



# ST MATTHEW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NORTHWOOD

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF NORTHWOOD AND NORTHWOOD HILLS

*'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations...'* [Matt 28:19]

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (NOVEMBER 27TH - DECEMBER 4TH)

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

**Happy New Year!**

Today we begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent. We move from hearing the Gospel of Luke at Mass on Sundays to the Gospel of Matthew. Our focus is now heading towards four weeks time when we will celebrate the wonderful mystery of God becoming man.

Advent challenges the hectic pace of our lives and the sometimes indomitable march toward Christmas. It gives us time to prayerfully remember Jesus's birth and the majesty of the Incarnation, while looking ahead to His second coming.

For us to really be ready for that, we should take this time of Advent a time of real preparation. Sometimes it feels as if we're in a rush to speed through the calendar. I'm sure that we know someone who has already put up their Christmas tree some time ago (and will probably be so sick of it by the time we celebrate Christmas Day they will take it down soon afterwards).

Advent prayers can help us focus on this important liturgical season when it seems like so many forces pull us from summer to Christmas Eve. Praying during Advent can help us keep in mind the true purpose of all of the build up to Christmas. In this newsletter I have shared two ways to help us pray, firstly some prayers for Advent and secondly a Novena in preparation for the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception.

Pope Benedict once said ***In Advent, the liturgy frequently repeats and assures us, as if to overcome our natural diffidence, that God "comes": he comes to be with us in every situation of ours, he comes to dwell among us, to live with us and within us; he comes to fill the gaps that divide and separate us; he comes to reconcile us with him and with one another. He comes into human history to knock at the door of every man and every woman of good will, to bring to individuals, families and peoples the gifts of brotherhood, harmony and peace.***

***This is why Advent is par excellence the season of hope in which believers in Christ are invited to remain in watchful and active waiting, nourished by prayer and by the effective commitment to love. May the approaching Nativity of Christ fill the hearts of all Christians with joy, serenity and peace!***

***To live this Advent period more authentically and fruitfully, the liturgy urges us to look at Mary Most Holy and to set out in spirit together with her towards the Bethlehem Grotto. When God knocked at the door of her young life, she welcomed him with faith and love. In a few days we will contemplate her in the luminous mystery of her Immaculate Conception. Let us allow ourselves to be attracted by her beauty, a reflection of divine glory, so that "the God who comes" will find in each one of us a good and open heart that he can fill with his gifts.***

With all my prayers and best wishes,

*Fr Tom*

### CONTACT US

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#### Fr Tom Montgomery Parish Priest:

#### Email:

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#### Parish Office:

Contact Cheryl Myring or Siobhan Hogg

9:00 — 2:30pm Monday - Friday

#### Sunday School & Catechetics:

RE Co-ordinator: awaiting appointment

Hall Bookings: [contact the office or northwoodph@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:northwoodph@rcdow.org.uk)

### SAFEGUARDING

Colette Quirk  
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### Our Sanctuary Lamps

burn

The deceased members of  
the Temmink Family  
(Blessed Sacrament)

and for

The deceased members of  
the Rushowski Family

(Our Lady)

## ***Last Week's Offering***

Loose Cash: £299.64 Planned Giving Envelopes: £226.84 Standing Orders: £415.00 Contactless Giving £68.83  
**Total Offering: £1010.31.**

## ***RE Co-ordinator***

We recently advertised for this post in our parish and we received some applications. Two were shortlisted, but for various reasons, we were unable to interview any of the candidates. We are therefore re-advertising the post. Details can be found on <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/religious-coordinator-northwood-parish/> The closing date for applications is Monday 5th December 2022 at noon. If you know anyone who may be suitable for this post, please pass on this information.

## ***Sebastiano Di Falco RIP***

The details of Sebastiano's funeral rites are as follows. **Sunday 27th November** 7.30pm. Reception of body into church. **Monday 28th November.** 12 noon Funeral Mass followed by burial in Northwood cemetery. After the funeral there will be a reception in the Parish Hall to which all are welcome. We hold Sebastiano and his family in our prayers.

