

# Today's Readings

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of you heart.

### THE COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. 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 READING (Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11)

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **R**

### SECOND READING (Peter 3: 8-14)

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you

wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his path straight. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL (Mark 1: 1-8)

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## Readings for Next Week

**Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**

**Psalms 84:9-14**

**Second Letter of St Peter 3:8-14**

**Mark 1:1-8**



# ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH NEWSLETTER

Second Sunday of Advent, Yr B

10<sup>th</sup> December 2017

3 Springfield Rd, Horsham, RH12 2PJ, West Sussex | 01403 253667 | info@stjohnshorsham.com | www.stjohnshorsham.com

Parish Clergy: Fr Aaron Spinelli (fr.spinelli@yahoo.co.uk) | Deacon Tom Murray (deacontm90@gmail.com)

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December

6:00 pm - Vigil Mass - Deceased Members of McLoughlin Family

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

*Second Sunday of Advent*

9:15 am - Antonino Spinelli RIP

11:15 am - People of the Parish

1:00 pm - in Polish

5:00 pm - in Italian

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

*St Damasus I*

10:00 am - Deceased members of the McLoughlin Family

6:00 pm - St Johns school Candlelight Service

### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

10:00 am - Lenny Snell RIP

8:00 pm - In Polish

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

*St Lucy (Memorial)*

**11.30 am** - Intentions of Lydon Family

1:00 pm - in Polish

8:00 pm - In Polish

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

*St John of the Cross (Memorial)*

**No Mass**

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

10:00 am - Brenda Sullivan RIP

7:30 pm - Advent Taize Service

### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December

10:00 am - Mr & Mrs Moore RIP

12:00 noon - Baptism of Lorenzo Bet

6:00 pm - Vigil Mass - Ron Berry RIP

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December

*Gaudete Sunday*

9:15 am - Rosemary & Allen Wilson RIP

11:15 am - Hira Stanislaus Gill RIP

1:00 pm - in Polish

2:30 pm - Malayalam Mass

5:00 pm - in Italian

## Useful Contacts

### Parish Office

01403-253667  
Mon-Fri | 9:00 am - 2:30 pm  
Trish Fitzsimmons | Cozette Rice

### Safeguarding

Trish Fitzsimmons

### Parish Hall Hire

Please inquire at the Parish Office

### St John's Primary School

Toria Bono | 01403-265447

### St Robert Southwell Primary School

James Field | 01403-252357

### St. Wilfrid's Catholic

Comprehensive, Crawley  
Headteacher Mike Ferry  
01293 421 421

### Parish Mission Group

Chair to be announced soon

### Chair of Parish Finance

David Innes  
innesgen@btinternet.com

## Last Week's Collection

£2,079.80

## Second Collection

£516.92

## Thank You

You could add 25p to every £1 you give by joining Gift Aid.

Blessings to one and all as we continue through the Holy Season of Advent!

Thank you to all those who responded to Bishop Richard’s questions last week, these response and reflections were shared with the Parish Mission Group, and there was much fruitful discussion. We will bring a summary of the responses to a meeting in Crawley on Tuesday evening for further discussion on a Deanery level. This will then go to the Bishop. He will then pray and reflect on the work done and begin to formulate a Pastoral plan for our Diocese.

An email has been sent to Parents asking which session they would like to attend with their children preparing for First Confession and First Holy Communion. There will be a sessions on Saturday at 12 -1pm; Sunday 12:45-1:45pm and Monday from 4-5pm. Parents must choose one of these sessions and stick to it as far as possible. If the Parish office could have their first and second choice by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you.

Next Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> is known as Baminelli Sunday in Rome, it is tradition that children from the Diocese of Rome come to see the Pope for him to bless their Infant Jesus figurines. This is a lovely tradition that I would like to continue here in Horsham. I would ask that you bring your Infant Jesus figures or indeed crib sets to be blessed. This will be done at all Masses. I will also bless some straw for you to put into your Nativity Scenes.

This Friday I look forward to enjoying a Pantomime with our Altar Servers, this is a Thank You for all their devoted and diligent service throughout the year.

A reminder that visiting priests will be here in Horsham on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm to hear confessions.

I hope that Advent is not lost amongst the secular Christmas celebrations. Do find opportunities for stillness and prayer. Do use the opportunities for Confession to prepare a way for the Lord in your own hearts.

## Parish and Diocesan Notices

**ST WILFRID’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL GAIN OUTSTANDING IN SECTION 48 INSPECTION** -St Wilfrid’s Catholic School has recently undergone a Section 48 Inspection and I am delighted to share with you that we were classified as “Outstanding” in every category. Michael Ferry, Headteacher, comments “This report really reflects our community at St Wilfrid’s. We are delighted to have received an “Outstanding” grade and the inspection team from the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton were highly complementary about the work that our staff and students and their families do to promote the Catholic life of the school. I am so proud of our school community and cannot thank them all enough for their ongoing support which ensures we are able to provide a distinct Catholic Education, for all of our students, to the highest of standards.” Please read the full Section 48 Report on our outstanding Catholic school by using the

following link <http://myzone.stwilfridsschool.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Section-48-Report-Oct-2017.pdf>.

**DO YOU SUPPORT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND THE RIGHT OF CATHOLICS TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO THEM?** Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic school from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

## Sacraments & Liturgical Life

**BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAMME 2017 - WHEN PLANNING YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM, PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE DAYS AND TIMES OF BAPTISMS IN ST JOHN'S PARISH:** Baptisms in St. John's Parish will be celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at 12noon or 1:30pm and on 2nd and 4th Sundays on each month at 3pm.

