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**Newsletter for the week commencing 11th December 2021**

**Third Sunday of Advent ( C )**

**Entrance antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.**

**First Reading: Zephaniah 3: 14-18**

**Psalm Is 12 Response: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

**Second Reading: St Paul to the Philippians 4: 4-7**

**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: Luke 3: 10-18**

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

**There is no message from Father Behr this week as he is unwell. The Masses on Saturday and Sunday (11th/12th December) are being covered by a visiting priest but the weekday Masses are cancelled for Monday and Tuesday. The Service of the Word will take place as usual on Wednesday. You will be advised of any other changes either by email or a notice on the church door.**

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:**

**Those ill or infirm:** Marie Smith, Charlotte Elliot (daughter of Maureen Davidson), Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Nancie Gribble, Elisabeth Berardi-Cools, John Hannington, Violet Barrie, Hella Reed, Mary Ann Roberts, Margaret Maloney, Norah Pillano, Bishop William Brown, Anthony Michael Whatley and Alan James Dorey.

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| **This week’s services (11th – 18th December 2021), Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.** |
| **Saturday 11th December**10am Mass6pm Vigil Mass | St Damasus I, Pope*Dunhill Family Wellbeing**Big M* | **Thursday 16th December**10am Mass? | Feria |
| **Sunday 12th December**10am Mass12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  | **Third Sunday of Advent ( C )***People of the Parish* | **Friday 17th December**10am Mass? | Feria |
| **Monday 13th December****No Mass** | St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr | **Saturday 18th December**10am Mass6pm Vigil Mass | Feria |
| T**uesday 14th December****No Mass** | St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church | **Sunday 19th December**10am Mass12 midday Traditional Latin Mass  | *Day of prayer for expectant mothers* |
| **Wednesday 15th December** 10am Service of the Word and Holy Communion | Feria |  |  |
| **Wreath – Pat (tidying and tweaking!)** |

**Important dates and times:**

**Town Carol Service** - Saint Mildred's Church - Tuesday 21st December - 7:30 - this service will be streamed live, so as many of the town's folk can attend or if you are at all concerned about attending in person - details will be made available in due course.

**SERVICES AT SAINT ANDREW'S**

**Friday 24th December 2021 - Christmas Eve**

Vigil Mass at 18:00 - 6pm

Mass during the night - 21:00 - 9pm

**Saturday 25th December 2021 - Christmas Day**

Mass during the day at 10am

Extra-ordinary form Mass at 12md

**Sunday 26th December 2021**

Mass during the day at 10amExtra-ordinary form Mass at 12md

***For your safety and well-being, all the Christmas Masses will be bookable [except the extra-ordinary form Masses]***

***Please email Jolyon with any requests for seats as quickly as possible please.***

***Fr Behr***

**APPRENTICE CHAPLAIN VACANCY**

Are you interested in becoming a school chaplain? Would you like to learn more about what being a school chaplain involves? Know someone who would? St Simon Stock Catholic School has a really exciting opportunity to join our team as an Apprentice Chaplain, exploring your own call and ministry while sharing the good news with staff and students.

**Application Deadline: 17:00, 10th of December 2021**

**Shortlisting: 13th of December 2021**

**Interviews: Wednesday the 15th of December 2021**

**For more information visit** <https://www.ssscs.co.uk/recruitment/>

**Christmas flowers**

After the success of the vases and arrangements that many parishioners brought in to decorate the windowsills last Christmas, we are asking for volunteers again this year.

However, in view of the current Covid escalation, it is probably sensible not to gather together to do the flowers on the 23rd as planned but if any of you feel that you could stay at church after 10am Mass bringing your vase/ arrangement and help dress the sills, Frances would be most grateful.

 If you think you can help please contact Frances Lawrence on 01233 732657/f.lawrence999@btinternet.com so that she has an idea of how many to expect. The colour scheme will be red, white and gold.

There will be **a collection** for Christmas flowers **this weekend**.

**Covid-19 Omicron variant - *Guidance for Churches***

 With respect to the current situation with the omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

* That people displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.
* That hand sanitiser is available to those attending the Church.
* That there is a strong recommendation for people to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) during the act of worship.
* That there is good ventilation and air throughput in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to remind people to wrap up well in church!
* That a positive message encouraging people to get vaccinated and have the booster jab, when able, is delivered whenever possible.
* That people who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick, and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so.  These are free from the NHS.

We have been informed that there is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of transmission is through breath and nasal aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed.  As such, the strict regimes of church cleaning that were recommended at the beginning of the opening of churches for public worship are no longer necessary.  General church cleaning is sufficient. If these guidance points are supported, then the churches will continue to be safe places for people to gather for acts of public worship, including over the Christmas period.

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| **The Rev. Phil Andrews***Private Secretary to the Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark* |

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