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**Newsletter for the week commencing 10th December 2023**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

**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 your heart.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10**

**Psalm 71 Response: In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.**

**Second Reading: The letter of St Paul to the Romans 15; 4-9**

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

**Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-2**

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

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners



A recent survey by the Catholic Union has highlighted the serious problems caused by closure of churches during the pandemic lockdown that started in March 2020.

If you would like to read the article in the Catholic Herald, please go here:

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/church-lockdown-closures-caused-widespread-mental-and-physical-harm-says-survey/>

Main Points.

There is widespread mental anguish and physical suffering.

Sixty-two per cent of people report that their mental and physical wellbeing were adversely affected directly as a result of not being able to go to church.

The poll of 1,000 Catholics also found that 90 per cent believe places of worship should be treated as “essential” services.

Baroness Hollins of Wimbledon, a former president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists said, “places of worship should never be forced to close again.”

The closure of our churches gave the wrong message to Catholics and others in downplaying the importance of Sunday Mass.

Please remember all your loved ones in your prayers and especially those who for whatever reason feel they don’t ”need” church anymore. Please ask Our Lord to help them rediscover the healing power of coming to church. Thank you.

**Fr Behr**

Dear Parishioners, Just to let you know, the 2nd collection for Catholic youth services, raised £230.28. Regards, Liz Leahy.

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:**

**Those ill or infirm:** Peter Crinnion, Mara McDermot, June Munton, Ailish Cantwell (Jones), Sylwia Dorosz, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Patricia Hook, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those who are unwell and in need of our prayers.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Gwladys Webbe-Wood, Kieran McNamara, Norman Blackman, Nancie Gribble, Elisabeth Berardi-Cools, Violet Barrie, Hella Reed, Mary Ann Roberts, Margaret Maloney and Norah Pillano.

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| **This week’s services (9th – 16th December), Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.** |
| **Saturday 9th December**Feria | No public Mass am10.30 -11am Confession6pm Vigil Mass *People of the Parish*  **Reader:** Pat |
| **Sunday 10th December****SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)** | 10am Mass *Thanksgiving – Leahy Family* **Reader: Suzanne**12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Monday 11th December** St Damasus I, Pope; St Edmund Gennings, Priest and St Swithun Wells, Martyrs | 10am Mass *Private Intention* |
| **Tuesday 12th December**Our Lady of Guadalupe | 10am Mass *Donor’s Intention* |
| **Wednesday 13th December**St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr | 10am Mass *Our Lord and Our Lady’s Intentions* |
| **Thursday 14th December**St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church | 9am-10am Adoration10am Mass *Private Intention* |
| **Friday 15th December**Feria | 10am Mass *In Reparation*10.30 – 11.30am Adoration |
| **Saturday 16th December**Feria | No public Mass am10.30 -11am Confession6pm Vigil Mass *People of the Parish*  **Reader: James** |
| **Sunday 17th December****THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)** | 10am Mass *Roy Sturdy RIP*  **Reader: Rachel**12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Flowers: for 17th December – check wreath - Breda** |
| **Cleaners: 16th Dec - Pre-Christmas clean – all hands on deck!** |

**Confession**

Fr Behr is available for Confession every Saturday from 10.30am - 11am. He is also happy to visit those who are not able to  come to church.

**Children’s Liturgy** Children’s Liturgy at the 10am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. All children who have not made their First Holy Communion are welcome to attend.  The next lesson with Lorraine ison Sunday, January 7th, 2024.

**Advent Course**

The Sycamore course is an enjoyable and accessible way of deepening our faith.  We thought it would be good to combine this course with supper starting at 7pm.  A great way to prepare for Christmas. Please sign up so we can know how many to cater for.

The last topic:

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Friday 15 December 7pm

**If you’d like to see the films, they are available here.**

[**https://www.sycamore.fm/pathways/b-formation-pathways/advent-course/**](https://www.sycamore.fm/pathways/b-formation-pathways/advent-course/)

**In Partnership with Housing Justice, Caritas Southwark** is hosting an online information session **on 13 December 2023, 7.30-8.30 PM** for people interested in becoming a host for a refugee. Please scan this other QR code to register for the event. Alternatively, you can email Caritas directly and we can forward the link to you.

caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk

**CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal**

Donate to CAFOD’s Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/israeli-palestinian-crisis-how-you-can-help) or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need.  Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.”

HOMES FOR UKRAINE A message from CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK (CSAN). In partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services, CSAN, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. If you have room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then we’d love to hear from you. Visit https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/.

**Collection for Christmas Flowers**

On Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 December there will be a retiring collection for flowers for Christmas. We all appreciate the hard work and skill that goes into making our church beautiful for Our Lord.

**A request from Frances**: if you are able to do a vase arrangement for a windowsill she would be very grateful. Please let Frances know (01233 732657) beforehand if you can help.