

Our Parish Liturgy

This Week (4 Advent A)

DIVINE OFFICE	WEEK 4
ENTRANCE HYMN	18.00 107 09.00 107 11.00 Musicians
PENITENTIAL ACT	Spoken
FIRST READING	Isaiah 7:10-14 <i>'Behold, the virgin shall conceive.'</i>
PSALM RESPONSE	<i>Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.</i>
SECOND READING	Romans 1:1-7 <i>'Jesus Christ, descended from David, Son of God.'</i>
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	<i>Alleluia, alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel - which means, God with us. Alleluia.</i>
GOSPEL READING	Matthew 1:18-24 <i>'Jesus was born of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.'</i>
PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS	18.00 116 09.00 116 11.00 Musicians
SANCTUS	18.00 Missal Tone 09.00 Missal Tone 11.00 Musicians
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION	18.00 Missal Tone 09.00 Missal Tone 11.00 Musicians
GREAT AMEN	18.00 Missal Tone 09.00 Missal Tone 11.00 Spoken
OUR FATHER	18.00 Spoken 09.00 Spoken 11.00 Musicians
AGNUS DEI	18.00 Spoken 09.00 Spoken 11.00 Musicians
COMMUNION ANTIPHON	<i>Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.</i>
THANKSGIVING	18.00 113 09.00 113 11.00 Musicians
RECESSION	18.00 112 09.00 112 11.00 Musicians

Next Week (Holy Family A)

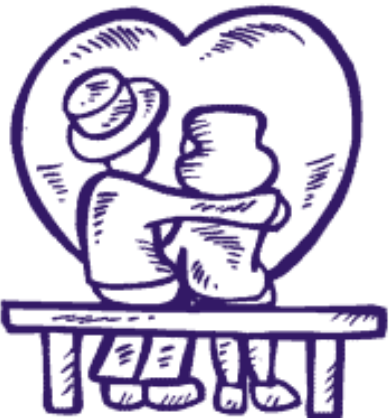
DIVINE OFFICE	WEEK 1
FIRST READING	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 <i>'He who fears the Lord honours his parents.'</i>
PSALM RESPONSE	<i>Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways.</i>
SECOND READING	Colossians 3:12-21 <i>'Family life in the Lord.'</i>
GOSPEL READING	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 <i>'Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.'</i>
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MARRIAGE MATTERS

In his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis offers a profound insight into the joy of Christian marriage and reminds us of its place at the very heart of the Church's life. Christian marriage, he observes, 'is a sign of how much Christ loved his Church in the covenant sealed on the cross, yet it also makes that love present in the communion of the spouses. By becoming one flesh, they embody the espousal of our human nature by the Son of God.'

As we know, the Holy Scriptures feed and nourish our faith and help us to grow in our relationship with God and one another. It is for this reason that these scriptural reflections are offered. They should help enable married couples to focus on the richness of God's Word that we hear proclaimed each Sunday of the Year and to experience the deep joy of God's love expressed in the great Sacrament of Marriage.

TAKING COURAGE FROM LOVE



The Gospel relates how Joseph overcame his serious doubts about Mary – and married her! She too had faced her own fears about the future – and said "Yes!" We too can have doubts and lack confidence in the future, but like Mary and Joseph we can take courage from our love for each other and God's love for us too.

Parish Priest
Rev Fr Daryl George JCL
Sacred Heart Presbytery
25 Between Streets
COBHAM
Surrey
KT11 1AA
(01932) 862518
cobham@abdiocese.org.uk
sacredheartcobham.org.uk

THIS WEEK:

BIBLE READING PLAN

Mo Colossians, Philemon
Tu Ephesians, Philippians
We 1 Timothy, Titus
Th 1 Peter, Hebrews 1-10
Fr Hebrews 11-13, 2 Timothy

Financial News . .

Weekend of 14/12/25

Plate £ 590:45
Standing Orders £ 755:00
Contactless £ 205:00
1st Total £ 1,550:45

Thankyou for your continuing generosity to your Parish.

2nd None

2nd Collection . . .

This Weekend 21/12/25

None

Next Weekend 28/12/25

None

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION
SUPPORT OF CLERGY

These collections provide income to the Parish for the support of clergy and may be Gift Aided. Any cheques should be made payable to the 'Sacred Heart Parish.' Cheques made out personally to Fr Daryl are 'direct gifts' and cannot be received into Parish Funds or Gift Aided. You will find a supply of Gift Aid envelopes for this purpose in the narthex.

