

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

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WEEKLY PARISH NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 2022

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 11 DECEMBER 2022 GAUDETE (THIRD) SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A) Parish Mass Book page 88

8.00am Sharon Moir RIP (*Brownrigg Family*)

Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am

10.00am Cyril Fairman RIP (*Pat Fairman*)

6.00pm For the People of the Parish

Monday 12th Feria

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass: Intentions of Fr Stephen (*Duffy*)

Tuesday 13th St Lucy

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass: Maureen Gould RIP (*Mary Banks*)

Wed 14th No Mass today

Thurs 15th Feria

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass: Jose Lito Coloma RIP–Birthday (*Aurea Coloma*)

Friday 16th Feria

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass: Thanksgiving Alvin Go–Birthday (*Heidi Go*)

Sat 17th Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.00am Mass: St John Henry Newman (*Philomena*)

9.30am **Holy Hour** - Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Benediction, Confessions

Sunday 18 DECEMBER FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)

8.00am Sharon McCluskey–Christmas Mass Intention (*Frank McCluskey*)

10.00am Cyril Fairman RIP (*Fairman Family*)

6.00pm For the People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions: Sundays 9.15am-9.45am, Saturdays 10.15am-10.45am, after every weekday Mass and by appointment by ringing or e-mailing Fr Peter – contact details at top of this page.

Readers 11th Dec

8am: Cecilia Suarez

10am: Kate Moir

6pm: Paul Johnston

Readers 18th Dec

8am: Valentino Ferdis

10am: Cristabela Pereira

6pm: Frances Harryman

Counters 11th Dec

Howard and Marlene

Cleaners w/c 12th Dec

Audry and Siobhan

Counters 18th Dec

Karen and Peter

Cleaners w/c 19th Dec

Jozwicki Group

Last Week's Offertory

£ 609.63 (of which £ 287.00 is Gift Aided)

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*Tea and coffee are served every Sunday in the hall after 10am Mass. All welcome.*  
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The Parish Office is normally open on Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri from 10am until 12noon.

All Parish Hall bookings should be made during these times.

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***If you would like Mass to be offered please write clearly and complete a brown Mass Intention Envelope. For Anniversary Masses, with a particular date, please give at least eight weeks' notice to avoid disappointment.***

**Kingston Hospital** If you are admitted to Kingston Hospital, it is your responsibility to inform the ward staff if you would like to see the Catholic Chaplain. If you are calling on behalf of a patient in the Hospital please call the Hospital Main Switchboard on 020 8546 7711 who will contact the Chaplain.

## REFLECTION: GOD HIMSELF COMES TO OUR RESCUE, YES GOD HIMSELF!

The Church bids us today to rejoice and rejoice again, both at the First Coming of Jesus Christ, true God and true man, two thousand years ago and also as we await Christ's Second Coming at the end of the world and of time. The Scripture passages this Sunday tell us that it is God himself who is coming to the rescue, to rescue us – yes, God himself, not just anybody, not just a mere mortal, however good he may be, but the creator of heaven and earth. "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near" (Philippians, 4:4). Christ is not a messenger, a prophet, an angel, a great warrior-liberator but none other than God himself, the creator and destroyer of worlds who humbled himself to share in our humanity to save us. His proof is that his fruits bear the divine signature: he is Christ the forgiver of sins; Christ the conqueror of death itself; Christ the healer of disease, pain and sorrow. Even John the Baptist, the star of the Advent period who prepared the way for Jesus by identifying Christ to the Apostles, was confused for a moment. He sent his disciples to check with Jesus whether he really was the Messiah. Even John was expecting judgement, condemnation and punishment for the sinner. He was puzzled while in Herod's prison by reports he received of Christ's healing ministry and of his accompaniment of sinners. Instead of terrible punishment for the powerful and the sinful, Christ brought healing for the innocent, the poor, the suffering and for those who had faith in the truth and love of God. Instead of earthly overlordship, Christ brought the Good News of salvation, shedding his very own blood in order to forge a new covenant, a new and eternal and final covenant for the forgiveness of sins, not only of Jews but of all humanity. **That is how precious we humans are to God.** But how easily we forget that as we continue to sin again and again, despair and lose hope. No, Jesus and the New Testament writers tell us to rejoice in our salvation, even though for now we have to be patient, bear fruit and trust that God knows what he is doing. Judgement and condemnation for those who hate and hurt others are reserved for the Second coming.