## ***Permanent Diaconate***

There are a number of men in the Church who discern a specific call to serve as deacons in the church. We are blessed that a member of our parish is discerning this call. **Hervé Boisson** has been selected by the Cardinal to train and continue to discern his vocation as a deacon. One of the first public moments in this discernment is for him to be admitted to candidacy for Holy Orders. **Next Sunday at the 11.15am Mass** he will (alongside another) be admitted to candidacy by Bishop Paul McAleenan. At that Mass a number of men who are further along the journey in their training will receive the ministry of Lector and the ministry of Acolyte.

Please do keep Hervé in your prayers at this time and as he continues with his training toward his ordination as a deacon. (God and the Cardinal willing).

For men who may be interested in learning more about the Permanent Diaconate please visit the Vocations Page of the Westminster Diocesan website <https://rcdow.org.uk/vocations/permanent-diaconate/> - or contact Deacon Colin Macken by email [colinmacken@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:colinmacken@rcdow.org.uk) or telephone **07426 727011**

## ***200 Club***

The results of the November Draw are **1st Prize** Number 22 (£50.00) **2nd Prize** Number 11 (£35.00) **3rd Prize** (£15.00). The December draw will take place after the 9.00am Mass on Sunday 18th December. Why not come along to the hall and enjoy some refreshments and a chat.

## ***Children's liturgy***

Every Sunday at the 9am Mass young children until Year 2 are invited to celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word. They must be accompanied by their parent or a responsible adult. Thank you to those parents who are accompanying their children and to those who have volunteered to lead the sessions. If you are interested in helping lead these session, please speak with Fr Tom.

## ***Mass Intentions***

The greatest prayer that we can offer is the Mass. Each of us should have an intention for Mass each time we come to Mass. It is also the practice to request a specific intention for the priest to offer when he says Mass. The diary for the coming year is now open. If you have particular dates that you would like Mass to be offered for your intention, then please contact the Parish Office during Office Hours. A priest can only accept one Mass intention per Mass. To make it fair for people to be able to have Mass offered for their intention, we operate the following policy. **For Sunday Masses**, the same intention can only be offered once within the calendar month. **For Weekday Masses** the same intention can only be offered once within the week.

## ***Sponsor a Lamp***

You can now sponsor the seven day lamp that burns before the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady. A prayer intention will be attached to the lamp for that week (which will be printed). A donation of £10 for each lamp is suggested.

## ***Parish Database***

After many delays due to technology, we are finally in a position to build a new parish database. Our volunteer now has access to the diocesan system and can start collating the data from the forms that have been returned. This will enable us to have up to date contact details of all parishioners and would enable us to contact you when we need to. We ask that every household fills in a new parish registration form and return it to the Parish Office (or posted through the letterbox of the presbytery). At the moment we have no proper database and so this will help Fr Tom in his work as Parish Priest. It is particularly useful for when Fr Tom has to sign school forms.

A question has been asked about filling it in. If you are a parishioner who already gives their offering to the parish by Standing Order, you don't need to fill in a new Standing Order (unless you wish to change the amount you offer) and so you can ignore page 3 of the form.

If you are a new parishioner, you may wish to make your contribution by Standing Order. This helps the Finance Committee plan for our Budget. If you have any questions then please speak with Fr Tom.

### ***Signing of School Forms***

Fr Tom will be signing school forms and issuing Certificates of Catholic Practice for those who will be applying for the children to enter Catholic Primary Schools on Friday 16th December between 6.00pm and 7.00pm. Please telephone the Parish Office to make an appointment.

### ***Gift Aid***

Last month we received £14,894.27 from HMRC in relation to those donations that had been given with a Gift Aid declaration. We will be expecting another small Gift Aid refund in the coming months. Part of the reason this is such a large amount this year, is that people have been so generous for specific projects (new altar candles, new photocopier, new livestream system). So part of that money has already been spent.

If you are a tax payer, please do sign a Gift Aid declaration form. This can cover any gift that you make to the parish. As you can see, the amount that we receive back from the government can be quite significant. Thank you for your generosity.

If you make your Sunday Offering by the contactless machine at the back of church, it is also possible to Gift Aid that donation. You only have to give your details once (per card) and the machine will recognise that you wish our parish to claim Gift Aid on your donation.

If you have never signed a Gift Aid declaration form, it is possible to claim for historical donations (as long as we have a record that it was you who gave it). For more details contact the Parish Office to arrange to speak with our Gift Aid Co-ordinator.