Bite Size . . .

Say "Yes" to the seedlings and a giant forest cleaves the sky.

Brooks Atkinson



Sacred Heart
Parish Newsletter

for the Roman Catholic
community
of Cobham, Oxshott,
& Stoke D'Abernnon



part of the Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust, a Registered Charity No. 252878

Volume 07 Issue 04

21st December 2025 : 4th Sunday Advent

Following a dream

We know very little about Jesus' earthly father, Joseph. From these few verses, we see a picture of a sensitive man of great integrity who was willing to change direction in trust when given guidance from God. Just as Mary was asked to take a tremendous leap of faith in saying yes to bearing Jesus, Joseph also was asked to trust in a situation that didn't make rational sense.

According to Jewish tradition, Mary and Joseph were legally married although they were still in their "engagement period." We can imagine his great inner turmoil upon discovering Mary was pregnant but not through him. It would have been a great shame to Joseph, personally and culturally. Legally, he was permitted to have her stoned to death, but he chose the more compassionate route, deciding to divorce her quietly rather than have her publicly humiliated and killed. That way, she would be able to return to the protection of her family to raise the child.

A dream changed everything. Without any guarantees that what he dreamed was real or trustworthy, Joseph woke up and followed the angel's instructions. Then three other times in Jesus' early life Joseph did what he was commanded in a dream, taking Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod and settling in the town of Nazareth to raise him. In doing so, he saved Jesus' life. It took both him and Mary working together and being open to unimagined directions to bring Jesus safely to adulthood.



"They shall name him Emmanuel, which means God is with us."

Sheepish Question:

Where have I recognized Christ coming into my life this week?

Questions of the week

- 1 Share a story of a parent you know having the courage to do something that seemed crazy, counter-cultural, or just plain different, but proved to be for the best of his/her child.
- 2 Have you had any experiences of receiving directions or guidance from God that made you change course and do something different than what you had planned? How did you know to trust it?



Before Mass - Talk to God During Mass - Listen to God After Mass - Talk to your friends

Parish Office

Office Hours : Monday to Wednesday 09.30 - 12.30.

Parish Secretary : Sarah Cox (01932) 860244
cobham@abdiocese.org.uk

Newsletter Editorial : Items for possible inclusion in the Parish Newsletter (if there is room) need to be received (in writing please) at the Parish Office by midday on Wednesday.

Gift Aid Organiser : Dan Meehan (01372) 456416
ga.cobham@abdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Rep. : Mark Hillas 07436 571060
sg1.cobham@abdiocese.org.uk

General Parish Information

Parishioner Registration : Every household within the Parish is requested to complete a 'Parishioner Registration/Census' form so that our Parish records may be kept up to date. These forms can be obtained from the Parish Office and should be completed fully before being returned to the Parish Office.

Should you move address within the Parish at any time please complete a new form and write 'AMENDMENT' across the top of the form. Thank you.

Hospital : If you are going into hospital as a 'planned admission' you are strongly encouraged to make contact with Fr Daryl well beforehand so that, if appropriate, the Sacrament of the Sick can be celebrated beforehand.

Infant Baptism : Infant Baptisms are intended for the children of practising parishioners only and are celebrated on five occasions during the year after parents and godparents have completed a course of preparation. There can be no celebration without this important course. The dates of the courses for the current year can be found in the application form available from the Parish Office. Baptisms do not take place during the seasons of Advent or Lent.

Sacramental Preparation : Notice of the availability of Application Forms for preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be made via the Parish Newsletter between the school Summer Half Term and 31st August each year. Possible candidates for Confirmation should respond to the announcements made via the Parish Newsletter at the beginning of the Autumn school term.

Parishioners are advised that it is very difficult to imagine that any family or individual who is not regularly practising the Faith as members of our community could possibly be ready to celebrate a Sacrament of the Church.

Marriage Preparation : Marriages are celebrated by appointment with the Parish Priest. It should be remembered that in the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton twelve months minimum notice is required before a marriage may take place; this is a requirement of the Church for all marriages that involve a Roman Catholic (even if they are not taking place in the Catholic Church). It is also necessary that one of the parties must have a meaningful connection with the Parish. Marriages do not take place during the seasons of Advent or Lent.