For more information, please contact Melissa Kilbride at 07766712195

**MARRIAGE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - ALL MARRIAGES WHETHER AT HOME OR ABROAD NEED A MINIMUM OF A YEAR'S NOTICE BY ORDER OF THE BISHOP.** Please email the Parish Office for preliminary enquiry.

**CONFESSIONS** - Fridays after the Mass until 11:00 am. Saturdays at 10:30 am to 11:00 am; 5:20 pm to 5:45 pm.

**ADORATION** - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 9:15 am to 9:45 am. (ends with simple Benediction). Friday and Saturday at 10:30 am to 11:00 am (ends with Solemn Benediction).

## Parish and Diocesan Notices

**WOULD WELCOMERS, READERS & MINISTERS of Communion please sign up for Christmas Masses. Sign- up sheets are in the Covenant Chapel.**

**TAIZE ADVENT SERVICE at St John the Evangelist. Friday, 15th December 7.30 pm. Prayer, music and contemplation around the cross.**

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP** - Our 9:15 Children's Liturgy group are in need of support. They need a couple more adults to help with guiding the children in their learning of the Gospel. If you are interested in helping, please contact either Jon Gulliver 07515 688117, or Annamaria Shipton 07932 750099.

**SVP** - Thank you for your generous support of the first two Soup Lunches. Please join us again in the hall on Wednesday 13th December when lunch will be hosted by the Minnie Vinnies from St John's School. Lunch is from 12 until 1.30 pm. All welcome, please bring your family and friends. All proceeds to support local SVP groups in Sudan and South Sudan tackle extreme poverty in their communities. Thank you, St John's SVP Conference.

**ST JOHN'S TODDLER GROUP** meets in the hall on Wednesdays in term time from 10.00-11.30am. New members are always welcome, indeed the survival of the group relies on new members replacing those who have moved on to school. If you no longer have a pre-school child/grandchild but would like to help you would be made VERY welcome too. Please support this group who have been part of our Parish Community for many years now.

**CAFOD CHRISTMAS CARDS, ADVENT CALENDARS AND FAIRTRADE FOODS AND GIFTS** - will be on sale in the Covenant Chapel after both Sunday morning Masses. Every Sunday until December 10th.

**BISHOP RICHARD INVITES YOU TO JOIN HIM FOR THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES IN DUBLIN WITH THE HOLY FATHER, POPE FRANCIS:** 21-26 August 2018 sees the arrival of the World Meeting of Families in Dublin, Ireland. The Diocese is making the most of this wonderful opportunity by organising a pilgrimage for those who would like to attend. It is open to families of all shapes and sizes, from tiny tots to Grandparents. We will be staying together in Dublin City University accommodation and travelling to events together by coach. A three day congress will be followed by a Festival of Families and a Solemn Eucharistic

Celebration with Pope Francis. If you would like more information about the event visit [www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/) If you would like to join us on pilgrimage, please speak to your parish priest about how he can support you financially, and for a booking form. Alternatively you can contact Lizzie or Katherine of the Diocesan Pastoral team [wmof2018@dabnet.org](mailto:wmof2018@dabnet.org).

**MARY'S MEALS** - From now till the 31st December all donations up to 1.9 million pounds will be matched pound for pound. If you would like to make a donation please send cheques to Mary's Meals, Unit 10-13 Claremont Centre, 39 Durham Street, Glasgow G41 1BS or visit the website to donate on line. Any donations can be Gift aided if you are a tax payer. It costs just £13.50 to feed a child for a year!

**GRANDPARENTS' GROUP INVITE** - The Grandparents' Group is organising an Afternoon Tea & Quiz, to which all parishioners are invited. It will be held at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 12 December in St John's Hall. For more details contact Christine Evans [cevansuk@btinternet.com](mailto:cevansuk@btinternet.com) 01293 851909.

**HORSHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER CHRISTMAS EVENT** Saturday 16th December at the Carfax Bandstand. 11am-11.45am Children's Musical Nativity with Little Notes; 12noon-3.15pm Nativity Trail; 12noon-3.15pm Christmas Concert; 3.30-4pm Carol Service. Further details on leaflets available at the back of church.

**ADOREMUS** - National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress - Liverpool 2018: The bishops of England and Wales have announced that they plan to hold a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool next year (7-9 September 2018). Eucharistic Congresses are gatherings of clergy, religious and laity which promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church. Participants at the Congress will take part in a series of Catechism sessions, focusing on different dimensions of the Eucharist and the daily celebration and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. On the first day of the Congress, there will be a Theological Symposium, with workshops for Parish catechists, (especially for those involved in First Holy Communion programs), RE teachers, Hospital and Prison Chaplains, Seminary Communities and Extraordinary Ministers. The sessions will focus on Scripture, Ecclesiology, Eucharistic Language and Catechism and a Workshop on the Rites and Music for Eucharistic Adoration.

## Let us pray for

Please pray for the sick, Stella Walls, Alison Roberts Helen Hazell, Maureen Hepburn, Ivy & Ian Smith and Sue Longridge and for those with Dementia and their families.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Pauline Dillon and the Holy Souls.

## Other Announcements

**THERE IS NO SECOND COLLECTION TODAY.**

**This week's coffee is being hosted by Malayalam community**