

This week at St Lawrence's



7th/8th December 2013

Second Sunday of Advent
(Missal Page 85 – YEAR A)



Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 71; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12
Third Sunday of Advent, (Missal Page 88): Isaiah 35:1-6,10; Psalm 145;
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

It is coming! And much sooner than usual! Today, the Second Sunday of Advent, the whole Church set out on the path to Christmas. Our first “resting place” on this journey will be the “Twelve Days of Christmas”. So we are in preparation: ADVENT! All during Advent we shall be faced with a big temptation. What is it? It is the temptation to anticipate Christmas instead of preparing for it. It is the temptation to celebrate Christmas before Christmas has arrived.

In Oxford Street the Herald Angels are already singing - with competition from Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer - not to mention Bing Crosby! In Regent Street, unable to wait for the Feast of Stephen, Good King Wenceslaus is already looking out, even if the snow is not “round about”! Even here in Feltham we can feel the echo of Christmas carols.

Unfortunately, many people will be sick and tired of all things Christmassy, well before 25th December arrives. For these people, the true celebration of Christmas, and the twelve days leading to the feast of the Epiphany, will be dull and flat. During these days they will be trying to recover from the very thing they should be celebrating! I hope you and I will not be among them. Therefore, LET US WAIT!

The Church invites us to have a sense of timing quite different from that of Marks & Spencer, John Lewis, Tesco or Asda! Those who do not fast do not feast. Those who do not prepare do not really celebrate. Those who do not wait do not arrive. So let us keep the Advent spirit, the Advent discipline. It will reap a rich harvest. Let us learn to wait and desire, to yearn and long. Let us prepare well, not anticipate. When the great feast arrives, our joy will be great, very great indeed, the joy of a Happy Christmas.

Therefore as we wait, let us offer our fervent prayer to the one who intercedes before God, our Immaculate Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. May she help us to celebrate with faith the Birth of the Lord so close at hand. May God bless you all.

Fr Fortunato

Contact us:

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Parish Priest: Fr Chris Vipers

Assistant Priest: Fr Fortunato Pantisano

Parish Sisters: Sr. Katherine O'Reilly, Sr. Monica Killeen, Sr. Nora Gorman

Catechetical Co-ordinator: Bridget Brinkley

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes

SACRAMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS

We extend a warm welcome to Christopher Solomon McFadyen, Theresa Samantha Connors Cash and Simon Peter McFadyen who will be baptised and to Karen McFadyen, Patrick McFadyen, Issac McFadyen, Christopher McFadyen, Berry McFadyen and Barbara McFadyen who will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church this weekend and offer our warmest congratulations to their families.

FIRST CONFESSION

Please keep in your prayers all our children who made their First confession this weekend.

PARISH NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

There will be a collection at the end of all Masses this weekend towards flowers for Christmas.

AFRICAN COMMUNITY

The next Mass led by the African Community will take place on **Sunday 22nd December** at 2pm. There will also be a Special Vigil Mass led by the African Community on **Tuesday 31st December** starting at 10.30pm.

ST LAWRENCE'S SCHOOL

We welcome the Junior Class from St Lawrence's school to the 9.30am their Gift Mass on **Thursday 12th December** at 9.30am.

ALTAR SERVERS REHEARSAL

All Altar Servers are invited to attend a rehearsal for Christmas Services on **Saturday 14th December** at 9.30am.

SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY

The Parish's annual Senior Citizen's "Christmas" Party will take place on **Sunday 12th January** from 12noon to 4pm. Please put your name down on the lists in the porch if you would like to come or if you can help. Details from Philomena Franklin.

HELP WANTED

If you are able to spare a few hours each week to help with housekeeping near the Feltham/Ashford borders please speak to Florie in the Parish Office.

9AM CHOIR

Calling all instrumentalists and singers. We would love to welcome some new members to the 9am Music Group. All you need to do is come up to the Choir loft after 9am Mass on any Sunday, or ring Theresa on 020 8751 5063 for more information.

RECEPTION SIGNING

Thursday, December 12th - **3.30pm to 4.30pm**. Please come with your child and wait in the Church.

THANK YOU

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Well done to Kate Taylor and all her helpers for organising the Advent Workshop, a lot of preparation went on behind the scenes and it was wonderful to see so many children and all the beautiful work they produced.

CAFOD TYPHOON HAIYAN APPEAL

Thank you for your generosity towards this appeal. A grand total of was sent to CAFOD, £1,768.28, from the two weekend collections and £510 from the Filipino Feast taken at the School Fayre.

SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS

The appeal raised £1,261.57, thank you for your generosity especially to all those who completed the Gift Aid envelopes.

APF MISSIO 'RED BOXES'

Thank you to all who support Missio through using the Red Boxes; a total of £1,834.05 was raised this year.

PILGRIMAGES 2014

PARISH PILGRIMAGE - MALTA

There are only 50 seats available on this pilgrimage. If you have not already done so, please return your booking forms as soon as possible as places on the pilgrimage are being filled very quickly. The cost of the pilgrimage is £667. A deposit of £200 is required with the booking form plus £29 if you require travel insurance. If you have any queries please speak to Fr Chris or Florie in the Parish Office.