Parish Car Park : All Parishioners attending Mass and using our Car Park need to make sure that they have fully completed our 'Parishioner Registration/Census Form' (available from the Parish Office) before using the Car Park; this ensures that your current vehicle registration is lodged in the system. Registering only needs to be done once (unless you change your car or if you use another car in the family that is not registered on the system).

Important : if you are not registered on the system and you use the car park you will receive a parking notice.

Registered Parishioners and pre-registered visitors are able to park whilst they attend our Masses/liturgies without fear of a charge notice.
(Car Park queries - parking@shpcobham.com)

NOTE : the Car Park does not use QR codes any found are **scams!**



Church Mouse (cub reporter). . .

The musings of one of God's smallest creatures on events in and around the Parish over the past seven days

Busy times around The Presbytery as things get into full swing ready for the coming feasts and celebrations

On Sunday afternoon the third of our celebrations of Advent Evening Prayer and Benediction took place; a chance for participants to step out from the secular rush of preparations in order to spend some quiet time with the Lord in prayer.

Monday evening and Fr D was at St Peter's School, Leatherhead meeting with the 'shadow' Parish Leadership Team for the new, 'bigger' Parish. At this the team were able to look at some of the responses from the recent consultation. They were also able to begin finalising the running order of the meetings that will be taking place in each community between mid-January and mid-February.

Following on from Morning Prayer, Mass, and Exposition on Tuesday morning Fr D was able to complete the preparations for the Advent Adult Reconciliation Service planned for Friday evening along with the community from Effingham and Fetcham. In the evening our singers and musicians were practicing for the Parish Advent Carol Service on Sunday (21st), whilst Fr D was off over to Epsom to help them with their Adult Advent Reconciliation Service.

On Wednesday, after Morning Prayer and Mass, Fr D moved items of furniture (long stools, votive stands, Dona machines, side tables etc.) from the church floor ready for the arrival of the workman who was to apply a new protective coat to the church floor. This meant that the church was locked in order to allow the floor to dry out afterwards. Once the workman had finished Fr D completed most of the common parts of the newsletter for this week and next (trying to steal a march as time is likely to be sparse!).

Thursday morning, after Morning Prayer and Mass, Fr D did not go down to the diocesan offices in Crawley as he would normally as his secretary had said that there were several off with flu at present and he did not want to run the risk of catching it before/over Christmas. This meant that he could continue the work he was doing on the newsletters and start work on the Prayers of Intercession as well.

After Morning Prayer and Mass on Friday Fr D was able to get the church ready for the Reconciliation Service in the Evening



CHILDREN'S WORD SEARCH 4TH SUNDAY ADVENT YEAR A

E	S	U	G	K	V	K	L	V	O	K	T	V	J	H	F	X	V	E	N	Jesus	Dream
C	T	P	B	R	R	H	H	X	W	O	A	C	R	C	U	M	U	J	M	Christ	David
L	H	S	O	H	Y	P	O	L	O	Y	L	E	U	N	A	M	M	E	Z	Mary	Conceived
Z	Y	B	U	R	E	X	Z	Y	W	P	D	J	A	I	T	J	C	O	K	Jospeh	People
I	R	L	G	S	I	N	S	N	E	I	P	L	R	S	O	R	A	A	I	Child	Sins
M	U	B	O	Y	E	V	E	I	H	M	N	B	I	U	T	A	A	T	W	Holy	Prophet
K	K	J	S	H	D	J	D	G	K	M	A	R	Y	H	D	T	A	Y	U	Ghost	Virgin
N	B	M	F	E	W	O	M	R	I	P	H	E	B	N	C	G	U	O	R	Husband	Emmanuel
R	D	H	Z	C	O	N	M	I	J	C	Z	I	M	R	G	O	F	V	L	Example	God
O	D	X	O	M	E	N	Z	V	Z	T	J	F	E	L	P	O	E	P	J	Angel	Wife
B	E	X	D	H	M	L	N	G	O	D	Q	Z	L	B	M	H	A	X	H	Lord	Firstborn
T	V	T	F	G	Y	V	P	T	A	A	D	I	V	A	D	S	R	U	Y	Appeared	
S	I	S	W	U	W	M	A	M	F	B	I	O	J	E	B	U	S	J	T		
R	E	L	B	G	A	P	G	A	A	K	A	A	R	Q	A	B	X	Q	M		
I	C	D	T	E	X	G	Q	Z	U	X	M	A	M	K	A	G	T	U	F		
F	N	R	R	J	H	E	O	C	Y	W	E	M	G	N	Y	N	T	M	T		
U	O	D	G	O	S	Q	D	E	N	P	S	G	D	B	I	Y	G	T	Y		
D	C	O	S	J	L	W	F	I	P	B	S	M	U	X	U	S	G	E	D		
J	N	T	C	I	M	I	T	A	P	C	S	I	T	P	G	M	P	X	L		
Y	L	H	G	M	W	Z	E	O	Y	D	T	E	H	P	O	R	P	W	S		

ANGELIC INTERVENTION

Matthew 1:18-24

¹⁸This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. ²⁰While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. ²¹She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus – because he will save his people from their sins."

²²Now all this happened in order to make what the Lord had said through the prophet come true, ²³"A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Emmanuel" (which means, "God is with us").

²⁴So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to do.

Other Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-6, 7, 10; Romans 1:1-7

LECTIO:

We are now in the days leading up to Jesus' birth. In the preceding verses, Matthew has set out Jesus' lineage through King David, right back to Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation. God promised Abraham that through his descendants God would bless the whole human race (Genesis 12:2-3).

We are familiar with Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel as told in Luke 1:26-38 but Matthew just chooses to say that 'she found out she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit'.

Matthew focuses instead on Joseph's angelic encounter. Joseph is engaged to be married but his fiancée Mary has told him she is pregnant. He knows he is not the father and so is planning to break off the engagement. At that time in Jewish society an engagement was legally binding; it could only be broken by a formal act of divorce.

Joseph clearly cares for Mary and wants to end the engagement privately to minimise the disgrace to her. While he is thinking about this an angel appears to him in a dream and tells him not to be afraid to marry Mary. The angel confirms to Joseph what Gabriel had told Mary – that the baby was conceived by the Holy Spirit, would be a son and they should name him Jesus.

Jesus was a popular boy's name at the time, which in Hebrew means 'the Lord saves'. It reminded people of their great ancestor Joshua (whose name had the same meaning) who led the Israelites out of exile in the wilderness and into the promised land after the death of Moses. But, the angel adds, this 'Joshua' will save people in a very specific way, not from physical exile but from 'their sins'.

Matthew interprets these events as a direct fulfilment of God's promise in Isaiah 7:14 to send Emmanuel, 'God is with us'. So this baby not only has an ordinary everyday name but another very special name given to no one else.

Joseph, like Mary in the Gospel of Luke, believes and acts on what the angel tells him and they get married. After the birth of their baby, it is Joseph that names him Jesus. In doing so he identifies himself as Jesus' legal 'father' and, as a descendant of King David, he gives him royal lineage.

Joseph faithfully plays his part along with Mary in God's salvation plan. He helps provide a home for Jesus to grow up in before he fulfils his mission on earth.



MEDITATIO:

- Think about Joseph. How must he have felt when Mary told him an angel had told her she would be the mother of God's son? Or that she was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit?
- What lessons can you draw from Joseph's willingness to act quickly when he knew what God wanted him to do?
- Jesus came to save people from their sins. What does this mean for you?
- God gives grace and strength to cope in impossible situations. Where and when has he helped you?

ORATIO:

Read over today's verses from Psalm 24 several times. Use them to bring your praise to the great king.

CONTEMPLATIO:

God promised to send a Messiah to save his people. Think about his faithfulness. Marvel that Jesus came to earth as Emmanuel, 'God is with us'. What does this mean for you?

Day	Date	Time	Service / Intention	Donor
Sat.	20 th December	Advent Weekday (<i>O Clavis David</i>)		
		17.00 - 17.30	Sacrament of Reconciliation (last opportunity!)	
		18.00	Fr John Horn †	DCA
Sun.	21 st December	4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT, YEAR A		
		09.00	Christopher Pimenta	L. Kolber
		11.00	For the Parishioners	
		15.30	Advent Evening Prayer & Benediction	
Mon.	22 nd December	Advent Weekday (<i>O Rex Gentium</i>)		
			No Service Today	Mass 10.00 at Leatherhead
Tue.	23 rd December	Advent Weekday (<i>O Emmanuel</i>)		
			PLEASE NOTE : No Morning Prayer of the Church Today	
		09.30	Fr John Garry †	
			PLEASE NOTE : No Exposition of Blessed Sacrament Today	
Wed.	24 th December	CHRISTMAS EVE		
			PLEASE NOTE : No Morning Prayer of the Church Today	
		09.30	Brian & Angela George †	
		<u>16.30</u>	Children's [0>8yrs] Crib Service (This <u>is not</u> a Mass)	
		18.00	Fr Tony Collins	M. Drury
		<u>23.30</u>	Carols Before Midnight Mass	
Thu.	25 th December	CHRISTMAS DAY		
		00.00	For the Parishioners	
		09.00	Kolber Family	L. Kolber
		11.00	Mgr Jim Joyce †	DCA
Fri.	26 th December	St Stephen, First Martyr (<i>Not a Day of Abstinence</i>)		
			PLEASE NOTE : No Morning Prayer of the Church Today	
		11.00	Fr Daryl's Intentions	M. Drury
Sat.	27 th December	St John, Apostle & Evangelist		
			PLEASE NOTE : No Sacrament of Reconciliation Today	
		18.00	Joan Short †	C. Davis
Sun.	28 th December	HOLY FAMILY, YEAR A		
		09.00	Ifor Taylor †	D. & P. Meehan
		11.00	For the Parishioners	

St Stephen

St Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, working great wonders among the people. Certain Jews persuaded others to make the charge of blasphemy against him. He was seized and placed in front of the Sanhedrin.

In his speech, Stephen

recalled God's guidance over Israel's history, as well as Israel's idolatry and disobedience. His words brought anger from the crowd. "But filled with the holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, saying,

"Behold, I see the

heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ... 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.'"



DATE / MASS	WELCOME MINISTERS	READERS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	REPOSITORY AFTER MASS
SATURDAY Holy Family A 27/12/25 18.00	Still Required; please offer	G. Alby	N/A at present	Closed this week
SUNDAY Holy Family A 28/12/25 09.00	Still Required; please offer	D. Meehan	P. Carello L. Kolber	Closed this week
SUNDAY Holy Family A 28/12/25 11.00	Still Required; please offer	S. Williams	P. Mascolo D. Yearley	Closed this week
PLEASE REMEMBER : If you are unable to complete your particular ministry then it is <u>your responsibility</u> to arrange cover with another minister. In this way our Sunday Liturgies will run in a smooth and prayerful way.				

SACRED HEART COBHAM - ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASONS 2025

WEEKDAYS - Tue. 23 Dec. Mass (09.30)
Wed. 24 Dec. Mass (09.30)

WEEKENDS - Sat. 20 Dec. Vigil Mass (18.00)
Sun. 21 Dec. Masses (09.00 & 11.00), Evening Prayer & Benediction (15.30)

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE - Sun. 21 Dec. 18.00 (followed by -)

ADVENT PARISH SOCIAL - Sun. 21 Dec. 19.00 Mince Pies & Mulled Wine



CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE - Wed. 24 Dec. 16.30

VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS - Wed. 24 Dec. 18.00

CAROLS BEFORE MIDNIGHT - Wed. 24 Dec. 23.30

MIDNIGHT MASS - Thu. 25 Dec. 00.00


CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES - Thu. 25 Dec. 09.00 & 11.00

ST STEPHEN'S DAY MASS - Fri. 26 Dec. 11.00

HOLY FAMILY - SAT. 28 / SUN. 29 DEC. 18.00 (VIGIL), 09.00 & 11.00

WEEKDAYS - TUE. 30 - WED. 31 09.30

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEARS DAY) - 12.00 MIDDAY



Prayers Please



FOR THOSE UNWELL AT THIS TIME:
Jay Adams, Sr Anne Bayley, Jim Begley, Maggie Dongray, Tom Delbridge, Fiona Frank, Maureen Garner, baby Naomi Hunt, Michael Nutter, Fr Sebastian Paul, Pascal Smyth and Anne Sproul.

THE RECENTLY DECEASED:
Philip Thomas †

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:
Michael O'Brien †
Arthur Moore †
Diana Moore †
Fr Thomas Purcell †
Fr James Martin †
Canon Herbert Fincham †
Fr Francis Bayliss †
Fr Victor Cook †

HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION:
". . . that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope . . ."

For those who are unwell.....

those who have died recently....

those whose anniversaries occur.....

the Holy Father's Prayer Intention....

Parish Roundup

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MINISTRIES AT SACRED HEART THIS CHRISTMAS - Would ALL our regular Servers, Readers, and Welcomers please make a point of looking at the Christmas Ministries Rota at the rear of the church. As well as the Masses over Christmas there are other readers needed for our Parish Carol Service and the traditional Readings and Carols before Midnight Mass. Hopefully the slots will all be filled in by the Parish Carol Service this weekend. Thank you.

DAY OF REFLECTION FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD - 24th January, 11.00-16.00 at St Michael's Church, Worthing, BN13 3AL. Led by Bishop Richard and Catherine Christmas (diocesan Liturgy & Music Adviser) this day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, and preparing to minister as a reader. Register your free place: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/>

RESPONSES TO DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN - If you did not get to return your postcard regarding the progression of the Bishop's Diocesan Pastoral Plan individuals can continue to have your say using the on-line form (www.epsomdeanery.com), which will continue to operate until the end of December.

PARISH DIARIES NOW AVAILABLE - Our Parish Diaries have arrived and are now available in the Repository after our weekend Masses for a donation of £1 per copy.

ELECTRONIC GIVING - As the number of parishioners using our 'Dona' electronic giving terminal at the rear of the church has been steadily growing, the Parish Finance Committee has decided that a second terminal should be available to reduce the queuing that sometimes takes place whilst waiting to access the terminal. When the second terminal arrives we will be positioning both terminals half way down the two side aisles, this will assist access and 'unblock the exit at the end of Masses. Of course, parishioners do not have to wait until the end of our Masses to use the terminals - after arrival and before taking seats?

PARISH ADVENT CAROL SERVICE - Today (21st) we will be celebrating our annual Carol Service in the church at 18.00 where we will have the opportunity to join together singing our most loved seasonal carols. Afterwards there will be a Parish Social in the Parish Centre serving mulled wine and mince pies.

CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE - On Christmas Eve (Wednesday) there will be a special short service for our younger parishioners (0 > 8 years) in which we will sing three children's carols as we talk about and prepare the Crib for our Christmas Season. This is not a Mass but is perhaps a chance to 'calm things down' before tea time.

CHRISTMAS SEASON - The Christmas Season begins with the Christmas Vigil Mass (24th Dec. 18.00) and lasts until the 11.00 Mass on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (11th Jan.). Between these two dates it is customary for parishioners (particularly families) to pay visits to the Crib to pray for their own families and also for those throughout the world who do not have the advantages of a family life like our own.

CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMASTIDE CRIB DONATIONS - During the Christmas Season any donations left at the box by the Crib will be sent on to the Catholic Children's Society Arundel and Brighton family Crisis Fund.

ST STEPHEN'S DAY MASS - the day following Christmas Day is known in the Church as St Stephen's Day (not the more secular Boxing Day). Mass will be later (at 11.00) and as many of our servers are asked to come to Mass to renew their dedication to the St Stephen's Altar Serving Guild.

MASS NEW YEARS DAY (MARY, MOTHER OF GOD) - Mass on New Year's Day will be at 12.00 midday. Why not come along and ask God's blessing on the New Year, our plans, hopes, and resolutions!

NEW YEAR EVENTS IN THE DIOCESE

CATHOLIC RESPONSES TO WAR AND PEACE - Five Tuesdays from 13th January, 12.00 - 13.00, online (Cost: £60). An exploration of the history and development the of Catholic 'Just War' theory with Dr Aidan Cottrell-Boyce, starting in late antiquity and tracing the story of the Catholic response to war and peace up to the present day. 📍 www.londonjesuitcentre.org to book.

CATHOLIC UNION PUB TALK : 'Reflections on a First Year in Parliament' - 19th January, 18.00, London, SW1V 1AU. Sojan Joseph MP will talk about his reflections on his first year in Parliament, drawing on his background working in the NHS in mental health for 22 years and inclusion in the community. 📍 www.catholicunion.org.uk/events/calendar/ to book.

MAKING CHOICES WITH ST IGNATIUS - 31st January, 10.00 - 16.00, The House of Prayer, Molesey, KT8 0PB (Cost: £35). Ignatius offers wisdom to help us make choices: both the big decisions about what kind of life we lead, and the smaller ones of how we live out our day. The day will offer input on praying about our choices. 📍 www.christian-retreat.org for details/booking

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING - 7th February, 10.00 - 15.00, St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley, RH10 6RP (£40). The number of people experiencing poor mental health is rising. This course will help attendees understand the impact and reality of poor mental health, enabling them to identify the early signs and symptoms and signpost people effectively. 📍 www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events to book your place.