### ***R.C.I.A***

We will be beginning our sessions in the near future. If you are not a Catholic and would like to become one, or if you have been baptised as a Catholic but have not been Confirmed, please speak with Fr Tom.

### ***Hillingdon Foodbank Wish List***

As a parish we continue to support the Foodbank beyond Lent. Please feel free to put any of the following items in the container in the porch. - Noodles, Sugar in small packs, Tinned Fruits, Jam, Honey, Long life Milk, Rice pudding or Custard in tin or small packs, Apple or Orange Juice, Toilet Tissues, Toiletries (Shampoo, conditioner, etc.), Sauces, Cleaning Supplies, Laundry supplies. (They have plenty of Pasta! ).

### ***Appeal to all Long-Standing Parishioners***

Can you share your memories of St Matthews and its Parish Priests from years gone-by. If you've got recollections from years ago of amusing or significant moments in parish life, please note them down and let Fr Tom have the gist of your memorable moments. We would like to pull together for our Centenary Celebrations all those little bits of parish 'history' which have made St Matthews so special. If we have a good response from our longstanding parishioners, we might get you together in the Hall to share your memories over a cup of tea/coffee or perhaps something stronger.”

### ***Mary's Meals***

On the Third Sunday of Advent, there will be an appeal on behalf of Mary's Meals.

### ***Douay Martyrs School***

Congratulations to the Chaplaincy Outreach Team at Douay Martyrs school in Ickenham who were awarded School Social Action Award (Secondary School), for collecting items to send to Ukrainian Refugees, and supporting the local food bank, and setting an example for all students in the school.

### ***Bishop Prays on Anniversary of Migrant Channel Deaths.***

On Thursday Bishop Paul McAleenan said.

Today we remember the 27 people who lost their lives in the Channel a year ago. This avoidable tragedy challenges us to reflect on our collective responsibility for protecting refugees and migrants from life-threatening danger. As more of our brothers and sisters attempt to make this crossing in search of a better life, unacceptable discourse and policies continue to rob them of their human dignity.

“As Catholics, we recognise the value and sanctity of every human life. We pray for those who died on their journey to a hoped-for new life, may they rest in peace. We pray too for their families and all those forced from their homelands and we recommit ourselves to the Holy Father's plea to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate all those seeking a home in our communities.”

## ***Advent and Christmas Resources***

The Advent 'Day by Day' booklet for infants and juniors are now available in the repository. The 'Walk with Me' booklets should arrive sometime this week. There are also Christmas cards available for sale.

## ***Christmas Flowers***

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of flowers for Christmas there are envelopes marked 'Christmas Flowers' at the back of church. You can also make a donation via the contactless machine or by scanning the QR code on the back page of this newsletter.

## ***Preparing Church for Christmas***

On Saturday 17th December we will begin to prepare our church for Christmas. We will begin after Benediction at 12noon. As they say, many hands make light work - so please mark that in your diary and come along. We'll even have some refreshments for the workers!

## ***Advent Sunday Musical Oratory at Brompton Oratory***

The Brothers of the Little Oratory invite you to the annual Advent Musical Oratory with the Oratory Junior Choir next Sunday 27th November at 4.30pm in the Little Oratory. With readings, Advent hymns & choral pieces.

## ***Advent Giving Calendar***

Caritas have published their 2022 Advent Giving Calendar, you can download this from their website, or scan the QR code on the example on the noticeboard in the porch. As always it is a way for people to remember people in their communities who need a little help as Christmas approaches, and to give an item each day to our local food bank. <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/caritas-food-collective-918.php#AGC>

## ***Preparing the Way for the Lord... Step into the Season of Advent***

St Luke's Pinner invite you to join them for a Morning of Recollection led by Fr John Hemer, MHM on 3 December. A very engaging speaker, Fr John will present a series of three talks from 10:30am to about 1:30pm with a time for Confessions. Fr. John is a Mill Hill missionary priest who hails from Liverpool and has done missionary work in Pakistan, Kenya and Uganda. He now is a full- time lecturer on Sacred Scripture at Allen Hall. You are very welcome to come for all or part of the morning.

## ***Christmas Celebration***

The annual Christmas Celebration concerts at Westminster Cathedral will take place this year on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st December. For tickets, scan the QR code on the poster in the porch or visit [www.westminstercathedral.org.uk](http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk).

