

Our Lady & St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Sydenham

Parish Priest:

Fr Luke Marappillil (lukemarappillil@yahoo.co.uk)

Pastoral Assistant:

Sr Agnes O'Shea dmj

Parish Secretary:

Steve Pearce (secretary@olspn.church) (Monday to Friday, 9am - 12 noon)

208 Sydenham Road, Sydenham, London SE26 5SE

Tel: 020 8778 9460 stphilipneri@btinternet.comwww.rcchurch.org.uk/sydenham and www.olspn.church

Mass Times Saturdays: 9.30am, 6.30pm Sundays: 9.30am, 11.00am Weekdays: 9.30am Holy Days: 9.30am and 8pm Fridays: Mass followed by Exposition, Divine Mercy Devotion & Benediction	Confession: Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 9am, 5.45pm, Sun 8.45am and by appointment. Baptisms and Weddings: by arrangement (Weddings require 5/6 months' notice)
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Third Sunday of Advent (B) 17th December 2017

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Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 ^{FIRST} | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 ^{SECOND} | John 1:6-8, 19-28 ^{GOSPEL}
2nd Collection This Week: Knights of St Columba Charities | **Next Week:** Christmas Collection

Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Feast
Sat 16 th Dec	6.30pm	Margaret & Timothy Kelleher RIP	First Mass of Sunday
	7.00pm	A Christmas Chorus - Hall	
Sun 17 th Dec	9.30am	John McAuliffe RIP	Third Sunday of Advent (B) Gaudete Sunday
	11.00am	Rachael Matthews RIP - Enrolment of the Altar Servers into St Stephen's Guild	
	3.00pm	Christingle Service	
Mon 18 th Dec	9.30am	The Wellbeing of Sr. Agnes	Feria
	6.00pm	Receiving the body of Jane Neylon into Church	
Tue 19 th Dec	11.00am	Funeral Mass of Jane Neylon	Feria
Wed 20 th Dec	9.30am	Sacred Heart Prayer Group's Thanksgiving for the Year	Feria
	6.00pm	Task Force Decorating the Church for Christmas	
Thu 21 st Dec	9.30am	Niamh Costello RIP	Feria
Fri 22 nd Dec	9.30am	Birthday thanksgiving for Nell Higgins	Feria
Sat 23 rd Dec	9.30am	NO MASS	First Mass of Sunday
	6.30pm	John McAuliffe RIP	
Sun 24 th Dec <i>Christmas Eve</i>	10.30am	Wellbeing of Mary Kelly - No Coffee Morning	Fourth Sunday of Advent (B) The Season of Christmas
	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - Agnes Tucker RIP	
	11.30pm	Carol Service followed by Midnight Mass People of the Parish	
Thank you for last week's collection...		Cash Not Gift-aided: £275 Cash Gift-aided: £323	Standing Orders Gift-aided: £300 Parish Development Fund: £214

PURPOSE-DRIVEN LIFE

Today – Gaudete Sunday – the liturgy of the Word brings us to a moment of transition. In the ministry of John the Baptist we move into a new and final era of human history. He was the last of the Old Testament prophets and he prepared the way for the new era of the coming of Christ. We get a better insight into John's life from Rick Warren's bestseller, *The Purpose-Driven Life*, in which the author says: 'If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by his purpose and for his purpose.' John the Baptist was born to Zachariah and Elizabeth in their old age by and for God's purpose in fulfilment of the prophecy, to be the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' Yes, he was born by God's purpose and for God's purpose. In short, John's was a purpose-driven life.

In our times, with great emphasis on discovering 'Who I am', many suffer an identity crisis. Not so John the Baptist. He knew exactly who he was, as well as who he was not. He clearly understood his role in God's plan of salvation. He knew he was not the light, but the one who was to bear witness to the light, the one who pointed to the light, the one who came to make straight the way of the Lord.

God who created our world, broke into it to save us by becoming one of us. This is the central mystery of God revealed and unveiled, and this was the message John the Baptist was preparing us to receive. In accepting it, embracing it, and believing it we are born anew. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and understanding of this wonderful intervention of God in human history. The incarnation, the Son of God becoming man, is the central pillar of Christian revelation and faith.

Fr Luke

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The sick & the housebound: George Abeydeera, Lina Ade, Sr Agnes, Gloria Arenaslondono, Sonny Caldinez, Thomas Carabine, Seelan Chetty, Diren Chetty, Keisha Dyer, Madeline Edwards, Christine Falvey, Anthony Fernandez, Joe Flynn, Margie George, Giovanna Ghezzi, Pat Griffin, Joseph & Charlotte Hadji, Rebekah Hall, Barbara Harte, Zofia Jazyk, Kitty Keeffe, Antoni Kowal, Peggy Connelly-McCarthy, Mary McDonagh, Greta Murray, Joe Murray, Stephen Murray, Ilse Muscio, Stephen Ofieyo, Antoinette Remice, Teresa Riley, Michael Sharp, Ann Sheehan, Noah Solarin, Genevieve Stanislaus, Elizabeth Turner, Thomas Mitchell, Mike Sharpe, Rafael Jimenez, Kim Thompson.

Those recently deceased: Baby Eddie Joyce (22/11), Kathy Camp, Jane Neylon **and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** 16/12: Thomas Murtagh, Jozef Pokorny. 17/12: Mollie Coote, Arthur Cordrey. 21/12: Niamh Costello, Stephen McCabe, Sydney Reynolds. 22/12: Ellen Cocksedge, Rosario Sfragaro. 23/12: Teresa McKenna, Mary Carberry. 24/12: Doris Warmen, George Duke, Keith Greene, Joseph Davy.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Saturday 23 rd December:	<i>No Mass in the Morning</i>
	6:30pm First Mass of Sunday
Sunday 24 th December:	10.30am Mass
	<i>Only one Mass in the morning</i>
	6.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass
	11.30pm Carol Service
	12.00 Midnight Mass
Monday 25 th December:	10.30am Christmas Day Mass

CHURCH NOTICES**THE COLLECTION AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES**

Catholic Priests do not receive a salary in the way that ministers of other denominations do. The collections at Christmas and Easter Masses are the only source of personal income for Priests. This is the system adopted in Catholic parishes in our Diocese. Please make any cheques payable to "St Philip Neri, Sydenham".

