

## CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

CAFOD's World Gifts capture the true spirit of Christmas giving. The Christmas catalogue is filled with ethical and sustainable gifts for friends and family—not just for Christmas but birthdays, anniversaries and celebrations all year round. Every gift you buy through CAFOD's World Gifts helps real people and makes a huge difference. Catalogues are available from church porches. Please take one home with you or check out the full range online at [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts).

## CARITAS SOUTHWARK—REFUGEE HOSTING

Do you have a spare room you could offer to a homeless asylum seeker, refugee or migrant in need? In Partnership with Housing Justice Caritas is hosting an online information session for people interested in becoming a host for a refugee. The session is scheduled for **Wednesday 13 December 7.30-8.30 pm**. Please email [caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk) for the link.

## PARISH SECRETARY

Vivienne is retiring early next year and the Parish would warmly welcome applications for the post of Parish Secretary. The role is to provide comprehensive support to the Parish Priest in all administrative matters within the parish. Previous secretarial experience is essential. Applicants will be fully conversant with Microsoft Office programmes, have excellent communication skills and a good understanding of the workings of a Roman Catholic Parish. The ability to work alone, using initiative, and to work with complete discretion and confidentiality are essential. Flexibility and willingness to undertake any unforeseen duties are important. Hours and salary to be mutually agreed. To apply, or for more information, please contact the Parish Office.

## SAFEGUARDING:

*It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England and Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased. If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police, using 999 if a child or adult is believed to be in immediate danger. Further safeguarding information can be found on the parish website. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are: Kim O'Brien (07711 757399) & Angela Pitcher (07818 516321).*

# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST CHRISTOPHER

Dallas Road, Cheam SM3 8RS

**Parish Priest: Fr Antony James**

**Presbytery:** 020 8642 2088

**Parish Office: Phone out of order**  
[cheam@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:cheam@rcaos.org.uk)  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm

**St Helier Hospital Chaplain:**  
Fr Philip Pak 07591 596656



**Parish Website:**  
[www.stchristopherscheam.com](http://www.stchristopherscheam.com)

**Deanery Website:**  
[www.suttondeanery.weebly.com](http://www.suttondeanery.weebly.com)

**Diocesan Website:**  
[www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)



## NEWSLETTER

10 December 2023

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

#### SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

##### BETHLEHEM CANDLE

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger: (Luke 2:12).

#### PRAYER DURING THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

*God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*



USUAL <b>MASS TIMES:</b>	<b>SATURDAY (VIGIL MASS)</b>	<b>6.00 PM</b>
	<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10.00 AM &amp; 12.00 NOON</b>
	<b>MON, TUE, THU &amp; FRI</b>	<b>10.00 AM</b>
SYRO-MALABAR EASTERN RITE LITURGICAL SERVICE:	SUNDAY	2.00 PM—7.00 PM
<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:</b>	<b>SATURDAY WEEKDAYS</b>	<b>10.30—11.00 AM &amp; 5.00—5.45 PM BEFORE 10.00 AM MASS</b>

**10 December 2023**      **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

Sat	9	6.00 pm	Padraig Colohan RIP
Sun	10	10.00 am	People of the Parish
		12.00 noon	Deceased Members of the Lodrick Family, Aunty Em RIP & Baby Boy RIP
Mon	11	10.00 am	Julie Parks RIP (1st) Anniversary
Tue	12	10.00 am	In Thanksgiving (Indira Louis)
Thu	14	10.00 am	<b>Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church, Memorial</b> Michael McGing RIP
Fri	15	10.00 am	Suzanne & Gerry Kavanagh—50th Wedding Anniversary

**17 December 2023**      **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

Sat	16	6.00 pm	Stephen Slattery RIP Anniversary
Sun	17	10.00 am	People of the Parish
		12.00 noon	Nellie Hayes RIP
		2.00 PM	ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:**

**Pierre Philippe Murat**, whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated here on 22 December at 10.00 am. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers at this time.

**Maria Barbara Philomena Pereira**, and remember especially in your prayers her son, Al Pereira and all the family.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND OF THE PARISH** and remember their carers in your prayers. Communion is taken to the sick in the parish on request.

**ARE YOU CELEBRATING A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY?**

Please let Father Antony or Vivienne know if you are celebrating a special birthday or anniversary and you will then be remembered in prayers at Mass.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who continues to support the parish through the collections, standing orders, Gift Aid and online donations.

For the parish bank details go to [www.stchristopherscheam.com](http://www.stchristopherscheam.com) and click on Info—Financial Support, and if you are a taxpayer, please consider joining the Gift Aid scheme (information is available from the parish office).

**10.00 AM MASS THIS SUNDAY:**

**The Choir** is leading the singing today. Choir rehearsals are held most Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm. New singers and musicians very welcome. **The Children** are invited to go out to the hall for their own Liturgy of the Word. **Refreshments** will be served in the hall after Mass. All are welcome.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Christmas Services cards giving the times of services during the Christmas period are available from the front and side entrances of the church.

**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE—SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER, 2.00 PM**

A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners and their families to this service, which will be followed by festive refreshments in the hall.

**HOW CAN I HELP MY PARISH?**

Thank you to those who completed forms volunteering to get involved in our parish ministries and other activities. Forms are still available at the entrances to the church, and we would ask those who have not yet completed a form to take one this weekend and consider how you can help our parish. Please return your form to the parish office anytime or place it in the box provided in the front porch of the church. With the recent Synod in Rome emphasising the key role of the laity in sustaining the Church we are keen to draw on the talents of our whole parish community and will warmly welcome all offers of help.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024**

Registration forms for children in Primary School Year 3 (or above) are available from the sacristy and from the parish website <https://www.stchristopherscheam.com/sacraments> Further details and dates of the classes and of the First Communion Masses, which will be celebrated in June, will be announced in the near future.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

**2024 CHURCH UNITY OCTAVE & CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICES**

From **18 to 25 January 2024** the Church observes eight days' prayer for Christian Unity. **A short ecumenical service will be held here at St Christopher's on Tuesday 23 January at 7.00 pm.**

Also, all are warmly invited to join Sutton and Cheam Churches Together on **Sunday 21 January at 4.30pm** for a service to mark this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the Sutton Christian Centre, 25 Tate Road, Sutton SM1 2SY.