

This week at St Lawrence's



29th/30th November 2014

First Sunday of Advent
(Missal Page 82 – YEAR B Vol. 1)



Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8; Psalm 79; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37
Second Sunday of Advent (Missal Page 85); Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 84;
2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

Dear Friends,

Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent. Soon it will be Christmas. Christmas is a beautiful feast. Then it will be Epiphany. Epiphany is an even greater feast. Finally Easter will arrive. Easter is not a feast. Easter is THE feast. But first we must enter the season of Advent; the four weeks that lead up to the festival of Christ's Nativity – Christ's Mass.

Advent has a double character. It is not just a season to prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas, when the first coming of Christ is remembered with joy and hope. Advent is also a season that prepares us to await, with the same joy and hope, the 'Parousia', which means the second coming of Christ at the end of time.

The notion of waiting for the end of the world with joy and hope may sound faintly ridiculous. But during these Advent days, God can give us a new spirit. He can change our hearts. He can transform our horizon. He can fill us with longing; longing for the one who alone can satisfy our restless desires; longing for the one who can call us out of all loneliness and fear. Because there are many, even here in Feltham, who suffer the loneliness of this world.

Freddie Mercury was one of them - the lead singer of the rock group **Queen**. Feltham was his first home in England after he arrived from Zanzibar. He died from AIDS at the only age of 45. He amassed a huge fortune. He attracted thousands of fans. He is still popular. A huge statue of him stands over the entrance to the Dominion theatre, Tottenham Court Rd. He made no secret of his bisexuality. He spoke openly of his many lovers, of his sexual relationships with women and with men. But in an interview just before his death, he admitted that he was not just lonely, but desperately lonely. He said: "You can have everything in the world and still be the loneliest man and that is the most bitter type of loneliness. Success has brought me world idolization and millions of pounds. But it has prevented me from having the one thing we all need – a loving, ongoing relationship."

May this Advent help all of us who do not experience the one thing we need – a loving ongoing relationship with God our Father. May this Advent fill us with true joy and hope. May this Advent destroy in us all loneliness and fear.

Fr Fortunato.

SACRAMENTS

CONFIRMATION

The next meeting for parents and candidates will be on **Thursday 4th December** at 7pm in the Parish Centre and School Hall respectively.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The next preparation meeting for children is on Saturday 6th December at 9.45am. The parents meeting is on **Tuesday 9th December** in the Parish Centre at 2pm or 7pm.

FIRST CONFESSION

First Confession for First Holy Communion children will take place on **Saturday 13th December** from 9.30am to 11.45am.

PARISH NOTICES

IMPORTANT PARKING NOTICE

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SCHOOL CAR PARK WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR CHURCH PARKING THIS SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER. THERE WILL, HOWEVER BE ACCESS VIA VICTORIA ROAD FOR PEDESTRIANS. THE NORMAL RULES APPLY AT THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH FOR THOSE ATTENDING MASS I.E. 4 PARKING SPACES FOR DISABLED USERS.

BOOKS FOR ADVENT

The Season of Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of God's Son at Christmas – a time of grace, prayer and expectation. As we journey through Advent we offer two pocket sized booklets – **Walk with Me** which has prayerful reflections for each of the days leading up to Christmas and **Day by Day** which has readings for Mass. These are available at the back of Church at £1.00 each.

PARISH MASS BOOKS – CYCLE B VOLUME 1

The Parish Mass Book for Cycle B commences this weekend, the First Sunday of Advent.

FIRST FRIDAY

Our early bird Mass will take place at 6.45am on **Friday 5th December**.

COFFEE MORNING

CAFOD's First Friday Coffee Morning will take place on **Friday 5th December** after the 9.30am Mass.

UCM

The UCM will meet on **Monday, 1st December at 7.30pm**. Members will each give a prayer or thought for Advent which will be read at the meeting.

CALLING ALL READERS

Sunday 7th December is "Bible Sunday" and there will be the annual renewal of Commitment to the Ministry of Readers at all weekend Masses.

LIFE COFFEE MORNING AND MINCE PIE SALE

There will be a Coffee Morning on **Sunday 14th December** after the morning Masses in the Parish Centre. Mince pies, cakes, Christmas Fayre to include toys and bric-a-brac will be on sale. Do come in for a cuppa and cake and great bargain too. All proceeds to the local LIFE Pregnancy Care Centre. Donations of cakes will be much appreciated. For information ring Annie Burke.

