

# TODAY'S READINGS

## Entrance Antiphon:

O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard  
in the joy of your heart.

**Collect:** Almighty and merciful God,  
may no earthly undertaking hinder those  
who set out in haste to meet your Son,  
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom  
gain us admittance to his company.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## First Reading:

Isaiah 11:1-10

**'With righteousness he shall judge the poor.'**

On that day: There shall come forth a shoot from the  
stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear  
fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the  
Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel  
and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the  
Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide  
disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he  
shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek  
of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of  
his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the  
wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and  
faithfulness the belt of his loins.

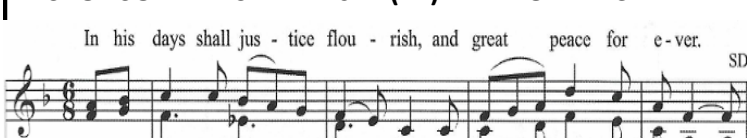
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall  
lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion  
and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead  
them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall  
lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's  
den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy  
mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of  
the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal  
for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and  
his resting-place shall be glorious.

**R/ THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**C/ THANKS BE TO GOD**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. 7**



## Second Reading:

Romans 15:4-9

**Christ saves humanity.**

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days

Is 30: 19, 30

was written for our instruction, that through endurance  
and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we  
might have hope. May the God of endurance and  
encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with  
one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together  
you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as  
Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the  
circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to  
confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order  
that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is  
written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name.'

**R/ THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**C/ THANKS BE TO GOD**

## Gospel Acclamation:

Luke 3:4, 6

**(ALL STAND)**

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;  
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

*Alleluia.*

## Gospel:

Matthew 3:1-12

**'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'**

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the  
wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven  
is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the  
prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in  
the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his  
paths straight."'

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather  
belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild  
honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region  
about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were  
baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.  
But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees  
coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of  
vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?  
Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not  
presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our  
father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to  
raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to  
the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not  
bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is  
coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not  
worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit  
and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will  
clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the  
barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

**R/ THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**C/ PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST**



# Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Hal Camden Town

Reminder: Please turn your mobile phones OFF! Would you kindly take your weekly newsletter home with you!

**7th December 2025 (Year A) | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

### Bring the whole story to God.

John the Baptist is not exactly gentle in today's Gospel. The Pharisees and Sadducees come out to him for baptism, and he calls them a "brood of vipers." It sounds over the top. After all, they're doing something good, aren't they? They're coming to be baptised, not to argue. The problem is not that they come, but how they come. John seems to sense that they are holding back. They are willing to go through a religious ritual, but not to let God all the way in. Perhaps they are prepared to admit a few minor faults, while keeping the more uncomfortable sins hidden away. They want the appearance of conversion without the depth of it. John will not let them pretend. And Advent won't let us pretend either.

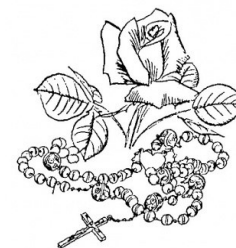
When we come before God, half-truths do not work. The Lord already sees us, completely: the good we do, but also the grudges, fears, and compromises we would rather ignore. Advent is a season of light. And light can only heal what it is allowed to shine on.

Think of a hurt we have caused: a harsh word, a cold silence, a decision that damaged someone. It is easy to brush it aside: "I was stressed. They'll get over it." Outwardly we move on. Inwardly we know something is unresolved. That unacknowledged guilt sits in us like a weight and quietly steals our peace. Or perhaps it is a lie we believe about ourselves: "I'm not good enough... I don't really matter... If people knew the real me, they'd walk away." We rarely say it, but it shapes the way we pray, love, and hope. We push forward, acting as though everything is fine, but doubts and sadness keep returning. Or it may be our comfort. We tell ourselves we are generous with our time, we help enough, we give enough. Yet if we honestly looked at how we spend our days, we might notice how easily hours disappear into screens, distractions, and hobbies, while God and other people receive the leftovers.

