

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Sebastian

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WEEKLY PARISH NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2022

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 18 DECEMBER 2022 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)** *Parish Mass Book page 90*

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

Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am

10.00am Cyril Fairman RIP (*Fairman Family*)

6.00pm For the People of the Parish

Monday 19th Feria

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass: Cyril Fairman RIP (*John and Maureen Kinahan*)

Tuesday 20th Feria

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass: Ian Stewart RIP (*Frank McCluskey*)

Wed 21st No Mass today

Thurs 22nd Feria

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass: Gerado and Giuseppina De Chiara
(*Sharine and Giuseppe De Chiara*)

Friday 23rd Feria

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass: Richard RIP and Philomena Manche (*Manche*)

Sat 24th CHRISTMAS EVE

No Morning Mass

9.00-10.00am Holy Hour - Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Benediction.

10.00am-11.00am Confessions

6.00pm **Family Mass – First Mass of Christmas**

Mass: Wellbeing of the Parfitt Family

11.30pm **Carols**

12.00am **Midnight Mass**

Mass: For the People of Chessington & Hook

Sunday 25 CHRISTMAS DAY - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8.00am Daniel McCluskey:

Christmas Mass Intention (*Frank and Sharon McCluskey*)

10.00am For the People of the Parish

No Evening Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

Readers 18th Dec 8am: Valentino Ferdis

Counters 18th Dec Karen and Pete

10am: Cristabela Pereira

Cleaners w/c 19th Dec

6pm: Frances Harryman

Jozwicki Group

THROUGH JESUS, EACH ONE OF US IS IN A DIVINE AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH AN INFINITE BEING!

This Sunday, we see in the Scripture readings God's plan continuing to unfold to save us from sin and death. God has never abandoned us, even becoming one of us to save us. We on the other hand turned away from him with such a force of pride that we find it so difficult, even now after Baptism, to feel and accept God's love through the fog of life. We find it difficult to live with our human selves and our conscience. We do not believe we truly deserve to be loved by God. We may shudder to think that God sacrificed himself for us. Instead, we console ourselves with all the wrong things. We become addicted to one thing or another. We then may hate ourselves all the more, and when we hate ourselves, we suppress our conscience and we begin to hate others, our brothers and sisters, even our parents, our children, our husbands, our wives. Only God can save us from this destructive existence. My brothers and sisters, "lift up your hearts" and lift them up to the Lord. Today, bathed in the new and eternal covenant purchased by the very blood of Jesus Christ, we are free to accept and cherish God's love for each one of us. We can appreciate how he has prepared humanity to be loved so that we may walk with God again in an even closer relationship than our first parents. Yes, there is so much that remains a mystery to us, but what do we expect? - we are in a relationship with an infinite being, infinite in every way, infinite in love, infinite in truth, infinite in understanding and mercy. Just as he prepared Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist and his parents, Zachariah and Elizabeth, so God is preparing us through the Sacraments to welcome Christ into our hearts, and to spread his love across the world.

Thought for this countdown week to Christmas and the birth of our Saviour
I humbly accept your beautiful gift of love, dear Lord. I trust you and want to do your will.

Last Week's Offertory

£ 547.80 (of which £ 252.00 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.

## YOUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

**The Christmas Offering is your gift to your Parish Priest. Envelopes are available in the porch. Please use your Gift Aid envelopes if you are a member of the scheme. Thank you**

## 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 SCRIPTURE 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 singing 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!

## URGENT APPEAL – CAN YOU HELP A UKRAINIAN LADY AND HER SIX-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER WHO ARE NOW PARISHIONERS?

The UK sponsor of a Ukrainian lady and her six-year old daughter pulled out of sponsoring them just as they arrived in the UK. Kingston Council has run out of sponsors but is trying to place the daughter in a school. Can anyone offer accommodation for them under the official sponsorship arrangements made by the Government? If you would like more information or think you can help, even temporarily, please speak to Fr Peter as soon as possible. With thanks.

## 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. **CANDIDATES TO NOTE:** please approach Fr Peter for a free copy of Fr Stephen Wang's “*A way of life for young Catholics*” (Catholic Truth Society publication).

## BECOMING A CATHOLIC/ADULT CONFIRMATION EXPLORING THE CATHOLIC FAITH

If you are thinking of becoming a Catholic, or if you are a baptised Catholic but have not received the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation and would like to know more, please have a chat with Fr Peter. You are most welcome as a non-Catholic to explore the faith with Fr Peter without any pressure. Separately, St Catherine's is hoping to set up in 2023 a course for adult Catholics who would like to increase knowledge of their faith.

**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.*

## TODAY SUNDAY AT 11 am

### FUNDRAISING AND FUN! RAFFLE, TEA, COFFEE AND MINCE PIES

The heating systems in both the church and the church hall are working well. The five new boilers (two for the church and three for the hall) 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. But now our reserves are low. We need 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 today**. We will draw a raffle shortly after 11 am. There are some great prizes donated by parishioners: a Fortnum & Mason hamper; two hampers from Virginia Hayward; a Holyart nativity set; two cash prizes of £50 each and many other prizes! Tickets are still available, £10 per ticket. 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. GREAT NEWS! – 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.

## IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND MIDNIGHT MASS IN PERSON THIS YEAR, YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE USE OF THIS LIVESTREAM:

### ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL MIDNIGHT MASS OF THE NATIVITY Preceded by Carols at 11.30 pm ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON

Here is link to the live-streamed Mass of the Nativity of the Lord, which will be celebrated by Archbishop Wilson from St George's Cathedral at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve:

<https://bit.ly/SouthwarkMidnightMass2022> or [https://youtu.be/OHB\\_dWGWNV8](https://youtu.be/OHB_dWGWNV8)

**The link will be easily clickable from the newsletter on the parish website.**

Please note that the service will take place at Midnight but be preceded by Christmas Carols from 11.30 pm. The Mass will also be recorded and available online afterwards.

## FORWARD PLANNING

The newsletter next Sunday will cover the two weeks over Christmas and the New Year. There will be Rosary (9am) and Mass (9.30am) as normal on Monday and Tuesday 26 / 27<sup>th</sup> December, but no Mass on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday of that week. There will be Mass (9 am) and Holy Hour (9.30 am to 10.30 am with Confessions, Rosary and Benediction) as usual on Saturday 31 December. Masses on New Year's Day will be at the usual Sunday Mass times, 8 and 10 am, 6 pm.

**DATE FOR DIARIES - PARISH MEETING** – Fr Peter would like to hold another Parish meeting to take stock and plan for the future. He will set a date soon. Fr Peter's formal induction as Parish Priest will be towards the end of January / early February 2023. Date to be announced soon.