

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.

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 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

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
Opening hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm

St Helier Hospital Chaplain:
Fr Philip Pak 07591 596656



Parish Website:
www.stchristopherscheam.com

Deanery Website:
www.suttondeanery.weebly.com

Diocesan Website:
www.rcsouthwark.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

24 December 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

CHRIST CANDLE

On Christmas Eve, the white centre candle is lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The colour white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Saviour. (Isaiah 1:18)

PRAYER DURING THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.



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

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
		THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass of Christmas Angela, Royston Louvain & Royston Frederick Drucker RIP
	7.30 pm	Carols
	8.00 pm	Midnight Mass People of the Parish
Mon 25	9.00 am	Mass at Dawn Allan & Stella Paxton RIP
	10.30 am	Mass during the Day Glenna McKenna RIP Anniversary
Tue 26	10.00 am	Saint Stephen, Deacon, the first Martyr, Feast Moyra O'Donovan RIP Anniversary
Thu 28	11.45 am	REQUIEM MASS: Maria Barbara Philomena Pereira RIP
Fri 29	10.00 am	Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop & Martyr, Feast Claire Devereux RIP Anniversary

31 December 2023 **THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH**

Sat 30	6.00 pm	Brian Le-Boeuf RIP Anniversary
Sun 31	10.00 am	People of the Parish
	12.00 noon	Rachel Kearney RIP

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF Maria Barbara Philomena Pereira, whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 28 December at 11.45 am, and remember especially in your prayers her son, Alvino and all the family.

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

10.00 AM MASS THIS SUNDAY:

Sung Mass today.

Refreshments will be served in the hall after Mass. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



Dear and Loving Friends

Christmas is the time for coming home to family and friends. Let us also come home to the Holy Family as we gather at the Crib. I pray that the glow from the Crib of the Christ-Child will warm our hearts and lives throughout the coming year and always. May we all hear in our hearts the song of the Angels at Bethlehem always and everywhere.

As we celebrate the great Feast of Christmas, I would like to thank you all for the support and generosity shown in so many ways over the last few months. My sincere thanks in a special way to Fr Bernard Winn, who pastored our parish for many years. Our community is a much better place as a result of your presence and efforts. Particular thanks to all who are involved in any parish committee or ministry, especially to Vivienne, the parish secretary. Your input makes such a huge difference to the parish. Your great services and time ensure that our parish is a vibrant one where the message of Jesus Christ is witnessed in a whole variety of ways.

At this holy time let us try to care for those around us who are in any need. Let us remember in our prayers all those who are going through a difficult time, the sick and the lonely. And also let us spare a thought for those who have lost a loved one during the year.

The Holy Night resonates with the wonder of what happened on that special night in Bethlehem so many years ago. It is a night of joyful thanksgiving. The same echoes continue through every Liturgical celebration. So let us gather together for the Liturgy and other sacraments always.

At the glorious birth of Jesus our Lord and saviour, we joyfully proclaim, "Emmanuel, God is With Us!". Christmas is a time for renewal of spirit and inner refreshment and making a new start. This is a time of new discovery, new decisions and new opportunities as we prepare for the New Year.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your intentions at Holy Mass. May the peace, joy and love of the Infant Jesus be present in your lives each day of the New Year.

I WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR.

Lovingly

Fr Antony James