

# Today's Readings

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, I my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

### THE COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. 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 63: 16-17., 64: 1.3-8)

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **R**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **R**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R**

### SECOND READING (Corinthians 1: 3-9)

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been

enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

### GOSPEL (Mark 13: 33-37)

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord

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

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below, gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. 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

*First Sunday of Advent, Yr B*

3<sup>rd</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 2<sup>nd</sup> December

6:00 pm - Vigil Mass - Pro populo

Enrolment Mass for Confirmation Candidates

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

*First Sunday of Advent*

9:15 am - Pat McDermott RIP

11:15 am - Alex Bleach RIP

1:00 pm - in Polish

5:00 pm - in Italian

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

10:00 am - Deceased members of Lafferty family

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December

9.15 am - Advent Mass at St Robert Southwell School

**11:00 am** - Monica McCechnie & Chris Richardson RIP

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

*St Nicholas*

**11.30 am** - Intentions of Gillies family

1:00 pm - in Polish

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

*St Ambrose*

7:00 pm - *Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception*

Mr Dodici RIP

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

*Immaculate Conception*

10:00 am - Joan & Philip Davis RIP

12:30 pm - Polish Mass

2:00 pm - St John's School Mass

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

10:00 am - Timothy Lawler RIP

1:30 pm Baptism of Isobella Williams

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

### 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

£2,242.27

### Second Collection

No Collection

### Thank You

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

## Fr Spinelli Writes

A Happy Advent Sunday to you all!

Today we have a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Richard, copies are available at the back of Church.

On Monday evening we will have Our Parish Mission Group Meeting in the Presbytery at 7:30pm where we will discuss amongst other things the questions posed by Bishop regarding the future of the Diocese and our Parish's response.

Thank you to those who have sent reflections to me over the past week, I will bring these to the meeting.

Please be aware of the **changes** to Mass times this week:

Mass on Tuesday is at 11am as I have a special Advent Mass at 9:15 at St Robert's School; this is open to anyone who would like to attend.

On Wednesday, Mass is at 11:30am this is to enable Parishioners to go straight into the hall afterwards for the SVP Soup lunch in aid of South Sudan. This will be the case throughout Wednesdays in Advent.

On Thursday there will be a Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception at 7pm, there will be Mass at usual at 10am and there will be a School Mass at 2pm in the Church.

Please use the various opportunities for Confession before Christmas. Various priests will be assisting me here at St John's with an evening of Confession and Reconciliation on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7pm – please put the date in your diaries.

Finally, today after 11:15am Mass there will be an obligatory meeting for all Parents and Carers of those children preparing for First Holy Communion next Summer. This meeting will flesh out the course on offer by St John's this coming year.

With my prayers for you all.

## Parish and Diocesan Notices

**ST ROBERT SOUTHWELL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL** is holding their Christmas Fayre on Friday 8 December from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm. Please come along to support your local school and enjoy some festive fun. If there are any local businesses who can offer donations of raffle prizes or sponsor a stall to help our children's school, please email office@strobertsouthwell.co.uk and mark for the attention of The Friends.

**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.**

**NIGHTSHELTER 2017/18** - The Nightshelter for the Homeless started last Friday 1st December. Donations of warm clothing, i.e. top coats; woolen hats; scarfs; gloves; socks; new or good quality used, and new thermal underwear, would be most welcome. Financial donations also would be much appreciated. Please bring whatever you can to the parish office Mon-Fri from 9am - 2.30pm. I thank you in anticipation for your kindness - *Deacon Tom*.

**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** - Soup Lunches will be provided by the SVP in the church hall from 12 until 1.30 pm on Wednesday 6th December and continue on 13th and 20th December. 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..

**THE SVP COMMUNITY SHOP IN BROADFIELD** - Thank you for your donations to the SVP Community Shop last weekend. The staff in the shop were delighted when we arrived with a car load of toys, books and clothes.

**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.

**HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS** - As one response to Bishop Richard's recent call to action on the future of our Diocese, a Holy Hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for vocations to the priesthood will be held on the first Sunday of each month at the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in West Grinstead. The first Hour will take place on today, Sunday 3 December, 3-4pm. Please do join us as we entrust the future of the Church to the Holy Spirit and pray that many young men may respond to this exciting call. For more information or if transport is an issue, contact Alison Gates (gatetors@gmail.com) or Anneli Figura (anneliogog@googlemail.com).

**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.

**Horsham Churches Together Christmas Event** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at the Carfax Bandstand.

**11am-11.45am** Children's Musical Nativity with Little Notes

### 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.

**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.

**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED GIFT AIDING YOUR OFFERTORY DONATIONS?** - Firstly, thank you to all who currently Gift Aid your offertory donations. We are claiming 25% in addition to all you give from the Taxman. As you might imagine It costs an ever increasing amount of money to run and maintain the Parish (building maintenance and repairs, administration, house-keeping, wages etc) and we get no money from outside. If you don't currently donate through Gift Aid and you are a UK taxpayer, please consider signing up for Gift Aid because it will create much needed funds for the Parish and it won't cost you anything. The process is very straightforward and all you need to do is complete a simple form, return it to the Parish office and we will take care of the rest. If you elect for the envelope system you will receive a pack of envelopes in to which you place your weekly offering. A number of parishioners Gift Aid using the envelope system but you can also Gift Aid by monthly Bankers Standing Order as well or as an alternative. Gift Aid and Bankers Standing Order forms can be found at the back of the Church or downloaded from the Parish website <http://www.stjohnshorsham.com/> Follow the Gift Aid link. Please return your completed forms to the office and we will be in touch. *Thank you.*

**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!

**MEANINGFUL CHOCOLATE COMPANY** - The Real Advent Calendar: the UK's only charity Fairtrade Advent calendar puts the story of Jesus' birth back at the heart of the Advent story. The Calendar also comes with a 24 page Christmas story activity booklet.

**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.

**ENCOUNTER EVENING FOR 15-30s THIS FRIDAY, 7.30PM** - This Friday there will be an ENCOUNTER evening for young adults (15-30) at St. Wilfrid's School (RH11 8PG). It runs from 7.30 to 9.30pm and there will be a guest speaker, Praise & Worship, Adoration, and Hot Chocolate, as well as an optional trip to the pub afterwards for over-18s. It's a great way to network with people your own age while deepening your faith. Don't worry if you haven't been before or if you don't have anyone to go with - we'll look after you!! For more information, search for 'ENCOUNTER Crawley' on Facebook.

### Other Announcements

**THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION IS TOWARDS FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS**

This week's coffee is being hosted by **St John's School**