

NEWSLETTER

17TH DEC 2023



St Francis of Assisi Church

Windsor & Ascot Pastoral area

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Charity number 1199568

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Fr

Kevin writes...

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS IS 'GAUDETE SUNDAY' – LATIN FOR 'REJOICING SUNDAY' – AND WHAT ARE WE REJOICING ABOUT? – THAT THE LORD IS VERY CLOSE! BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? AS THE LATE POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI SAID "THAT CLOSENESS IS NOT A QUESTION OF SPACE AND TIME BUT RATHER A CLOSENESS OF LOVE: LOVE BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER ...". WE WILL SEE THE CLOSENESS OF GOD WHEN WE GAZE INTO THE CRIB AT CHRISTMAS. THE CRIB MAKES A STATEMENT THAT OUR GOD HAS CHOSEN, OUT OF TOTAL LOVE FOR EACH ONE OF US, TO ENTER THIS WORLD AND TO SHARE OUR HUMANITY AND GAIN FOR US FREEDOM FROM SIN AND DEATH. CHRISTIAN JOY IS BUILT ON OUR AWARENESS OF HOW MUCH WE ARE LOVED! PERHAPS WE CAN REFLECT FOR A MOMENT ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE WORDS, WHICH WE SING IN THE CAROL 'HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING' ... "VEILED IN FLESH THE GOD-HEAD SEE, HAIL THE INCARNATE DEITY ... PLEASED AS MAN WITH MAN TO DWELL, JESUS OUR EMMANUEL" ... EMMANUEL GOD WITH US – GOD CLOSE TO US! FOR ALL THIS WE REJOICE TODAY!

* AS WE AWAIT THE LORD'S COMING, OUR OPENING PRAYER ASKS GOD OUR FATHER TO ENABLE US TO : "... ATTAIN THE JOYS OF SO GREAT A SALVATION ..."

* THE FIRST READING IS FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH. THE PROPHET GIVES THANKS THAT THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH WILL: "... MAKE INTEGRITY AND PRAISE SPRING UP IN THE SIGHT OF THE NATIONS ...".

* OUR SECOND READING IS FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS. THE APOSTLE TELLS HIS CHRISTIAN READERS TO : "... 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 ..."

* THIS GOSPEL READING THIS WEEK IS FROM ST JOHN. THE EVANGELIST TELLS US MORE ABOUT THE WITNESS OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST: "... I BAPTISE WITH WATER, BUT THERE STANDS AMONG YOU ... THE ONE WHO IS COMING AFTER ME AND I AM NOT FIT TO UNDO HIS SANDAL-STRAP ..."

**GAUDETE IN DOMINO SEMPER ...
REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS ...**

- MASS TIMES THIS WEEK**
- ♦ SAT, 16TH DEC: 5.30 PM: VIGIL: 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
INTENTION: SAMUEL LEE'S INTENTIONS
 - ♦ SUN, 17TH DEC: 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
INTENTION: 8.30 AM: JAMES WRENN ANNIVERSARY R.I.P
INTENTION: 10 AM: VIOLET GRIFFITHS R.I.P
 - ♦ MON, 18TH DEC: **NO MASS AT ST FRANCIS**
 - ♦ TUE, 19TH DEC: MASS OF THE DAY ['O ROOT OF JESSE']
INTENTION: PATSY WRENN R.I.P
 - ♦ WED, 20TH DEC: 7.30PM: MASS OF THE DAY ['O KEY OF DAVID']
INTENTION: FR PHILIP BAPTISTI (25TH ANNIV ORDINATION)
 - ♦ THU, 21ST DEC: 10 AM: MASS OF THE DAY ['O MORNING STAR']
INTENTION: RAY HIGGS R.I.P
 - ♦ FRIDAY, 22ND DEC: 7.30 PM: MASS OF THE DAY ['O KING OF THE NATIONS']
INTENTION: SUE POWELL R.I.P
 - ♦ SAT 23RD DEC: 10 AM: MASS OF THE DAY ['O EMMANUEL']
INTENTION: CHRISTMAS MASS FOR MOIRA WILSON'S FAMILY

CONFESSION AFTER SATURDAY MORNING MASS

**CONFESSION TIMES ALL WEEK, FROM MON 18TH TO FRI, 22ND –
PLEASE REFER TO THE TIMES ON THE TOP OF NEXT PAGE.**

*Live stream: <https://www.youtube.com/@rp54996/streams>



WE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:

MARIA WILLIAMS, BRIAN LYNCH, PAT SASSI, SIMON SAINT, ERNESTO AND NAPOLEON MANNOIS, JANE THOMAS, DANIEL OFFER, MARIE HALL, NINA MULLINS, GEORGIA MACKINLEY, EILEEN HOARE, SR. JOSEPHINE COLLIER, PAULINE PAINTER & GERALD GRIFFITHS.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO ADD A NAME TO THIS LIST, WITH CONSENT, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE A NAME REMOVED, KINDLY EMAIL OR PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE. WHATSAPP: 07851 092431



LITTLE FRANCISCAN TODDLER GROUP

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL, HAVE FUN, REST, AND ENJOY YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

WE WISH ALL OUR FAMILIES A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS. SEE YOU SOON IN JAN-24! WE ACCEPT CHILDREN FROM 3Y-0 TO YEAR 3. ENROLLMENT FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. FOR FURTHER QUERIES, EMAIL **SUE ROCHE** ON: SUE.ROCHE1@BTINTERNET.COM

PRAYER GROUP: WALKING WITH GOD – EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6.15PM AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH, FOLLOWED BY MASS AND ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.



ROSARY SAID EVERY SATURDAY AT 9.30 AM, BEFORE MASS, AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA.

