

NEWSLETTER

10TH DEC 2023

St Francis of Assisi Church

Windsor & Ascot Pastoral area

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Fr Kevin writes...

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ON THIS SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, WE MEET THE RATHER UNCONVENTIONAL FIGURE OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST. HE BRINGS A MESSAGE THAT THE CHRIST (*IN HEBREW: 'THE MESSIAH'*) IS COMING. JOHN THE BAPTIST IS ECHOING THE WORDS OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH IN OUR FIRST READING - "COMFORT MY PEOPLE, CONSOLE THEM ... HERE IS THE LORD, COMING WITH POWER ...". MAYBE, WE CAN ASK OURSELVES THIS WEEK IF THE COMING OF CHRIST REALLY 'COMFORTS' US! CERTAINLY, FOR CHRISTIANS, JESUS CHRIST IS SAVIOUR AND REDEEMER - BUT HE IS ALSO - OUR FRIEND AND OUR BROTHER! IN OTHER WORDS, HE CAN BE VERY, VERY CLOSE TO US - AS A BROTHER, AS MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY AND OUR CLOSEST FRIEND! AS WE PREPARE TO GAZE WITH ADORATION AT THE CHILD IN THE MANGER - MAY WE ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE HAS COME INTO THIS WORLD, BORN OF MARY, BECAUSE HE LOVES EACH OF US TOTALLY AND PERSONALLY!

* THE OPENING PRAYER ASKS GOD OUR FATHER TO PREVENT ANY: "... EARTHLY UNDERTAKING HINDER THOSE WHO SET OUT IN HASTE TO MEET YOUR SON ..."

* OUR FIRST READING IS FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH. THE PROPHET, SPEAKING TO A PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED DECADES OF BITTER EXILE, THAT HOPE AND SALVATION ARE COMING: "... THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHALL BE REVEALED AND ALL MANKIND SHALL SEE IT ...".

* THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF ST PETER. THE APOSTLE TELLS HIS NEWLY BAPTISED READERS THAT WHILE THEY AWAIT THE RETURN OF THE LORD, THEY ARE TO DO THEIR BEST: "... TO LIVE LIVES WITHOUT SPOT OF STAIN, SO THAT HE WILL FIND YOU AT PEACE ..."

* THIS WEEK WE HEAR THE OPENING WORDS OF ST MARK'S GOSPEL: "THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD ...". THEN QUOTING THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET ISAIAH, THE GOSPEL WRITER TELLS US "... SO IT WAS THAT JOHN THE BAPTIST APPEARED IN THE WILDERNESS ..."

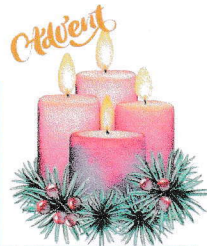
POPULUS SION, ECCE DOMINUS VENIET ...
O PEOPLE OF SION, BEHOLD THE LORD WILL COME ...

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

- ♦ SAT, 9TH DEC: 5.30 PM: VIGIL: 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
INTENTION: SPECIAL INTENTION
- ♦ SUN, 10TH DEC: 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
INTENTION: 8.30 AM: ANDY BLATCHFORD ANNIVERSARY R.I.P
INTENTION: 10 AM: JAMES DAISLEY ANNIVERSARY R.I.P
- ♦ MON, 11TH DEC: NO MASS AT ST FRANCIS
- ♦ TUE, 12TH DEC: NO MASS AT ST FRANCIS
- ♦ WED, 13TH DEC: 7.30PM: ST LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR, MEMORIAL
INTENTION: KAY KILCOYNE R.I.P
- ♦ THU, 14TH DEC: 10 AM: ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, MEMORIAL
INTENTION: BENJAMIN COOPER (FOR HEALING)
- ♦ FRIDAY, 15TH DECEMBER
✠ FUNERAL MASS FOR SUE POWELL R.I.P: 11.00 AM
2ND WEEK OF ADVENT: 7.30 PM: INTENTION: FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY
- ♦ SAT 16TH DEC: 10 AM: 2ND WEEK OF ADVENT
INTENTION: PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

CONFESSION AFTER SATURDAY MORNING MASS

Please, pray in Thanksgiving for
Joseph, Mary and Augustine Wong, baptised by Fr Kevin last Friday!