## ***London Oratory Carol Service***

The annual Carol Service with the choirs of the London Oratory will be on Wednesday 21st December at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7.00pm.

## **APPEALS FOR HELP**

### ***Church Cleaning***

Are you free to help with our faithful team who clean our church and keep it so beautiful? They normally clean for about an hour after the Monday morning Mass (unless there is a funeral). If you would like to help, please just come along.

### ***Church Flowers***

Although we have no flowers in church during Advent, if you are interested in helping with the church flowers, please get in touch with the Parish Office and speak with Siobhan (in the first instance).

### ***Bringing People to Church.***

Fr Tom has been made aware that there are some people that are in a nursing home or at home who would like to come to Mass but are unable to do so without help. Would you like to help? If you have a car could you offer someone a lift? If you don't have a car (or don't drive) could you assist someone who does? Due to the fact that this would be done as a ministry of the church, there would be a need to have a DBS check, which our hardworking Safeguarding Reps will be able to help you with. Please have a word with Fr Tom if you would be happy to help.

### ***Accompanying Someone On A Walk***

We have had a request asking if anyone would be able to accompany an 88 year old for a walk for a few hours a week. His son (who lives in another country) tells us that 'he still loves walking but now lacks a suitable companion for walking (and talking)'. If this is something that you might be interested in, please speak with Fr Tom.

# Prayers for Advent

## *Short Advent Prayers*

*Advent is a relatively short liturgical season, so perhaps it's fitting that short, simple prayers are all we need to feel God's calming presence in our lives amid the many distractions of November and December. Consider these brief Catholic prayers this Advent season:*

- ◆ Dear Lord, please allow me to embrace Advent in the way the Church intends: as a way to prepare for Your arrival. May everything I do—every gift I send, every party I attend, every meal I share—remind me to prepare space in my heart for You. Amen.
- ◆ Heavenly Father, heal my heart during this season of Advent. Help me to love more fully. To forgive more generously. To wait more patiently for Christmas, embracing each day and hour knowing the joy that awaits. In Your name I pray. Amen.
- ◆ Lord, send down Your Spirit to guide me during Advent this year. May the Holy Spirit help me journey closer to You and lift me up when I feel down and led me when I feel lost. I may stumble at times, but I know my ultimate journey is to draw closer to You and build Your kingdom here on earth—a kingdom that Jesus's birth, life and death helped secure. Amen.
- ◆ I pray for focus today, dear God, because during Advent, my mind and attention tend to wander. There are so many distractions, many of them well-meaning. But nothing gives my heart rest like resting in You. I pray that keep You at the focus of my day today, because I know the peace that only You offer. Amen.

## *Daily Advent Prayers and Meditations*

*During the four weeks of Advent, these daily prayers and meditations can help calm your heart during a season filled with distractions.*

- ◆ God, be with me today. Help my heart be open to the ways Jesus is at work in my life. Amen.
- ◆ Give me peace today, O Lord. Help me to live this day in eternal hope knowing Jesus will come again.
- ◆ Heavenly Father, Give me the strength to have the same trust in You that Mary had, as she awaited the birth of Jesus.
- ◆ I pray for humility today, Father. Our Savior entered this world in a manger with animals. When I feel too proud, let me remember the Holy Family and Jesus's humble birth.

## *Advent Bible Verses: Scriptures to Read During Advent*

*Spending time with Scripture is important to our prayer lives during all liturgical seasons. Hallow offers the daily Gospel and other Scripture-based meditations to guide your Advent meditations.*

### **These simple Bible verses also resonate during Advent:**

- ◆ **Isaiah 40:3:** “A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD ; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”
- ◆ **Isaiah 30:18:** “Truly, the Lord is waiting to be gracious to you, truly, he shall rise to show you mercy; For the Lord is a God of justice: happy are all who wait for him!”
- ◆ **Hebrews 6:15:** “And so, after patient waiting, he obtained the promise.”
- ◆ **Luke 1: 34-38:** “But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.”

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail. Amen.

