confirmation of Leon Carberry
	Celebrant Canon Victor Darlington

*Confessions are on Saturday from 10.30 am - 11.00 am and from 5.00 pm - 5.55 pm.*

*There is Rosary every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 am and after the 10.00 am Mass there is Adoration.*



## We pray for those who have died:

Joan Everett, Richard Everett, Patricia Ross, Richard Solly, Eithne Leahy, Roslyn Fleming, Rita Costello, Helen White.

**Please pray for the souls of those whose anniversaries occur this week:** Jeanne Ingram, Margaret Cantwell, Maria Etheridge, Angela Deeny, Bella Walter, Helen Shipsey, Rachel Elias, Leonard Cook, Pearse Kilcullen, Mim Jennings, Mary Beck, Margaret O'Neill.

**We pray for all in our parish suffering from ill health, we pray too for their families and for those who care or them.**

Meditation every Monday (except bank holidays) in the Hall from 5.30 - 6.20 pm. Please respect the need to arrive promptly and observe the silence.

OFFERTORY - WEEK ENDING 26.11.23	
Plate Collection	1174.83
Contactless	180.00
Bank Standing Order	769.00
Church Suite Regular Giving	1170.10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3293.92</b>

## DIARY

### December

Sat 2	Christmas Fair
Mon 4	Christmas Lunch hosted by SVP
Mon 4	Law Surgery in Presbytery 6.00
Wed 6	Requiem of Patricia Ross 11.45
Sat 9	Advent Carol Service at 7.15 followed by refreshments in Hall
Mon 11	Funeral service for Richard Solly 11.30
Sat 16	Deanery Reconciliation Service 4.00

