

Today's Readings

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

THE COLLECT

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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 61: 1-2, 10-11)

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R**

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **R**

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **R**

SECOND READING (Thessalonians 5: 16-24)

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything — hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL (John 1: 6-8, 19-28)

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you — unknown to you — the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplished for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Readings for Next Week

Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Psalms 88:2-5, 27, 29

St Paul to the Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH NEWSLETTER

Gaudete Sunday

17th 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 16th December

6:00 pm - Vigil Mass - Ron Berry RIP

Sunday 17th December

Third Sunday of Advent

9:15 am - Rosemary & Allan Wilson RIP

11:15 am - Hira Stanislaus Gill RIP

1:00 pm - in Polish

2:30 pm - Malayalam Mass

5:00 pm - in Italian

Monday 18th December

10:00 am - Intentions of Edward Sullivan

6:00 pm - St John's School Candlelight Service

Tuesday 19th December

10:00 am - Dr Edward Rice RIP

Wednesday 20th December

11.30 am - Antonino Spinelli RIP

1:00 pm - in Polish

Thursday 21st December

No Mass

Friday 22nd December

10:00 am - Carl Gerald van Dooren RIP

7:00 - 9:00 pm - Confessions for Advent

Saturday 23rd December

10:00 am - Perry Grace RIP

6:00 pm - Vigil Mass - Ron Berry RIP

Sunday 24th December

4th Sunday of Advent

9:15 am - People of the Parish

11:15 am - Mary John RIP

1:00 pm - in Polish

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

£2,089.93

Second Collection

No Collection

Thank You

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

Fr Spinelli Writes

A Happy Gaudete Sunday to you all! This weekend I shall be blessing Infant Jesus figures and crib sets so I hope you have brought them to Mass.

Next week we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent which falls on Christmas Eve. What does this mean in terms of being able to celebrate the Sunday as well as Christmas? In other words there are two obligations for all Catholics next week – it also means it's an even more busy week for your Parish Priest!

Here follows the possible combinations which fulfil the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas:

If you attend the 6pm Mass on Saturday 23rd then any of the Masses from 6pm on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will fulfil BOTH Obligations

If you attend the 9:15am or 11am on the Fourth Sunday of Advent; you will need to attend either Mass again that day at any Mass from 6pm on Christmas Eve or any Mass on Christmas Day.

To make it clear the 9:15am or 11:15am Mass do NOT count for Christmas Eve, these are Advent Masses and do not fulfil the Obligation for Christmas!

The 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve is particularly busy with families, I would invite the children to come dressed as Characters from the Nativity. Lots of Marys and Josephs hopefully not too many King Herods!

The 6pm on Saturday 23rd will be animated by our Filipino Community and there will be a shared dinner and party in the hall – All are welcome!

On Monday 18th there will be an Advent Service led by St John's School at 6pm in Church.

There will be confessions heard by visiting Priests on Friday 22nd between 7-8pm in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament – please use opportunity to be reconciled with the Lord before Christmas. I will also hear confessions after Mass on Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th and as usual after the Masses on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd and before the 6pm Mass on the 23rd.

Finally, I would like to invite those who would like to help me with First Communion preparation to a meeting on January 8th at 7pm in the Presbytery. I still need helpers for the three sessions that will be held throughout the preparation. In the meanwhile could you email me so that I can compile a group email with your addresses.

Advent and Christmas Services 2017

3rd Sunday of Advent

Saturday 16th / Sunday 17th December

Blessing of Crib Figures and Straw at all Masses: 6pm, 9:15am and 11:15am

Friday 22nd December

Confessions with Visiting Priests from 7-8pm

Saturday 23rd

Mass followed by Confessions 10am

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday 23rd December

6pm Vigil Mass with Traditional Filipino Celebration of Simbang Gabi followed by shared Dinner

Sunday 24th December

Morning Mass at 9:15am and 11:15am, Polish Mass at 1pm *

(*note these three Masses are **not** Christmas Masses and do not fulfil the Obligation for Christmas)

Christmas Eve

6pm Vigil Mass | 9pm Mass

Midnight Mass proceeded by Carols at 11:30pm

Christmas Day

7:45 am Mass at Dawn
9:15am | 11:15am

Polish Mass at 1pm & Italian Mass at 5pm

Christmas Octave

St Stephen's Day Tuesday 26th December
Mass at 12 Middyay

St John's Day Wednesday 27th December
Mass at 12 Middyay

Holy Innocents Thursday 28th December
Mass at 12 Middyay

St Thomas a Becket Friday 29th December
Mass at 12 Middyay

6pm Vigil Mass | 9:15am Mass | 11:15am Mass
1pm Mass in Polish & 5pm Mass in Italian

New Year's Day – Mary, Mother of God
Mass at 12 Middyay

Parish and Diocesan Notices

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

BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION 2018 will be held on Saturday 27th January at 7.30pm in the hall. Tickets limited to 100 are available after mass, from the Parish Office or from Trish.

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 - Please join us again in the hall on Wednesday 20th December from 12 until 1.30 pm for the final soup lunch this Advent. All are welcome, please bring your family and friends. All the proceeds go to support local SVP projects in Sudan and South Sudan. The situation in Sudan is extremely difficult and it has not been possible to continue with all the projects set up since 1984 when the SVP was established in Khartoum. However, in the first 6 months of 2017, 6,700 babies and children were fed each week and 11,000 people received water.

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.

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/ 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.

MARY'S MEALS - Until 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!

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.

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 Is from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised t abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://cat.holicnews.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.

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>.

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).

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 Holy Souls including **Patricia Hind**

Other Announcements

THERE IS NO SECOND COLLECTION TODAY.

This week's coffee is being hosted by The Polish Scouts