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH

It is the custom of this parish to donate money for the flowers and decorations of the Church at Christmas in memory of the 'faithful departed'. A Mass will be offered for them after Christmas.

Please mark your envelope 'Christmas Flowers' – writing the name(s) of those being remembered in block capitals - and pop it in through the presbytery letterbox. Thank you.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS 7th – 9th SEPTEMBER 2018

A Eucharistic Congress is a gathering of clergy, religious, and laity to bear witness to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The Bishops of England and Wales are planning one to take place in Liverpool on the 7th to the 9th of September 2018, and our parish has been asked to send two delegates. If interested please complete the application form which is available at the back of the church by 15th January.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – 2018

The next Parents meeting will be on Thursday 11th January 2018 at 7pm in the Presbytery.

CONFIRMATION – 2018

If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please pick up the application form at the back of the church (Church of the Resurrection of Our Lord, Kirkdale), complete all sections of this leaflet and return it, together with your Baptism and First Holy Communion certificates, to Father Alfred Osamor, C.Ss.R. on any Sunday Mass. All leaflets and certificates must be returned on or before 14th January 2018. Registration of candidates will be on Sunday 28th January 2018 at 12.45pm during the "getting to know you" session, after which the candidate will be issued with a Confirmation Passport with full details of dates and time of the programme. This Passport must be signed every Sunday to indicate the candidate has been to Mass. The programme will commence on Tuesday 30th January 2018. The first parents' evening will be on Tuesday 23rd January 2018 at 8:00pm.

PARISH EVENTS**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Thu	21 st Dec	8pm	Knights of St Columba (Hall)
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REGULAR EVENTS

Sun	9.30am	Children's Liturgy (Presbytery-term time only) for children who haven't made their First Holy Communion.
	11am	Coffee morning (Hall) after Mass.
	12.15pm	The Legion of Mary (Hall) after Mass. New members welcome.
	12.30pm	Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Prayer Group (Presbytery) 3 rd Sunday of the month. New member's welcome.
Mon	3 - 7pm	Fr Luke's Open House (Presbytery) for parishioners to discuss any issues they may have.

PLEASE TAKE ME HOME

	7.30pm	Parish Council (Presbytery) 1 st Monday of every month.
Tue	9.15-11.15am	Parent Carer & Toddler Group (Hall-term time only). Call Paula (07761 530739) for more info.
Wed	9.30am	Coffee morning (Hall) after Mass.
	7.30pm	Light of Christ Prayer Group (Hall) New members welcome.
Thu	7.30pm	Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Prayer Group (Presbytery) New members welcome.
	8pm	Women's Group (Presbytery) 1 st Thursday of the month.
	8pm	Knights of St Columba (Hall) 3 rd Thursday of the month. New members welcome.
Fri	9.15-11.15am	Parent Carer & Toddler Group (Hall-term time only). Call Paula (07761 530739) for more info.

CATHOLIC CLUB & PRIVATE FUNCTION HIRING

Sydenham Catholic Club (Watlington Grove) - Sky sports, darts, pool table and BIG screen showing Premiership and GAA games. Families and new members welcome. Club available for private functions and funeral receptions. Opening Times Thu 8.30pm, Fri 6.30pm, Sat 2pm, Sun Noon. Thursday night's Quiz is in aid of St. Christopher's Hospice.
Parishioner Church Hall Hire – please call Steve, Mon – Fri, 9am to noon, on 0208 778 9460.

NOTICES

Sr AGNES' CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Sr Agnes would like to wish Fr Luke, and all parishioners a Very Happy Christmas. She is very sorry she cannot be there celebrating with you all, and she thanks you all for your cards and greetings.

PARISH NEW YEARS EVE PARTY – 8.30PM TO 12.30PM – SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER

This is a ticket entry only party, open to all parishioners. Admission is free, but please bring your own food and drink. Music will be provided. One ticket is required per person whether they are an adult or child. For tickets and further information please contact Paula on 0776 153 0739.

PIANIST NEEDED – 11AM MASS

If any pianists in the parish would like to join us, please come and have a chat after Mass, or contact Barbara on 07711 872336.

HALL SUPERVISORS/CLEANERS REQUIRED (SALARIED POSITIONS)

In June of this year we started to work with a Catholic based company called Praetorium who specialise in hiring Church halls. As a result, the number bookings we've received has significantly increased, becoming an important extra source of income for the parish. However, presently these bookings are run by two people so we need to create a team and employ more people. The bookings are predominately for Saturday night. We will create a rota, so the more people we have the longer each person will have between bookings. For more details please contact Steve Pearce, Monday to Friday, 9am to Noon on 0208 778 9460 or email: secretary@olspn.church.

POSTING TO Sr AGNES AND Fr PETER

To post items to Sr. Agnes please address to: St Joseph's Convent, Layhams Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9QJ.
To post items to Fr. Peter please address to: St Aidan's Church, 1 Portnalls Road, Coulsdon CR5 3DD.

Please do not park in the Church grounds,

this is reserved for blue badge holders, or those who need to drop off those with ability considerations. Thank you.

During Mass, please keep your children with you at all times, and accompany small children to the toilet.