

## CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS

On behalf of Crisis at Christmas, we would like to thank all the parishioners of St Christopher's for the generous donations we delivered last Sunday to Crisis. The items you gave us will really make a huge difference to those that need them. May we also take the opportunity to wish you and yours a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

*Elizabeth and Carol*

## COULD YOU BE A FRIEND TO SOMEONE FROM HONG KONG?

Did you know that 4,000 Hong Kongers have settled in Sutton over the last 2 years and some have joined our parishes and children are attending our schools? Volunteer Centre Sutton is looking for volunteers to be a 'buddy' to show someone around local places, meet for a chat, make them feel at home. Commitment to this scheme is only 12 weeks and training is available on **Tuesday 9 January 2024 10 -11.30 am** at Volunteer Centre, Sutton, 216 -220 High Street, Sutton SM1 1NU. Check [vcsutton.org.uk](http://vcsutton.org.uk) for more information. CARITAS Southwark encourages support for families from Hong Kong.

*Jackie McLoughlin, Sutton Deanery Refugee Community Sponsorship Group/CARITAS Southwark Refugee & Migrant Group*

## MEDJUGORJE APOSTOLATE ANNUAL RETREAT

This annual retreat has been re-established and will take place from **Friday 23 to Sunday 25 February 2024** at the Kairos Centre, Roehampton, London. The retreat will be residential although there are places for non-residents. For more information and to book please contact Paul Spencer at [pilgrimsofmary@hotmail.com](mailto:pilgrimsofmary@hotmail.com) or on 07710567183.

**NEWCOMERS TO THE PARISH** are always very welcome and are invited to take an 'Are you new to our Parish?' leaflet from the front entrance of the church and complete and return the enclosed form.

**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

17 December 2023

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

### SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

#### Shepherd's Candle

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-coloured candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherd's Candle", and it represents joy: (Luke 2:8-11)

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

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.



USUAL <u>MASS TIMES:</u>	<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
<u>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:</u>	<b>SATURDAY WEEKDAYS</b>	<b>10.30—11.00 AM &amp; 5.00—5.45 PM BEFORE 10.00 AM MASS</b>

**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	<b>ADVENT CAROL SERVICE</b>
Mon 18	10.00 am	Evelyn Frost RIP
Tue 19	10.00 am	Nora, Patrick & John McShane RIP
Thu 21	10.00 am	Melanie Cox—Wellbeing
Fri 22	10.00 am	REQUIEM MASS: Pierre Philippe Murat RIP

**24 December 2023**      **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

Sat 23	6.00 pm	Jim Cattini RIP
Sun 24	10.00 am	People of the Parish
	12.00 noon	Peg Casey RIP

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

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

**Maria Barbara Philomena Pereira**, whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Christopher's on Thursday 28 December at 11.45 am. Please also remember in your prayers her son, Al 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:**

**No music** 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.

**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE—THIS 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.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

If you have not done so already, please take one of the Christmas Services cards giving the times of services during the Christmas period.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS**

Christmas Offering envelopes are available from the church this weekend. Please take one and return it with your offering for our Parish Priest at one of the Christmas Masses.

Donors who wish to make a Christmas offering by bank transfer should please add the payment reference 'Christmas' when completing the transfer. Cheques from Gift Aid donors should be made payable to 'St Christopher's Church' and placed in the scheme envelopes.

All Christmas offerings, including cheques made payable to St Christopher's Church, are paid over to Father Antony.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS, READERS & ALTAR SERVERS**, please add your name to the list in the Sacristy to help at one of the Christmas Masses.

**HOW CAN I HELP MY PARISH?**

Thank you to those who completed forms volunteering to get involved in a parish ministry or activity. You will be contacted after Christmas by a representative of the ministry or activity in which you have expressed an interest. Your support is warmly welcomed and much appreciated.

**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> First Holy Communion will be celebrated on the weekend of 22/23 June 2023.

**SAVE THE DATES: 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.**

You are also invited to join Sutton and Cheam Churches Together on **Sunday 21 January at 4.30pm** for a service to mark the Church Unity Octave at the Sutton Christian Centre, 25 Tate Road, Sutton SM1 2SY.