

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Sebastian

Confidential phone number 07921 667679 Confidential business e-mail: petersebastian@rcaos.org.uk

Office: Tel Number 0208 397 4499 Office Email: chessington@rcaos.org.uk

Address: 98/100 Leatherhead Road, Chessington, KT9 2HY Website: www.stcatherineofsiena.org.uk

WEEKLY PARISH NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER 2023

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 24 DECEMBER – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) *Parish Mass Book p90 – and CHRISTMAS 2023*

8.00am **Mass:** Fr Peter – November Birthday

Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am

10.00am **Mass:** For the People of the Parish

No Sunday obligation Mass at 6.00pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

6.00pm **Mass:** For our young Christians recently confirmed

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

12.00 am **Mass:** For all former parish priests of St Catherine's, preceded by Carols and Readings at 11.30 am

CHRISTMAS DAY

MONDAY 25 DECEMBER

8.00am **Mass:** In thanksgiving for our Archbishop John Wilson

10.00am **Mass:** For all those experiencing acute suffering

No evening Mass at 6.00pm

Tues 26th St Stephen

12Noon **Mass:** For our altar servers

Wed 27th St John, Apostle and Evangelist

9.00am **Rosary**

9.30am **Mass:** For Sacristans, readers and Ministers of the Eucharist and all who help make our parish beautiful.

Thurs 28th The Holy Innocents

9.00am **Rosary**

9.30am **Mass:** Holy Souls

Friday 29th St Thomas of Canterbury

11.30am **Rosary**

12Noon **Mass:** Richard and Philomena Manche RIP

Sat 30th Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

9.00am **Mass:** Spas Spasov RIP

9.30am **Holy Hour** – Exposition of the Eucharist, Rosary, Benediction, Confessions 9.40am-10am

Sunday 31 DECEMBER – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (B)

8.00am **Mass:** All our Family and Friends

Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am

10.00am **Mass:** For the intentions of Fr David Howell

6.00pm **Mass:** Lucie Josephides RIP

Readers for Christmas and New Year's Eve have been advised – there is also a list available in the church foyer

Counters – Christmas Offerings Fr Peter

Cleaners w/c 26th Dec Aurea's Group

SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS – Tammy Finan and Steve Kearney E-mail: chessingtonsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk Tel: 07818 108689

This week **Our Lady of Fatima Statue** passes from the Hansa Family to the Coloma Family after the 10am Mass

KNITTING CRAFT CLUB

Every Tuesday 2 pm - 4 pm Parish Hall Foyer

This is a very happy group with a lovely spirit. Come and join them for a cup of tea or coffee and talk about knitting which is very therapeutic. This excellent example of a social and fundraising initiative is under way. Step out of the cold and into the warmth. If anyone wants to come and join and teach other **CROCHET** as well, please come and have a word.

The Club will resume on Tuesday 9th January.

Last Week's Offertory

£779.73 (£322.50 is Gift Aided envelopes, £175.00 is Gift Aided standing orders and £282.23 cash)

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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.

CRIB OFFERING – YOU CAN MAKE A DONATION FOR FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

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

**Happy Christmas in the
Joy of the Incarnation of our Blessed Lord**

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

We Christians are so blessed, because we have been given the knowledge that our suffering in this world is of value. It is of value because God himself chose to share our suffering and to turn it into something quite beautiful – a source of salvation into eternity - if only we choose to love God and one another and to declare the truth of Christ at all times. I have so much enjoyed being with you all this year. I am blessed to be your shepherd. I thank God for everything, and I thank you for being followers of Christ. Our mission will now go from strength to strength. I am sorry I cannot be with you at this Christmas, but I can assure you that I am recovering well and hold you in my prayers.

**With love and prayers and a very happy Christmas,
Fr Peter**

**“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.

YOUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas Offering is your gift to your Parish Priest. Envelopes are available in the foyer.

If you are a member of St Catherine’s Gift Aid Scheme, please use your own Gift Aid envelopes.

THANK YOU

**Our Archbishop John Wilson’s
Christmas Message 2023**

Dear friends,

The past year has once again, been tragically filled with conflict and war. With innocent lives lost in Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, the Holy Land and other places where bloodshed has blighted peace. In the face of war, we pray for peace and urge the international community to find lasting solutions. We remember that the Gospel is the Good News of Peace. It comes to us, through Mary’s ‘yes’ to God’s will. It comes to us through the Lord Jesus, the new-born Prince of Peace.

Dear brothers and sisters, we must all be missionaries of peace, proclaiming the Good News of God’s love for every person and honouring the dignity of every person.

Christ comes to us as our Saviour. Our Saviour from sin and death. Christ comes to us with the gift of peace for our hearts, our families, communities and our nations.

We look to the coming New Year to be one of peace and we pray, give, and receive this precious gift. In preparation for the Jubilee year of 2025, our Holy Father Pope Francis has designated next year, 2024, as the year of prayer.

The call to prayer is one we all can and should embrace. Often – too often – we think of God as distant or indifferent. We can put up barriers between ourselves and between God, shutting him out, not trusting his love, and not seeking his mercy. Instead, let’s use prayer to come close to God. Let’s turn again to his Son, the Lord Jesus, with our hopes, our dreams, our worries and our thanks. From now, looking forward to next year, let’s give prayer a go.

Because prayer is strength for the weak. It will never make things worse, and can only make them better. The biggest challenge to praying is just beginning. You can only learn to ride a bicycle by trying it out. It’s the same with prayer. Even just praying the Our Father when we wake up and as we go to sleep at night will make a difference to our lives.

If we ask, we will be heard. If we seek, we will be found. If we knock, the Lord Jesus will open the door. Prayer builds peace. So next year, pray, pray to welcome Christ into your heart. Go on, give prayer a go. I pray that everyone who hears this message will have a blessed and wonderful Christmas, and I ask God to bless you, and all those you love in the year to come.

**May the Lord’s peace be upon us, that His
Kingdom may come.**