John's blunt words are not meant to condemn us, but to free us. He is saying: stop pretending. Bring the real story to God. The sin we have explained away, the wound we have never really named, the time we waste and don't want to face—this is exactly what Christ wants us to place in his light. Jesus does not ask for the polished version of us. He wants the whole person. Only what we give him can be healed. This Advent, let's dare to be honest with God—and let his light reach every corner of our hearts.

*Father Mark*

*Welcome to all at Mass  
today, especially to any  
visitors who are here for  
the first time. Please take  
this sheet home with you  
which will tell you about  
this week's celebration and  
the activities in the parish  
during the week.*



## WHO'S WHO AT OUR LADY OF HAL:

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Mark Dunglinson

Email: [markdunglinson@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:markdunglinson@rcdow.org.uk)

**Also in residence:**

Fr. Colin McLean (*Retired*)

Fr. John Deehan (*Retired*)

Fr. Christopher Connor (*School Chaplain*)

Carl Williams (*Pastoral Assistant/Director of Music*)

Email addresses:

[camdenpastoralassistant@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:camdenpastoralassistant@rcdow.org.uk)

[camdenmusicdirector@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:camdenmusicdirector@rcdow.org.uk)

**Administrator:** Althea Scully

**Contact:** The Presbytery, 165, Arlington Road,  
London NW1 7EX

Tel: 020 7485 2727

Email: [camdentown@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:camdentown@rcdow.org.uk)

Web: [www.ourladyofhal.org.uk](http://www.ourladyofhal.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 233699

**Portuguese Community:** Fr. Claudio Dos Reis

Portuguese Office Tel: 020 7587 0881

Email: [ukportuguesechaplain@gmail.com](mailto:ukportuguesechaplain@gmail.com)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

SICK, HOUSEBOUND, THOSE WHO RECEIVE COMMUNION AT HOME:

Mike Power, Father Anthony, Margaret Quinn, Michael O’Brien, Christine Smith, Rachel Cottrell, Alice O’Neill, Janice Davidson, Jilly Taylor, Marie Cawdery, Pauline Guthrie, Maureen Lyden, Richard Ainsworth, Francesco Sesia, Joe Owen, Doreen O’Callaghan, Wesley Gilead, Henrik Sperlich, Allan & Lynne Mackintosh, Ray Norris, Morag & Raj Puri, Stephen de Winter, George Spencer.

HAL LAMPS: THE HOLY SOULS

RECENTLY DEPARTED: We pray for all those who have died recently.

DEAD ANNIVERSARIES: We pray for all that died around this time.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK						
<b>SUNDAY MASS:</b> 6pm (Saturday Vigil), 10.00am (Family) & 12 Noon (Solemn). 5pm (Portuguese). <b>OTHER MASS TIMES:</b> <u>Monday, Tuesday &amp; Friday at 12 Noon</u> ; <u>Wednesday and Thursday at 9.30am</u> <b>HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION:</b> As Announced. <b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:</b> Fridays: 12.30pm-1pm and Saturday: 5.15-5.45pm <b>CONFESSIONS:</b> Friday 12.35-1pm, Saturday 11am-11.30 & 5.15pm-5.45pm and by appointment.						
P	Sunday	7th December	Second Sunday of Advent	Vigil	6:00 pm 10:00 am  12 Noon	Patrick Joe Kissane (RIP) Phil Rilley & People of the Parish Philip Ryan (RIP)
W	Monday	8th December	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary		9:30 am 12 Noon	School Mass in church The Lynch and Kelly Families (INT)
P	Tuesday	9th December	Advent Feria		12 Noon	Laura Cunningham (RIP)
P	Wednesday	10th December	Advent Feria		9:30 am	Rosa Anastasia Denis (RIP)
P	Thursday	11th December	Advent Feria		9:30 am	Thomas Vincent Finnerty (RIP)
P	Friday abstinence	12th December	Advent Feria		12 Noon	Pauline’s Sister & Family
RP/P	Saturday	13th December	Third Sunday of Advent	Vigil	6:00 pm	Constancio Denis (RIP)

NEWS AND VIEWS

**WELCOME** to all at Mass today, especially visitors, or to anyone who is new to the Parish.

**PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:** Mon; Tue; Thu and Fri: 10.00 to 2.00pm; Wednesday closed.

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** At present, we will be able to retain most weekday Masses from Monday to Friday. The situation will be reviewed at the end of the year.

