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**Newsletter for the week commencing 13th December 2020**

**Third Sunday of Advent (B)**

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

**First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11**

**Psalm Response: My soul rejoices in my God.**

**Second Reading: First letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 5: 16-24**

**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**

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

**Father Behr writes:** Dear Parishioners,

On December 8 Our Holy Father Pope Francis announced a year devoted to St Joseph foster father of Jesus and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  I’m sure there will be many special events in 2021 to mark this year of devotion.  In the new year we will see what we can do as a parish.

St Joseph has many titles, one of the most important is Protector of the Church.  We are living through a time of great challenges in the Church and Pope Francis is only too aware of the difficulties that Catholics face.

I invite us all to call on St Joseph each day during this special year to ask his prayers for the church and our troubled world.

There are many beautiful prayers in honour of St Joseph, below is one example:

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| Prayer to St Joseph | |
| To you, O blessed Joseph,  do we come in our tribulation,  and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse,  we confidently invoke your patronage also.  Through that charity which bound you  to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God  and through the paternal love  with which you embraced the Child Jesus,  we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance  which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood,  and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.  O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family,  defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;  O most loving father, ward off from us  every contagion of error and corrupting influence;  O our most mighty protector, be kind to us  and from heaven assist us in our struggle  with the power of darkness. | As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril,  so now protect God's Holy Church  from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity;  shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection,  so that, supported by your example and your aid,  we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness,  and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.  Amen. |

Best wishes, Father Behruz Rafat (07903986646)

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased**: Jo Venables RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jo Venables who died recently. Jo's funeral will take place at Charing Crematorium on Tuesday December 15th at 10:00 am**.** There is limited space in the Chapel at Charing, so please book a place with Jolyon if you wish to attend.

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

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Nora Cregan, Francis Kelly, Ann Collins, Nathaniel ‘Nat’ Kennell, Barbara Beresford, Gwladys Webbe-Wood, Kieran McNamara, Norman Blackman, Nancie Gribble, Elisabeth Berardi-Cools and John Hannington.

**This week’s services (13th – 20th December) until social distancing is relaxed:**

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| **Mass will be held daily at 10am except on Wednesday when there will be**  **a Service of the Word and Holy Communion at 10am** | | | | |
| **Feasts during the week** | | | | |
| Sunday 13th December 10am Mass | **Third Sunday of Advent**  *People of the Parish* | | Thursday 17th December  10am Mass | Feria  *Deceased Members of the Taylor family* |
| Monday 14th December  10am Mass | St John of the Cross | | Friday 18th December  10am Mass | Feria  *Jo Venables RIP* |
| Tuesday 15th December  10am Mass | Feria  *Relatives and Friends of Doreen Kennell* | | Saturday 19th December  10am Mass | Feria  *Deceased Family and Friends of Sheila Davis* |
| Wednesday 16th December  10am Service of the Word and Holy Communion | Feria | | Sunday 20th December  10am Mass | **Fourth Sunday of Advent** |
| **Flowers for Sunday 20th December** | | **Francien** | | |

**Christmas is almost with us…**

Time is running out. **Our flower arranging team needs your help** to minimise the risk of COVID-19.

Please bring a vase or arrangement of flowers to the church on the afternoon of 23rd December, 2pm to 4pm

- **bright red, gold/yellow and white with greenery**.

Or bring seasonal greenery evergreens and anything with berries e.g., holly, yew, ivy, cotoneaster would be gratefully received on the weekend 19/20 December. Pop them in the buckets outside the ‘wet’ Sacristy.

Please let Frances know if you can help. (Frances Lawrence 01233 732657    [f.lawrence999@btinternet.com](about:blank))

"Long standing parishioners will wish to know that I have heard via a Christmas card from Sean, that his mother Kay Ockenden (the widow of Rev Deacon Derek) has had to be admitted to long term care, as she has developed dementia. Sean has specifically asked that parishioners be informed and asks for your prayers" Jolyon

**Deacon Jolyon** has worked hard putting the seating plans together for the Masses on Sundays and over Christmas. If you have let him know that you want a seat but haven’t been allocated one or have a seat but won’t need it **please let him know asap, by using the email address above.**