

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Sebastian

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NEXT TWO WEEKS - PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTMAS 2022 AND THE NEW YEAR

A HAPPY AND JOYOUS CHRISTMAS PEACE ON EARTH

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

CHRISTMAS EVE - Saturday 24 DECEMBER 2022 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD *Parish Mass Book page 95/98*

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

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 DAY - Sunday 25 DECEMBER 2022 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD *Parish Mass Book page 101/103*

8.00am Christmas Mass Intention – For Daniel McCluskey: *(Frank and Sharon McCluskey)*

10.00am Christmas Mass Intention - For the People of the Parish

No evening Mass

Monday 26th St Stephen, Deacon, The first martyr

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass: Wellbeing of Fr Stephen *(Private Donor)*

Tuesday 27th St John the Apostle and Evangelist

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass: Wellbeing of the Sebastian Family

Wed 28th No Mass today

Thurs 29th No Mass today

Friday 30th No Mass today

Sat 31st The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9.00am Mass transferred from 30 December: Thanksgiving for 2023:

All Family and Friends *(Manche Family)*

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

Last Week's Offertory

£ 600.87 (of which **£ 312.90** 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.*

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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.

Sunday 1st JANUARY 2023 - SOLEMNITY MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD *Parish Mass Book page 109*

8.00am In Thanksgiving: Manche Family

10.00am In Thanksgiving: John and Siobhan Coffey and Family

6.00pm For the People of the Parish

Monday 2nd SS Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass: Nora Leahy *(Frank McCluskey)*

Tuesday 3rd Feria of Christmas Time

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass: Michael Quiligan and Oliver Boswell

Wed 4th No Mass today

Thurs 5th Feria of Christmas Time

9.00am Rosary

9.30am Mass: Day, Doyle, Gilli, Manche and McFadden Families *(Manche Family)*

Friday 6th THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD *Parish Mass Book page 115*

9.30 am Mass: Kate Moir – wellbeing (Private donor)

8.00 pm Mass: Ninela Ivanova – wellbeing (Private donor)

Sat 7th Feria of Christmas Time

9.00am Mass: Alban Suarez RIP *(Cecilia Suarez)*

9.30am **Holy Hour - First Saturday Devotions, Silent Adoration, Confessions**

Sunday 8th JANUARY –THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD *Parish Mass Book page 118*

8.00am Deceased members of the Towing and Hanby Families *(Philomena)*

10.00am Wellbeing of John and Maureen Kinahan and Family *(Brownrigg Family)*

6.00pm For the People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confession times:

Sundays 9.15am-9.45am,

Saturdays 9.45 am - 10.15 am,

And after every weekday Mass

and by appointment

by ringing or

e-mailing Fr Peter

contact details at top of this page

CHRISTMAS THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

Fr Peter writes: I wish you all a very happy and joyous Christmas and New Year. May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts and minds and disarm this troubled world of ours. May we show our love for everyone on this planet. I thank God for you all, and I want to thank all of you for your warm welcome to me in September and for all the help you have given me in recent months. I feel very blessed to have been appointed your shepherd, especially in these difficult times when we are surrounded by sinful temptations, where the cost of living crisis is hurting so many and where war is never far away.

“GOD BECAME MAN SO THAT WE MIGHT BECOME GOD”

The readings from Sacred Scripture over the four Christmas Masses tell us of God's plan to save us - not simply to save Zion and the people of Israel but the whole of humanity. In Matthew's Gospel, we have the entire family history from Abraham to Jesus Christ. Matthew includes women in his list of ancestors: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and the wife of Uriah are all gentiles: Canaanite, Canaanite, Moabite and Hittite (non-Jews). Tamar, Rahab and the wife of Uriah (Bathsheba) are associated with (sexual) immorality. The human family history is peppered with sinners as well as saints, men and women. Yet God's will prevailed. God's covenants (the closest agreement possible where God and humanity say "I am yours and you are mine for ever") were set in concrete: covenants with Abraham, Moses and David leading in his line to Jesus Christ, true God and true man. God never abandoned us. St Paul maps out this history of salvation in the Acts of the Apostles. In the Old Testament meanwhile Isaiah makes the prophecy that God will come as a bridegroom to Jerusalem and he will delight in ALL the people. And indeed, God entered history in person by taking on flesh from the Virgin Mary. The later Mass readings invite us to consider the enormity of the incarnation - taking on of human flesh - when "God became man, so that we might become God" (St Athanasius - the great Church Father). As the priest says as he prepares the gifts of wine and bread, "Through the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity." And what did this Saviour of the world turn out to be? A judgmental power-seeker and killer of men and abuser of women? No - a healer, a compassionate forgiver of sins, meek in his wielding of royal power, pure in heart, a conqueror of sin and death who first presented himself to the world as a vulnerable baby.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

There is still time for young people to apply to join the Confirmation course. We will not begin the course until mid-January. 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 or November 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). We shall review and discuss this Catholic Truth Society pamphlet once the course gets under way. The truth is, it is not simply for young Catholics but for Catholics of all ages!

BECOMING A CATHOLIC/ADULT CONFIRMATION EXPLORING THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Over the Christmas and New Year period people may find themselves in a reflective mood. You may encounter non-Catholics and non-Christians who may be wondering what life is all about; they may express an interest in learning more about the Catholic faith and Church. Please encourage them to find out more. You may wish to introduce them to Fr Peter who will explore with them how best to answer their questions. In due course they may wish to join the formal course which leads to Baptism and reception into the Church over the Easter Holy Week.

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. Through no fault of their own they find themselves in difficult circumstances. Kingston Council has run out of sponsors but is trying to place the daughter in a local 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.

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.*

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE A GREAT SUCCESS THANK YOU

A very big thank you to all of you who supported our fundraising raffle in one way or another. Particular thanks go to John Coffey for organizing and running the raffle so smoothly. There were many prize winners who appreciated the high quality of the prizes. A very big thank you to the donors of the prizes. Together with match-funding of the first £500 profit, we made a total profit of **£2,110**. But even more than the profit made, Fr Peter noted the warm and caring and fun-loving atmosphere in the parish hall where the raffle was drawn and where the parish gathered for tea, coffee, mince pies and some chat!

CHANGE OF DATE FOR NEXT PARISH MEETING

The parish meeting first proposed for 6 January will be moved to later in January. **WATCH THIS SPACE!** At this meeting Fr Peter would like to discuss with you plans for developing both the experience of our Christian faith and the physical fabric of our parish estate. Do come forward and share your ideas.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TIME-TABLE

Please do read page 1 of this newsletter carefully as there are changes to the usual schedule of Masses and celebrations.