**VESPERS (EVENING PRAYER):** On Saturday evenings, Sung Evening Prayer is celebrated at 5:15pm before Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to join us. There will be no evening prayer this Saturday because Joel’s Bar is visiting us.

**CONFIRMATION 2026:** We have had few applications from young people to be confirmed next summer. The deadline for applications has been extended to **15th December**. The reality is that we don’t have enough voluntary catechists to run a course for a small number. If more people do not come forward, we will skip a year and run a programme for 2025/2026

**Christmas Tree and Flowers:** For the first three weekends of Advent, we will be having a retiring collection for the Christmas Tree and flowers. We will be very grateful if you could donate generously towards this. If anyone would like to buy the tree (approx. £150) for the sanctuary, please see Fr Mark or Althea in the office.

**Carol Service by Candlelight:** We are delighted to announce that our Carol Service for this year will be on the Friday, **12th December at 7.15pm** , here at Our Lady of Hal Church. The admission is free with a voluntary collection towards the Music Ministry. After the service, we will have Mulled Wine and Mince Pies in the hall. We are asking parishioners if they are able to donate Mince Pies towards this event. If you would like to donate, please bring your mince pies after Saturday/Sunday Mass on the 6/7th of December or call in the parish office to drop it off during the week. The service will include readings, congregational carols, solos and ensembles led by the Hal Singers! Please join us for what promises to a beautiful Christmas Liturgy.

**PENITENTIAL SERVICE IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS:** Wednesday 17th December: 6pm. Opportunity to come together as a community in penitence to prepare for Christmas. Individual confessions will be heard by a visiting priest and the parish priest.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER NEEDED FOR 2 HOME VISITS:** We have ‘lost’ a Eucharistic Minister from the parish and we need someone to take over her two home visits twice a month or every 3 weeks. As this is an important part of your ministry, please speak to Fr Mark to arrange.

**ALTAR SERVER REHEARSAL:** A rehearsal will take place for all altar servers, involved in the Christmas Carol Service, on Thursday, 11th of December, at 6pm - 7:15pm. This will also include notes on general altar servers etiquette.

**First Mass of Christmas, 24th December, 6pm:** Fr. Mark cordially invites all parishioners and visitors to join him in a glass of mulled wine in the hall after 6pm Mass on the 24th of December. All are welcomed.

**Organ Music During Advent:** As is the tradition of the church during penitential seasons, and with the exception of Gaudate Sunday, organ music is limited to supporting the singing only as we prepare for the celebratory joy of the Nativity itself.

**Christmas Stall, starting today:** After weekend masses commencing today up until Christmas Eve, a Christmas stall will be set up at the back of the church selling a variety of Christmas gifts including the ‘Our Lady of Hal’ 2026 Calendars, Our Lady of Hal children’s chocolate selection boxes, personalized mugs, and monastic wine covers. Please come and visit our Christmas stand to purchase all of your stocking fillers. All proceeds go to the church.

**Christmas Leaflet:** The Christmas Programme Leaflet is now available at the back of the church. Please take one home with you.

**Piano:** Fr. Mark and Carl would like to thank a parishioner for the generous donation of the piano throughout the month of December. This will elevate our Christmas liturgies and bring joy to all who play and hear it.

**PRIVATE TUTOR NEEDED for GCSE Maths.** If you can help, please see Fr. Mark. Thank you.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES 2025**

**First Holy Communion 2026:** Applications now closed.

**Confirmation 2026:** please see separate item.

**RCIA Course:** Now up and running.

**TEAS AND COFFEES TODAY** for parishioners and visitors after the 10am Sunday Mass.

**COLLECTIONS LAST SUNDAY: (THANK YOU!)**  
Envelopes: £194.93 Loose: £251.98 Total: £446.91  
Donation by Dona Card Machine on Sunday: £265.21 and £519 per week by standing order.