📞 TO LEAVE A VOICE OR TEXT MESSAGE FOR THE PARISH OFFICE, KINDLY WHATSAPP US ON 07851 092431. THANKS!

PRE-CHRISTMAS CONFESSION TIMES

- * MONDAY, 18TH DEC AT 10 AM AND 6 PM.
- * TUESDAY, 19TH DEC AT 12 PM (NOON).
- * THURSDAY, 21ST DEC AT 12 (NOON) AND 7.30 PM.
- * FRIDAY, 22ND DEC AT 10 AM AND 6 PM.



CHRISTMAS AT ST FRANCIS, ASCOT

SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER:

5.30PM: VIGIL MASS FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER:

8.30AM: MASS FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10AM: MASS FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4.00PM: CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS WITH MAKING OF THE CRIB

10.00PM: FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER:

8.30AM: MASS OF THE DAWN

10AM: PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS

12NOON: SAID MASS

CHRISTMAS WEEK MASSES

TUESDAY 26TH DECEMBER: 10AM (ST STEPHEN)

WEDNESDAY 27TH DECEMBER: 10AM (ST JOHN)

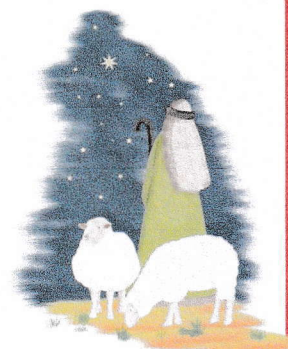
THURSDAY 28TH DECEMBER: 10AM (HOLY INNOCENTS)

FRIDAY 29TH DECEMBER 10.30AM: FUNERAL MASS FOR MARY WONG R.I.P

SATURDAY 30TH DECEMBER 10AM: (MASS FOR THE 6TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS)

SATURDAY 30TH DECEMBER 5.30PM: VIGIL MASS OF THE HOLY FAMILY

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER 8.30AM & 10AM: THE HOLY FAMILY



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR YOUR PARISH PRIEST ENVELOPES

THE ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE THIS WEEKEND AT THE PORCH OF THE CHURCH. GOD BLESS!



PUN SIU CHEUNG R.I.P

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REST AND PEACE OF THE SOUL OF MRS PUN SIU CHEUNG, **MARY WONG R.I.P.** MARY WAS BAPTISED RECENTLY BY FR KEVIN, ALONGSIDE HER HUSBAND AND SON, INTO THE CATHOLIC FAITH. SHE SADLY PASSED AWAY LAST WEEK AND **IT WOULD BE REALLY KIND OF YOU IF YOU COULD ATTEND HER FUNERAL MASS**, THAT WILL BE CELEBRATED AT ST FRANCIS ON FRIDAY, 29TH DECEMBER AT 10.30 AM. **(PLEASE NOTE, THIS REPLACES THE 10 AM MASS ON THIS DAY)*



HELPING OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN

WE ARE IN GREAT NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME. IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN SPARE TIME ON A SUNDAY MORNING TO HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT PART OF OUR PARISH MISSION, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - THE PROGRAMME BEGINS IN MID-JANUARY 2024!



SVP CHRISTMAS GIFTS

SVP (SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL) TABLE AVAILABLE WITH LOTS OF NICE ITEMS TO BE PURCHASED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



UCM CHRISTMAS RAFFLES

THANK YOU ALL FOR SUPPORTING THE UCM RAFFLE ONCE AGAIN, ALL PRIZE WINNERS HAVE NOW BEEN NOTIFIED. WE WISH YOU ALL COULD HAVE BEEN WINNERS. WE RAISED £335, WHICH COULD PROVIDE 2 STARTER KITS FOR A GUIDE DOG PARTNERSHIP, A WHITE HARNESS AND AN HOUR OF SPECIALIST TRAINING FOR A DOG!

SUE MEESE

THE BIG CHURCH CLEANING

PEACE LIGHT SERVICE - ST EDWARD'S WINDSOR - FRI, 22ND DECEMBER AT 18:00

ON THIS DAY, ST EDWARD, OUR SISTER PARISH, WILL BE HAVING THE PEACE LIGHT SERVICE IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS. THEY ARE CALLING ON OUR VOLUNTEERS (READERS AND MUSICIANS) TO PARTICIPATE OF IT. IF YOU'D LIKE TO, KINDLY CONTACT STEPHEN PATTERSON ON 07814 127335.



THE BIG CHURCH CLEANING ON 17TH & 18TH DECEMBER 2023

IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER FOR THIS JOB, KINDLY STAY AFTER THE 10 AM MASS, THIS SUNDAY 17TH AND WE'LL CONTINUE THE CLEANING TOMORROW, MONDAY, 18TH IN THE MORNING! THANKS IN ADVANCE!



CAN YOU HELP?

A SINGLE MALE, REGULAR MASS-GOING PARISHIONER IS SEEKING RENTED ACCOMMODATION OR LODGINGS IN THE NEW YEAR. CAN YOU HELP? PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU CAN.

*WE'RE HAPPY TO INFORM THAT OUR SUNDAY 10AM MASS IS BACK ON YOUTUBE. YOU CAN WATCH IT LIVE EVERY SUNDAY!

ST FRANCIS

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

KSC HOME PRAYER GROUP

Monday - Friday at 1.30pm

ZOOM ID & PASSWORD BELOW

MON 18th - FRI 22nd December

ZOOM ID : 787 9029 9871

PASSWORD : rosary



Sponsored by the KNIGHTS of ST COLUMBA -
THAMES VALLEY

Ascot - Bracknell - Windsor - Maidenhead - Staines
- Wokingham

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