LOURDES 2014

We will be travelling by coach next year to join the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, **20th-26th July**. Full details will be available after Christmas.

ECUMENICAL PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELLA AND FATIMA

If you have taken a brochure and booking form for this Ecumenical Pilgrimage in September and would like to come please return your booking form and deposit to Fr Chris at the presbytery, or if you have sent your form direct to Pax Travel please let Fr Chris know.

OTHER

CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROL SINGING

Churches Together will be Carol Singing at Asda on **Monday 9th December** at 7pm. Come and join in.

CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS

Our retiring collection next weekend **14/15th December** will be for CRISIS. For more information about this charity please check the following link <http://community.crisis.org.uk/xmasappeal>.

CAROL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

This beautiful service organised by Lodge Brothers Funeral Service will be held in Church on **Sunday 15th December** at 3pm. All are invited along to remember our departed loved ones at this special time of year and to light a candle for them, as well as joining in our favourite carols. Seasonal refreshments will be served afterwards.

If you would like to remember a loved one please contact Dora Manning on 020 8890 2231 or email feltham@lodgebrothers.co.uk by 12th December.

AN OPEN AIR PASSION PLAY IN STAINES – EASTER 2014

Churches Together have a thrilling opportunity; to declare Christ's trial, death and resurrection in a vivid, open-air play that will be both a stunning visual spectacle and an arresting and thought-provoking drama. Our passion play will be the same as the acclaimed Wintershall 'Passion Play' which has been performed most notably over recent years in Trafalgar Square where it attracts huge crowds. We will stage our drama in the Memorial Gardens in Staines, in the open air, on **Easter Saturday, 19th April 2014**. There will be two performances, at midday and 2.30, each running for about 90 minutes. The original concept calls for a biblically faithful re-telling of the Easter story to a high professional standard. We will need a cast of around 60 people and a team of perhaps 60 more to make costumes, construct sets, work the public address, steward the site, counsel the cast, crew and audience and pray for the blessing of God. Casting workshops will start in January and we will be getting the crew together very soon afterwards. Rehearsals are already scheduled and 19th April will come all too soon! If you have questions, want to know more, get a free publicity pack, would like someone to visit to your home group or church or to volunteer your services: Call John Miller on 01784 441882 or go to www.spelthornetransformation.org or e-mail: passionplay@spelthornetransformation.org

REST IN PEACE

ELLEN MCNAB RIP

We pray for the repose of the soul of Ellen McNab RIP who passed away recently. Her Funeral Mass will take place here on **Wednesday 11th December** at 12noon. Please keep in your prayers her children and all who mourn her.

Mass intentions and other services this week:

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| Saturday 7th ST ANDREW | 9.30 – 11.45 12.00 | <i>First Confession` for First Holy Communion Children</i> Deceased members of the Clarke and Francis Families RIP <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> For the intentions of Vitoria & Francis Colaco |
| + First Mass of Sunday + | 17.00 18.00 | |
| + Sunday 8th 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00 | Juliet Silveira RIP Matilda Rodrigues RIP Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) People of the Parish |
| Monday 9th THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY | 09.15 09.30 | <i>Morning Prayer</i> Nigel Owen RIP |
| Tuesday 10th Advent Feria | 09.15 09.30 10.00 | <i>Morning Prayer</i> Christine, David & Jack Harmes RIP <i>Novena to Our Lady</i> |
| Wednesday 11th Advent Feria | 09.15 09.30 12.00 | <i>Morning Prayer</i> Fr James McGuire (Birthday Intention) FUNERAL MASS – ELLEN MCNAB RIP |
| Thursday 12th Advent Feria | 09.30 | <i>No Morning Prayer</i> Bill Dethridge RIP <i>(with School – Junior Gift Mass)</i> |
| Friday 13th St Lucy | 09.15 09.30 | <i>Morning Prayer</i> Jessie Selvam Chelliah RIP |
| Saturday 14th St John of the Cross | 11.00 11.00 11.45 12.00 12.45 | <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i> <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> <i>Benediction</i> Nigel Owen RIP <i>Baptisms of Daisy Louise Lenkiewicz, Archie James Abreu, Tiara Adema Jisii and Adepeju Ariel Simisola Soboyejo</i> <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> Margaret O'Sullivan RIP |
| + First Mass of Sunday | 17.00 18.00 | |
| + Sunday 15th 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 09.00 11.00 13.00 15.00 18.00 | People of the Parish Valancy De Souza in Thanksgiving Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) <i>Carol Service of Remembrance – Lodge Brothers</i> For the intentions of Karl & Erika |

Sanctuary Lamp: Gabriel Danladi RIP

Sunday Mass Times

Saturday 6 pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - Saturday 11am & 5pm

Thank you for your generosity in last week's Offertory Collection:

30 Nov- 1 Dec: Envelopes £1255.74, Loose £600.61, Standing Orders £420.00 Total: £2246.35

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