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

LAST LITTLE FRANCISCAN TODDLER GROUP WITH CHRISTMAS PARTY ON TUESDAY 12TH DEC, 11AM-12.45PM. HAPPY CHRISTMAS BREAK!



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S LITURGY TAKES A BREAK AFTER SUN, 10TH DEC. WE WISH ALL OUR FAMILIES A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS. WE ACCEPT CHILDREN FROM 3Y-0 TO YEAR 3. ENROLLMENT FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTEX. 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

* PARISH ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE: THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER
7.30PM. FR DAVID FROM WINDSOR ASSISTING.

- * 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)

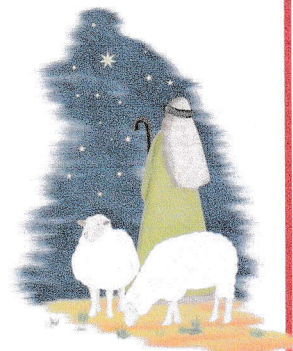
THURSDAY 28TH DECEMBER: 10AM (HOLY INNOCENTS)

FRIDAY 29TH DECEMBER 10AM: (ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY)

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 FLOWERS COLLECTION - WE ARE HAVING THE ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS. PLEASE USE THE DONA TERMINAL AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH OR PLACE A DONATION IN THE BASKET IN THE PORCH.

SUE POWELL R.I.P

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REST AND PEACE OF THE SOUL OF SUE POWELL. HER FUNERAL MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT ST FRANCIS THIS FRIDAY, 15TH DECEMBER AT 11.00 AM.



CHRISTMAS CANAPES & DRINKS - DEC, 16TH AT 6.30 PM

COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY. BRING CANAPES (SAVOURY OR SWEET - **KINDLY AVOID NUTS**) AND A DRINK (OR TWO) TO SHARE AND LET'S ONCE AGAIN GET TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY AND CELEBRATE THE MONTH OF THE COMING OF CHRIST!

FILL YOUR POCKETS WITH £2 COINS TO PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS; ALSO BRING A LITTLE GIFT, WRAPPED AND READY, IF YOU'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 'SECRET SANTA GAME' [GOOGLE FOR DETAILS]. CHILDREN ARE VERY WELCOME! YOU CAN SIGN A LIST AT THE CHURCH PORCH TO SHOW YOUR INTEREST IN COMING AND WHAT YOU'LL BRING SO EVERYONE CAN HAVE AN IDEA!

WE'RE KINDLY ACCEPTING GOODS FOR THE RAFFLES: PANETTONES, CHOCOLATES, WINE, PROSECCO, BISCUIT TINS, 'LITTLE GIFTS' ARE WELCOME! LEAVE THEM AT THE PARISH OFFICE, PLEASE! THANKS!



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

TICKETS FOR THE TRADITIONAL UCM CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WILL BE ON SALE FROM 1ST TO 10TH DECEMBER, £1 A TICKET, 6 FOR £5. PRIZES WILL SOON BE ON DISPLAY IN THE NARTHEX, TO INCLUDE THE USUAL HAMPERS, AN ALEXA AND VOUCHERS FOR ASCOT MUSIC SCHOOL AND ASCOT BUTCHERS! WE WILL ALSO HAVE A JAR AND TIN TOMBOLA AT THE WEEKENDS! THIS YEAR WE WILL BE SUPPORTING THE GUIDE DOGS ASSOCIATION.



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, SUNDAY 17TH AND WE'LL CONTINUE THE CLEANING ON 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
30 Minutes of praying the Rosary
As requested by Our Lady

ZOOM ID & PASSWORD BELOW
MON 11th - FRI 15th December
ZOOM ID : 726 8138 9761
PASSWORD : rosary



Sponsored by the KNIGHTS of ST COLUMBA - THAMES VALLEY
Ascot - Bracknell - Windsor - Maidenhead - Staines - Wokingham
Email : council984@hotmail.com Website www.council984.co.uk