MASS INTENTIONS

We will be taking Masses Intentions for next year from **Wednesday, 3rd December 2014, from 10am-12noon**. The arrangement suggested for 2014, will stand i.e. each person wanting to give a Mass can offer **3 Masses** to be said at St Lawrence's for the year. Any intentions over that are to be sent to the Missions. This will allow every parishioner to be able to have a Mass Intention said in Church. Please think carefully about the intentions you wish to give. If it's for several members of your family, try and group them into 'Deceased members of the xxx family', the same applies to thanksgiving intentions. Please note that Mass stipends from **1st December 2014** will be **£10.00** per Mass as recommended by the Diocese, this also applies to Masses being sent to the Missions.

ADVENT CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP
SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER - 2-00pm – 4.30pm PARISH CENTRE
AND 4.30pm -5.00pm IN THE CHURCH



The workshop takes place this Sunday and is aimed at Children from 2-12 years.

PRIEST REFERENCE FORMS FOR ADMISSION TO RECEPTION 2015

Fr Chris will be available to sign the Priest Reference forms for admission to St Lawrence's Reception on the following Tuesdays, between 3.45pm and 5.00pm. Please come with your child and wait in church.

December 9th and 16th; January 13th

"WALL" MONEY BOXES

We have had a look at the money boxes in the walls around the Church and have reassigned them as follows: In the porch –Papers, CTS, CAFOD, LIFE, MISSIO, ACN (Aid to the Church in need) and the Parish Centre Building Fund. The box by the sacristy will remain as St Anthony's Bread with special focus on our work with Caritas. The box by Our Lady's Chapel will be for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund. These new dedications come into effect from 1st December 2014.

OTHER

MADE FOR GLORY

The Southwark Diocese Mission Team have developed a discipleship project for young people called *Made for Glory*. Everyday during Advent a short vidcast will be released giving a reflection on the day's Gospel. The *Made for Glory* Advent Calendar is available on Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/madeforgloryuk.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK

The 2015 edition is now available in the repository at £4.50 a copy.

CAROL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

This beautiful service organised by Lodge Brothers Funeral Service will be held in Church on **Sunday 14th 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.

ST LAWRENCE'S SCHOOL

If any parents had submitted an application form for St Lawrence's School and were on a waiting list, these forms would have been shredded at the end of the last school year. Therefore a new application form will need to be submitted. This does not include applications for reception and Nursery in September 2015.

PARISH CENTRE BUILDING FUND UPDATE

Our Target £250,000.00

Number Pledges received as of 25 th November	91
Total amount pledged as of 25 th November	£38,924.80
Total amount banked as of 25 th November	£13,458.00

REST IN PEACE

NORA SERMON RIP

We pray for the repose of the soul of **Nora Sermon RIP** who died recently. Her funeral will take place on **Thursday 18th December** at 10.30am. Please also keep in your prayers their family and friends who mourn them.

Mass intentions and other services this week:

Saturday 29th Feria	11.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation
	11.45	Benediction
	12.00	Thomas Magill RIP (Anniversary)
	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
+ First Mass of Sunday	18.00	William & Margaret Chappells RIP
+ Sunday 30th FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	09.00	People of the Parish
	11.00	Teresa Margetson (Intention)
	13.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.)
	16.30	Christingle Service
	18.00	Holy Souls – Canha Family
Monday 1st Advent Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	For the intentions of Parishioners from the Hamlin Family
Tuesday 2nd Advent Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Sabina Alvares RIP
	10.00	Novena to Our Lady
Wednesday 3rd St Francis Xavier	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Valerie Gill RIP
Thursday 4th Advent Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Miles Hamlin RIP
Friday 5th Advent Feria	06.45	Gloria Jose and Family (Intentions)
	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Miles Hamlin RIP
Saturday 6th Advent Feria	11.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation
	11.45	Benediction
	12.00	Keith and Rose-Marie Calmiano in Thanksgiving (40th Wedding Anniversary)
	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
+ First Mass of Sunday	18.00	Patrick Noel Carey RIP
+ Sunday 7th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	09.00	Anthony Sheridan RIP (5th Anniversary)
	11.00	Hazel Costello RIP (1st Anniversary)
	13.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.)
	18.00	Flor Prosper RIP

Sanctuary Lamp: Gabriel Danladi RIP

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

22nd/23rd November: Envelopes £1014.77, Loose £763.70, Standing Orders £420.00 Total: £2198.47
 Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity No. 233699

Sunday Mass Times: Saturday 6 pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9 am, 11 am,

1pm (Polish) & 6 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - Saturday 11am & 5pm

Contact us:

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Assistant Priest: Fr Fortunato Pantisano

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes