

SUNDAY *Plus*

3rd Sunday of Advent **Divine Office Week III** Year A

Teach me your ways

Teach me your way of looking at people:
as you glanced at Peter after his denial,
as you penetrated the fears of the rich young man
and the hearts of your disciples.

I would like to meet you as you really are,
since your image changes those with whom
you come into contact.

Remember John the Baptist's first meeting with you?
And the centurion's feeling of unworthiness?
And the amazement of all those who saw miracles
and other wonders?

How you impressed your disciples,
the rabble in the Garden of Olives,
Pilate and his wife
and the centurion at the foot of the cross...

I would like to hear and be impressed
by your manner of speaking,
listening, for example, to your discourse
in the synagogue in Capharnaum
or the Sermon on the Mount where your audience
felt you "taught as one who has authority."

Pedro Arrupe SJ, Hearts on Fire: praying with Jesuits

I am an Augustinian, a son of St Augustine, who once
said, "With you I am a Christian, and for you I am a
bishop." In this sense, all of us can journey together
toward the homeland that God has prepared for us.

Pope Leo

Christmas tree legends


Legend says that one Christmas Eve, in a forest in Germany, a poor forester and his family huddled by their log fire, trying to stay warm. A small boy, bitterly cold, alone and lost, knocked at their front door. There was very little to spare, but the family made space beside the fire as the child gulped down a bowl of hot broth. Soon it was bedtime. Very early next morning, Christmas Day, singing angels woke the family from their sleep. They then

discovered that their young visitor was the Boy Jesus. In thanks for their hospitality, Jesus gave the forester and his family a freshly cut branch from a fir tree – and thus began the custom of having a Christmas tree in the home.

Another legend tells that the Boy Jesus found a poor family who could not afford to decorate their Christmas tree. He solved their problem by taking some spiders' webs and changing them into silver thread – the first tinsel.



Jesus at the Sermon on the Mount by August Müller (1923). Renata Sedmakova / Shutterstock.com

Loving Lord, we'll soon be celebrating the joy of Christmas. Help me to make it a meaningful celebration for the people around me. Help me to spread your love.  Amen.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Remember young people

Signs of hope are also needed by those who are the very embodiment of hope, namely, the young. Sadly, they often see their dreams and aspirations frustrated. We must not disappoint them, for the future depends on their enthusiasm. It is gratifying to see the energy they demonstrate, for example, by rolling up their sleeves and volunteering to help when disasters strike and people are in need. Yet it is sad to see young people who are without hope, who face an uncertain and unpromising future, who lack employment or job security or realistic prospects after finishing school. Without the hope that their dreams can come true, they will inevitably grow discouraged and listless... With renewed passion, let us demonstrate care and concern for adolescents, students and young couples, the rising generation. Let us draw close to the young, for they are the joy and hope of the Church and of the world!

Pope Francis, Spes non confundit, 12



READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 35:1-6. 10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Monday:
Numbers 24:2-7.
15-17
Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday:
Genesis 49:2. 8-10
Matthew 1:1-17

Wednesday:
Jeremiah 23:5-8
Matthew 1:18-24

Thursday:
Judges 13:2-7. 24-25
Luke 1:5-25

Friday:
Isaiah 7:10-14
Luke 1:26-38

Saturday:
Song of Songs 2:8-14
Luke 1:39-45

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24



St Cecilia's Church
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 Contact us Via St Cecilia's Parish Office: **Tel: 020 8641 3141**
Email: northcheam@rcaos.org.uk Website: www.stceciliarcchurch.co.uk
Facebook: [SaintCecilia Ncheam](https://www.facebook.com/SaintCeciliaNcheam)



Parochial Administrator: Fr Benedict Fadoju

Confessions: 5:00pm – 6:00pm Saturdays or please contact Fr Benedict on request

Hospital Chaplain: Fr Philip Pak Telephone: St Helier: 0208 296 2917

Useful information can be found by visiting the Diocesan Website
 at www.rcsouthwark.co.uk and the Sutton Deanery Website at www.suttondeanery.weebly.com

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT **GAUDETE SUNDAY**

Sat. 13th Dec. 06:30pm. Francis and Rose Marie Almeida (RIP)
Sun. 14th Dec. 09:30am. Fr Robert Sugg (Birthday Blessings on 16th)
Vincent and Marie Muscat (RIP)
11:00am. Rita Rough (RIP)

*We welcome the
 Nigerian Choir
 singing at the 11am
 Mass this week*

Mon. 15th Dec. NO MASS
Tues. 16th Dec. 10:00am. Harry Mullins (RIP)
Wed. 17th Dec. 10:00am. Francis and Anne Lobo (RIP)
Thur. 18th Dec. 10:00am. Marion Morgan (RIP)
Fri. 19th Dec. 06:00pm. Holy Hour Adoration & Benediction
07:00pm. Wencelao Martinez (RIP)

This week we also pray for

Peter Hoe (RIP)
Maria Moi (RIP)
Teresa Ingrisano (RIP)
Martin Ryan

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat. 20th Dec. 06:30pm. Declan Brilley (RIP)
Sun. 21st Dec. 09:30am. Emanuel and Josephine Camilleri (RIP)
11:00am. Alf and Marie Oliva (RIP)

St Cecilia Parish is aiming to reduce the flow of paper.

In future you will be able to access the parish newsletter via the QR codes as you enter our church. Alternatively, you may prefer to receive a copy via email (send an email to the parish office to request an emailed copy) alternatively visit 'Connect' on the parish website and scroll down to newsletter.



A reduced number of printed newsletters will be made available for those who prefer a hard copy.

THE INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR DECEMBER

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

"Disarming our hearts is the only way to do this... Let us cast off the armour of our ethnic and political divisions, open our religious confessions to mutual encounter and reawaken in our hearts the dream of a united Lebanon, where peace and justice reign, where all recognize each other as brothers and sisters."

Pope Leo encouraged the Lebanese people to nurture the dream that God has placed in their hands, praying that they may carry their sufferings and persevere in hope.

Friday Adoration: Holy Hour and Adoration takes place between 6 and 7 o'clock every Friday evening including devotion to the Divine Mercy. Holy Mass follows immediately after the Holy Hour.



Prayers for the Sick and Housebound:

Please keep in your prayers the wellbeing of: D.H, Adelaide Cotter, Paul Fairhall, Amy Bradbury (nee Mckenzie), Marie Goti, Michael Christou, John Rosenow, Mary Silva, Michael Hoskins & Dorothy Upton.

Home Visits If you, a relative or neighbour is housebound, home visits can be arranged via Fr Ben to receive Holy Communion. It is important Pastoral Care is maintained and/or for the Sacrament of the Sick.

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

Sun. 14 th Dec.	9.30am	
	11.00am	The Nigerian Choir will be singing at Mass
Mon. 15 th Dec.	7.00pm	St Cecilia Reconciliation Service
Tues 16 th Dec.	10.00am	Holy Mass School Y5 and Y6
Wed. 17 th Dec.	10.00am	Mass O Sapientia (Wisdom)
Thurs. 18 th Dec.	10.00am	Mass Adonai (O Lord)
Fri. 19 th Dec.	10.00am	Mass O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)
Sat 20 th Dec.	6.30pm	Mass O Clavis David (Key of David)
Sun. 21 st Dec.	9.30pm	Mass O Oriens (Rising Sun)
	11.00am	Mass O Oriens (Rising Sun)
Mon. 22 nd Dec.	No Mass	Mass O Rex Gentium (King of the Nations) Novena continues privately.
Tues. 23 rd Dec.	10.00am	Mass O Emmanuel

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Wed. 24 th Dec.	6.30pm	Christmas Vigil Mass with Nativity Play
	10.45pm	Mass of Christmas Midnight Mass with Carol Singing
Thurs. 25 th Dec.	9.30am	Mass at Dawn Christmas
	11.00am	Mass of the Day Christmas
Fri. 26 th Dec.	10.00am	Mass Feast of St Stephen
Sat 27 th Dec.	6.30pm	Vigil Mass The Holy Family
Sun 28 th Dec	9.30am	Mass of the Holy Family of Nazareth
	11.00am	Mass of the Holy Family of Nazareth



PRAYERS FOR THE BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WEEK 3

Lighting Advent Candles

Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord.
All: Who hath made Heaven and earth.

Priest: "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."
(Luke 2:20)

All: "Dear Jesus, help us focus on You during this busy season. May we always be aware of the JOY You bring into our lives. We want to find You in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to Your manger at Christmas. Amen."

*(The Candles of
HOPE, PEACE and JOY
will now be lit)*

Hymn for the Jubilee Year 2025

Chorus: *Like a flame my hope is burning
may my song arise in you:
Source of life that has no ending,
on life's path I trust in you.*

**Every nation, tongue, and people
find a light within your Word,
Scattered fragile sons and daughters,
find a home in your dear Son.**

Chorus: *Like a flame my hope is burning
may my song arise in you:
Source of life that has no ending,
on life's path I trust in you.*

**God so tender and so patient,
dawn of hope, you care for all.
Heaven and earth are recreated
by the Spirit of Life set free.**

Chorus:
**Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,
For our God is born in time.
Son made man for You and many
who will find the way in Him.**

Chorus:

PARISH LIFE

Parish Opening: Parish Office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00am to 1:00pm and 4:00pm to 6:00pm, for all enquiries formal, informal or personal.

Devotion to our Mother Mary: If you would like the travelling statue of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary to visit your home. Please add your name at the back of the Church.

Mass Intentions: Envelopes for Mass Intentions are available in church. Look out for the green envelopes.

Parish Registration: The last complete parish census was carried out over thirty years ago. Through parish registration we are able to improve the pastoral care and understand the needs of our parish community. Kindly register as you pick up a form from the table just inside the double glass doors of the church or ask a fellow parishioner, they will be glad to help. Once completed drop the form in through the Presbytery letterbox next door.

Garden of Peace: Please, if you wish a memorial plaque to be erected in the garden of peace for the burial of the ashes of a loved one, kindly contact Jim via jimfredfield@hotmail.co.uk or Marie through toomeymarie@gmail.com

The Repository: Our repository is stocked with lots of new religious items and cards ready for Christmas and any other occasion throughout the liturgical year. If you are looking for a special gift there is plenty to choose from. The Repository is open, after each Mass at the weekends.

A Nativity Only 10 sleeps until the Christmas Vigil Mass with the Children's Nativity Play.

Little Church are collecting resources to support the children who attend. They are looking for donations of: pens, colouring pencils, tissue paper, scissors, card and craft materials. Please place all donated items in the Canon Beausang Parish Room. If you would like to give a financial contribution, please hand it to any of the Little Church volunteers. Your support helps to purchase much needed resources for the children. Thank you for your kindness and generosity! *Little Church* breaks for Christmas this Sunday 14th December, reconvening on the 11th January 2026.

First Holy Communion 2026 The closing date to register for First Holy Communion Catechism Classes 2026 is now closed. There will be a parents meeting in the last week of January.

A Parish Youth Group: The last meeting before Christmas for the youth group will be 18th December from 5pm and 6.30pm in the Canon Beausang Parish Room. For anyone between the ages of 11 and 16. Come with a friend, or on your own, all are welcome. The Youth Leaders will let members know the new meeting dates for next year.

Church Flowers Team we now have an established team of volunteers responsible for the arranging of the church altar flowers. If you would like to leave flowers in honour of Our Lady please ask at the Sacristy for a member of the team who will be glad to attend to them. Thank you for your co-operation.

St Cecilia's Christmas Concert is finally here!

If you did not buy a ticket but would like to attend, tickets will be available on the door Sunday 14th December.

£5 for adults, and £1 for children, age 5 and over.



Small cake or biscuit donations can be brought to Mass or to the hall before the concert.

Help Wanted—after the 11am Mass to help move chairs from the parish room to the Church.

At 2pm 4-6 people to put tables and chairs out in the Church Hall.

Please leave your name with Louise and Marie Bullard.

We will be taking photographs during the evening. If you do not wish your to have your photograph taken,

Knit & Natter There will be no knitting or nattering next Thursday as we break during the Christmas Season. Keep a look out for the date of the next meeting in the new year.

Information Technology Workshop Dates for further classes in 2026 will be confirmed in January depending on demand. If you would like to book a place/get further information, please contact Marie Toomey on 07929 973868 or email: toomeymarie@gmail.com.

The Contactless Card Machines Thank you to everyone who has donated, gift aided and bought concert tickets using the new card machines. **St Cecilia's Church Hall**, is available for hire for family events, children's parties, clubs, dance and fitness activities, educational purposes, community events at a very reasonable hourly rate. For more information please send an email to: stceciliasschurchevents@outlook.com The Hall is located at the far end of the car park behind the church,

Part time Cleaner Required to clean and tidy the Church Hall. Two hours on a Monday. Immediate start. £15 per hour. Please call the parish office to register your interest on 020 8641 3141.

Christian Unity Week begins Sunday 18th January. St Barnabas Church, Sutton has invited parishioners to join in solidarity for a service at 6.30pm. More information to follow soon.

Urgent Appeal

Accommodation is still required for two families in the parish, to rent or purchase with two or more bedrooms if possible. If anyone knows of somewhere suitable in the local area, please speak to Fr Ben or Linda Mamedy. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.