# *Novena for the Immaculate Conception.*

## *Prayer to the Immaculate Conception.*

**O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for your Son, we beseech you that, as by the foreseen death of this, your Son, you did preserve her from all stain, so too you would permit us, purified through her intercession, to come to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*First, recite the Prayer to the Immaculate Conception. Then, recite the appropriate prayer of each of the nine days.*

*After Pausing for personal reflection conclude the novena prayer by praying*

**O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. O Virgin Mother of God, Mary Immaculate, Mother of Our Saviour, keep us close to you every moment of our lives. Amen.**

### *Day One - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November*

O most Holy Virgin, who was pleasing to the Lord and became His mother, immaculate in body and spirit, in faith and in love, look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession. O most Holy Mother, who by your blessed Immaculate Conception, from the first moment of your conception did crush the head of the enemy, receive our prayers as we implore you to present at the throne of God the favour we now request *(Pause for personal intention...)*

### *Day Two - Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November*

O Mary, ever blessed Virgin, Mother of God, Queen of angels and of saints, we salute you with the most profound veneration and filial devotion as we contemplate your holy Immaculate Conception. We thank you for your maternal protection and for the many blessings that we have received through your wondrous mercy and most powerful intercession. In all our necessities we have recourse to you with unbounded confidence.

O Mother of Mercy, we beseech you now to hear our prayer and to obtain for us of your Divine Son the favour that we so earnestly request in this novena... *(Pause for personal intention...)*

### *Day Three - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December*

O Blessed Virgin Mary, glory of the Christian people, joy of the universal Church and Mother of Our Lord, speak for us to the Heart of Jesus, who is your Son and our brother. O Mary, who by your holy Immaculate Conception did enter the world free from stain, in your mercy obtain for us from Jesus the special favour which we now so earnestly seek *(Pause for personal intention...)*

### *Day Four - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December*

O Mary, Mother of God, endowed in your glorious Immaculate Conception with the fullness of grace; unique among women in that you are both mother and virgin; Mother of Christ and Virgin of Christ, we ask you to look down with a tender heart from your throne and listen to our prayers as we earnestly ask that you obtain for us the favour for which we now plead *(Pause for personal intention...)*

### *Day Five - Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December*

O Lord, who, by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, did prepare a fitting dwelling for your Son, we beseech you that as by the foreseen death of your Son, you did preserve her from all stain of sin, grant that through her intercession, we may be favoured with the granting of the grace that we seek for at this time... *(Pause for personal intention...)*

### *Day Six - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December*

Glorious and immortal Queen of Heaven, we profess our firm belief in your Immaculate Conception preordained for you in the merits of your Divine Son. We rejoice with you in your Immaculate Conception. To the one ever-reigning God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in Person, one in nature, we offer thanks for your blessed Immaculate Conception. O Mother of the Word made Flesh; listen to our petition as we ask this special grace during this novena *(Pause for personal intention...)*

### *Day Seven - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December*

O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, and my mother, from the sublime heights of your dignity turn your merciful eyes upon me while I, full of confidence in your bounty and keeping in mind your Immaculate conception and fully conscious of your power, beg of you to come to our aid and ask your Divine Son to grant the favour we earnestly seek in this novena... if it be beneficial for our immortal souls and the souls for whom we pray. *(Pause for personal intention...)*

### *Day Eight - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December*

O Most gracious Virgin Mary, beloved Mother of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, intercede with him for us that we be granted the favour which we petition for so earnestly in this novena... O Mother of the Word Incarnate, we feel animated with confidence that your prayers in our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. O Glorious Mother of God, in memory of your joyous Immaculate Conception, hear our prayers and obtain for us our petitions. *(Pause for personal intention...)*

### *Day Nine - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December*

O Mother of the King of the Universe, most perfect member of the human race, "our tainted nature's solitary boast," we turn to you as mother, advocate, and mediatrix. O Holy Mary, assist us in our present necessity. By your Immaculate Conception, O Mary conceived without sin, we humbly beseech you from the bottom of our heart to intercede for us with your Divine Son and ask that we be granted the favour for which we now plead. *(Pause for personal intention...)*

**Masses for the Solemnity of  
The Immaculate Conception will be at  
10.30am  
7.00pm**

# A D V E N T

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# H O P E

## Readings for Sunday Mass

### First reading

*Isaiah 2:1-5*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come  
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord  
shall tower above the mountains  
and be lifted higher than the hills.  
All the nations will stream to it,  
peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob  
that he may teach us his ways  
so that we may walk in his paths;  
since the Law will go out from Zion,  
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations  
and adjudicate between many peoples;  
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,  
their spears into sickles.  
Nation will not lift sword against nation,  
there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalms 144(145):1-2,8-11,13b-14*

**I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house.’**

I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
‘Let us go to God’s house.’  
And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

**I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house.’**

It is there that the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord.  
For Israel’s law it is,  
there to praise the Lord’s name.  
There were set the thrones of judgement  
of the house of David.

