

CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

Crisis at Christmas is a campaign to provide warm meals, shelter, support and companionship at Christmas to those experiencing homelessness. Elizabeth Rizzini (of this parish) and Carol Kirkwood (not of this parish!) are collecting **men's** warm jumpers, coats, blankets, shoes and rucksacks for Crisis at Christmas. Donations—clean and in good condition, please—may be left in the box provided in the front porch of the church.

CAFOD EMERGENCY ISRAELI– PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL

As the conflict enters its ninth week, CAFOD is asking all parishes to support their Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030. Thank you for your support and prayers.

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 for the link.

PARISH SECRETARY

Vivienne is retiring at the end of January 2024 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 email the Parish Office: cheam@rcaos.org.uk

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

3 December 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

PROPHECY CANDLE

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ: (Isaiah 7:14). This first candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

PRAYER DURING THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen.



USUAL MASS TIMES:	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
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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:	SATURDAY WEEKDAYS	10.30—11.00 AM & 5.00—5.45 PM BEFORE 10.00 AM MASS
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3 December 2023		FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)	
Sat	2	6.00 pm	John & Bridget Sullivan RIP Anniversary
Sun	3	10.00 am	Geraldo De Bastos RIP, Regina De Bastos RIP & Brenda Wooldridge RIP
		12.00 noon	People of the Parish
Mon	4	10.00 am	Wellbeing of Carmel Ryan
Tue	5	10.00 am	Eileen Mullarkey RIP
Thu	7	10.00 am	St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church, Memorial Michael McGing RIP
Fri	8	10.00 am	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY , Solemnity, principal Patron of the diocese Laura & Joseph Ayala 10th Wedding Anniversary

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

CONFIRMATION 2023

Congratulations to the 32 young people and the adult who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Philip Moger on Thursday evening.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Edoardo Giordano Da Silva who was baptized here last weekend.

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.

10.00 AM MASS THIS SUNDAY:

Sung Mass 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—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 the form volunteering to get involved in our parish ministries and other activities. A total of 25 forms were returned, many containing offers of help in more than one area of parish life, for which we are very grateful. We aim to contact all those who volunteered their help between now and Christmas. However, as the table below indicates, we did not get volunteers for all the areas in which help is needed, so forms are available at the entrances to the church this weekend, 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.

Admin Support	7	Altar Linen Laundering	1	Altar Serving	1	Baptism Preparation	1	Bereavement/ Funerals	1
Brass Cleaning	4	Catechism	2	Children's Liturgy	1	Christian Unity Activities	1	Choir	3
Church Cleaning	1	Coffee & Tea After Mass	2	Communication	0	Deanery Representation	0	Eucharistic Ministers	4
Flower Arranging	1	Marriage & Family Support	1	Ministry to Sick & Elderly	6	Migrant Support	1	Music	1
Parish Events	2	Parish Pastoral Council	3	RCIA	1	Reading	8	Sacristans	3
St Vincent de Paul Society	0	Transport to Mass	1	Year of Jubilee Celebrations 2024-5	0	Welcome Team	5	Youth Ministry	1

THE PRAYER GROUP that meets every fortnight for an hour on a Monday evening at 8pm via Zoom conferencing will be meeting next on 4 & 18 December. For more information and details on how to connect, contact Matthew David at matthew.j.david@outlook.com