**Thought for the week: I will be patient, I will trust God, I will rejoice at my salvation and pray that all are saved.**

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### Saturday morning, 24 December

- No Mass
- Confessions 10 am to 11 am

### Christmas Eve at St Catherine's

- Family Mass at 6 pm
- Carols at 11.30 pm
- Midnight Mass, 12 am

### Christmas Day

- Mass at 8 am and 10 am
- No evening Mass

## CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS! WE NEED YOUR HELP OVER CHRISTMAS

Fr Peter writes: I would be most grateful if we could build a team of helpers for each of the **four Christmas Masses** – Christmas Eve 6 pm and 12 Midnight, Christmas Day 8 am and 10 am. In the church porch there are lists of functions that need to be carried out for each Mass. If you wish to volunteer to help, please write your name, phone number and e-mail address clearly next to each role. We need Sacristans, Welcomers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Offertory Processions and Offertory Collectors. Please note that the allocation of readers for each Mass is being done separately. I will also approach the parents of Altar Servers separately to see whether we can have some servers at each Mass. These are important roles. Don't be shy! Come forward to help everyone praise God for everything he has done for us.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND READINGS BEFORE MIDNIGHT MASS

At 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve we shall sing some carols and listen to Christmas Scripture Readings. We have been unable to find an organist for the evening, so we shall be sing with voice only – “a capella.” I love singing a capella, but we need some extra voices to augment the small choir, and we need everyone to sing with joy!

## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

We will not begin the Confirmation course until mid-January, so it is not too late to apply. Please e-mail Fr Peter for an application form. The course is suitable for young people between the ages of 14 and 18. The Confirmation ceremony will be in October 2023.

**PLEASE PRAY for the sick especially** *Cindy Albright, Patrick Beglane, Tyler Curniffe, Delia Gallagher, Marie Gilbert & Family, Martin Jackson, Paul Jarvis, David Jordan, Solomon Justin, Georgia Kelly, Paul Kwan, Teresa McDonald, Sally McKenna, Jimmy Murphy, Pauline Murphy, Ryan O'Loughlin, Mark Peace, Jean Penycate, Kathy Richardson, Debbie Ruberg-Smith, Chloe Sheead, Mary Sheehan, Anne Srivastava, Coby Thomas and Amy Woodgate Residential Home residents.*

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

### Keeping our faith alive & helping our children

*Walking with God – A journey through the Bible*, by Tim Gray and Jeff Cavins, Ascension Press, 2010 and 2018

*The Bible Timeline Chart – A visual overview of Salvation History – Ascension press*, by Jeff Cavins (linked with his Bible course, “The Great Adventure – your journey through the Bible”).

*Sycamore: the Catholic Faith explained*, by Fr Stephen Wang, CTS publication, 2021.

## FUNDRAISING AND FUN!

### RAFFLE, TEA, COFFEE AND MINCE PIES

The heating systems in both the church and the church hall are working well. The boilers are far more efficient than the previous ones, and the radiators and pipework have been flushed clean. Consequently the system is heating up faster and achieving higher temperatures than before. There are some loose ends which will be completed in the course of next week. As I noted before, the restoration of heating has depleted our parish reserves. We are therefore launching a parish campaign to replenish our funds. To kickstart the campaign, and to enjoy a pre-Christmas get-together, we invite everyone to come for **tea, coffee and mince pies after the 10 am mass on Sunday 18 December**. We will draw a raffle on the day with some great prizes donated by parishioners: a Fortnum & Mason hamper; two hampers from Virginia Hayward; a Holyart nativity set with 15cm high figures; two cash prizes of £50 each and other prizes. Tickets are available from today, price £10 per ticket after all Masses. Please do buy tickets, for friends and family as well as for yourselves! Write your name on the ticket once you have bought it and hand it in to the raffle helpers before you leave.

STOP PRESS – a kind donor has offered to match pound for pound the first £500 we raise from the raffle. This will be a great boost to our campaign.

STOP PRESS – if you can, please bring some nice mince pies(!) to **the hall on 18 December, 11 am**.

## NEW AUXILIARY BISHOP APPOINTED FOR OUR ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

Born in 1955, **Bishop-Elect Philip Moger** grew up in Halifax, Yorkshire. His mother died when he was five and he was raised by his grandmother and father. He began his working life in banking and then entered St Cuthbert's Seminary at Ushaw in County Durham to begin studies for the priesthood. He was ordained for the Diocese of Leeds in 1982 and was appointed an assistant priest at St Urban's, Headingley, also serving as a chaplain to the local school, a Sue Ryder home and a hospital for people with learning difficulties. In 1985 he was appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Centre in Ilkley to serve the renewal of parishes and schools. In 1992 he was appointed an assistant at Leeds Cathedral and was also appointed as Vocations Director. He served as Bishops' Secretary and as a Parish Priest in parishes in Bradford and Leeds. In 2008 he returned to Leeds Cathedral as Dean. He was appointed a Prelate of Honour, with the title Monsignor, and subsequently a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter. He chaired the Diocese of Leeds Liturgical Commission, was Director of Liturgy of the Diocese of Leeds Lourdes Pilgrimage and was also responsible for the liturgies during the Papal Visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Great Britain in 2010. In September 2020 he took up the appointment as the Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk.

### Fr Peter writes:

It was a great pleasure to meet Bishop-elect Philip when we had the priests' gathering with the Archbishop in Walsingham (see previous newsletter). He joined us at Mass, giving a homily on the first day, and in the evening he joined us for supper, going round meeting all the priests ordained in the last eight years. I look forward to welcoming him one day to our parish.