**I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house.’**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:  
‘Peace be to your homes!  
May peace reign in your walls,  
in your palaces, peace!’

**I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house.’**

For love of my brethren and friends  
I say: ‘Peace upon you!’

For love of the house of the Lord  
I will ask for your good.

**I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house.’**

### Second reading

*Romans 13:11-14*

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help.

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel

*Matthew 24:37-44*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

# PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please contact us with any additional names you may wish to be added to these lists which are updated weekly, and accept our apologies for anyone we have omitted.

## FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL:

Those sick with COVID throughout the world, Ron Picardo, Vince Thapermall, Martha Felleppa, James Wilson, Patricia Lee, Sinead Bushnell, Hayley Duncan, Audrey Potts, Tracy Bessant, Jo Smith, Brendan Smith, Mary Tierney, Michael Keating, Rafael Pino, Julius Fayiti, Anna Kelly, Justin, Margaret Downing, Victor & Gilda Kumarathasan, as well as others for whom we have been praying together recently.

## FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:

Sebastian Di Falco, Michael Tolputt, Fr Charles Dilke and all who have died as a result of war and conflict.

## AND THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS AROUND THIS TIME:

Eleanor Skelton, Aniello Pirfo, William Lowe, Fr Harold Purney, Dave Murray.

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK (NOVEMBER 27TH - DECEMBER 4TH)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>SUN 27TH NOV</b>                          | <b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>                                 |
|  | <b>09:00 HOLY SOULS</b>                                       |
|  | <b>11:15 HOLY SOULS</b>                                       |
|  | <b>18:00 HOLY SOULS</b>                                       |
|  | <b>19:30 RECEPTION OF THE BODY OF SEBASTIANO DI FALCO RIP</b> |
| <b>MON 28th</b><br><i>Advent Feria</i>       | <b>10:30 HOLY SOULS</b>                                       |
|  | <b>12:00 FUNERAL MASS OF SEBASTIANO DI FALCO RIP</b>          |
| <b>TUES 29th</b><br><i>Advent Feria</i>      | <b>10.30 HOLY SOULS</b>                                       |
|  | <i>12:00 - 16:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*</i>     |
| <b>WED 30th</b><br><i>St Andrew, Apostle</i> | <b>CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER</b>                         |
| <b>THURS 1st</b><br><i>Advent Feria</i>      | <b>19:00 ANN THAPERMALL (SP INTNS)</b>                        |
|  | <i>18:00 - 18:45 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>      |
| <b>FRI 2nd</b><br><i>Advent Feria</i>        | <b>10:30 JOE DA CUNHA RIP</b>                                 |
|  | <i>12:00 - 16:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament *</i>    |
| <b>SAT 3rd</b><br><i>St Francis Xavier</i>   | <b>10:30 CAROLINE REDDYHOFF RIP</b>                           |
|  | <i>11:00 - 11:50 (Confessions available)</i>                  |
|  | <i>17:00 - 17:45 (Confessions available)</i>                  |
|  | <b>18:00 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH</b>                             |
| <b>SUN 4TH DEC</b>                           | <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>                                |
|  | <b>9:00 DEACON BRAZ MENEZES RIP (ANNIV)</b>                   |
|  | <b>11.15 GIOVANNI, ANITA, EDGARDO ANGELINO RIP (ANNIV)</b>    |
|  | <b>18:00 FREDERICO DACANAY RIP (ANNIV)</b>                    |

### Holy Father's Prayer intention for NOVEMBER:

During the month of **November**, we pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

\* **EXPOSITION:** Whilst every effort will be made to ensure that this will take place at the times noted, circumstances may dictate that it be curtailed or cancelled at short-notice if Fr Tom is not available to facilitate it. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause.

### **Items for the Newsletter.**

If you would like something to be in the newsletter. Please email Fr Tom (email address on front page) by 12 noon on Wednesday



You can make a donation to the parish  
by using this QR code