

Deacon Alan Boxall: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Deacon Alan from Rainham parish, who died on the 12th of November. He was assisted in the hospital ministry before his retirement. He was from Rainham parish. His funeral will be in Rainham on the 8th of December at 10:00am. Please keep his family in your prayers.

The Passage is raising funds through the Big Give from 12 noon Tues 1st December – 12 noon Tues 8th December to support its work Helping Homeless People this winter. **Double your Donation, Double your impact.** This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921886 andrew.h@passage.org.uk
Please generously give online at <https://tinyurl.com/PassageBigGive>

Silent nights in Bethlehem: Things are still in Bethlehem and the nights are silent. Usually a place which welcomes over 1 million pilgrims, about 80% of the hotels, shops and restaurants are all empty. Since the Covid outbreak, pilgrim arrival in the Holy Land has been affected and many whose livelihood depended upon pilgrims have been lost. Our Christian brothers and sisters who own businesses, work as guides have lost much. There are no relief for businesses or protection from employment over there. Our Archbishop John has asked to us to help within our means to support our affected Christian brethren in the Holy Land by donating at their website <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>

Advent with the Southwark Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis: This new Southwark agency has compiled a wealth of resources for Advent, including weekly meditations, a video based 'Advent Journey' and access to a 26 day online retreat on the theme of Joy, with additional resources to follow. Visit: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/latest/advent-from-the-agency>

CAFOD World Gifts CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

Reflection and Prayer: First Sunday of Advent

Hope: "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come."
Mark 13:33

Eternal God, you will come when we least expect you. Help us to welcome you now in one another, to see you in one another. Help us to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need of care and support. Help us thus to be on guard, to stay awake, and to be ready when you come again in glory. Amen.

St John Fisher Catholic Church

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First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Readings: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37



Welcome to our advent newsletter, the beginning of the Church's second liturgical year for Sundays (Year B in your Missal) in the three year cycle. We today start the season of Advent, a time of joyful preparation and waiting. The entrance antiphon reminds us to lift our souls to God in trust that our preparation is not in vain, that our enemy doesn't overcome us. That victoriously, as our Lord's chosen multitude buoyed by our hope and trust in God and joyful preparation, we go to meet him when he comes. To many there hopes of having happy family gatherings and meeting friends are challenged, at this most wonderful time of the year. Let us be mindful of those who have lost much and yet have to provide. Let us be hope in God as we make preparations to celebrate Christmas. Let us pray and help as much as we can those in need. Let us also not forget to form our children, by teaching them about this holy season and instilling solid faith, they are the future of the church. Let us persevere and wait in hope, for Lord will truly bless us. The waiting in Advent has a two fold meaning, looking to the past to celebrate our Lord's birth and looking to future to His second coming. Our preparation is then of joy and filled with hope; that the Lord who loved us into existence will never abandon us; that he is Emmanuel, God with us, who shares our pain, our troubles, our desires, who guides us home.

I also wish you a very happy feast day for tomorrow. As we celebrate the anniversary of consecration of our church in 1979, when Archbishop Michael Bowen consecrated the altar with the oil of chrism and the four corners of the church where the consecration candles are situated. It is customary to light these candles during the anniversary Mass. It is also the 40th year of consecration. Any celebrations had to be postponed. It will be wonderful to celebrate this occasion perhaps in the new year. I wish you all well, please stay safe. I wish you all a happy and holy advent. God bless. Fr Neil.

Mass Intentions
All Masses are livestreamed

Sunday 29th November 2020

First Sunday of Advent (B)

9:30 - 10:30am Church open for prayer
11:00am Mass
[Docherty Family Holy Souls RIP]
5.00 -6.00pm Church open for prayer

Thursday 3rd St. Francis Xavier, priest

10.00am Mass
[Kerry Wheeldon & Neville Family Holy Souls RIP]

Friday 4th St John Damascene, priest

9.30am Mass
[McConville & Mocka Family Holy Souls RIP]

Monday 30th Feast of the Consecration of our Church in 1979 (Also feast of St Andrew)

10:00am Mass
[All the departed of the parish of St John Fisher RIP]

Saturday 5th Feria

10.00am Mass
[Drummond Family Holy Souls RIP]

Tuesday 1st Feria of Advent

10:00am Mass
[All who died from Covid RIP]

Sunday 6th November 2020

2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

9.00am Mass [In Thanksgiving]
11.00am Mass [Kiato Carr RIP]
6.00pm Mass [People of the Parish]

Wednesday 2nd Feria of Advent

10:00am Mass
[Kelly & Lyon Family Holy Souls RIP]

100 Club Winners: £20—No. 12 P. W. Jago, £10—M. Endicott

Masses from 2nd December: Will be as usual be allowed to attend the celebration of Mass. Please only sit with your family bubble. Those from different households are not allowed to mix together. Conversations are allowed only with your family bubble inside and outside of the church. Please maintain social distancing at all times.

Christmas Carols: Though the churches will open for Mass, there is a risk of infection with people singing. So only socially distanced singers/choir facing away from those gathered are allowed to sing. People are asked to not to join in the singing to prevent infection.

Times of Confession

Sat 10:30 –11:00
Sun 10:30 -10:45

Maureen Endicott writes:- My most grateful thanks to all who have sent me cards, flowers, emails, letters, phone calls and books, after the sad death of my dear husband, John, to whom I was married for over 55 years. This church has always been a large part of our lives since 1968 and we have loved being in the Folk Group since 1979! It would have been wonderful for John's Requiem Mass, (24th), to have been open to all of you, but only 30 people were allowed in this present situation. Hopefully, we can have a Memorial Mass and wake, when this pandemic ends, to which all will be welcome.

With my love and prayers, Maureen xxx

Hanson Family: Have also expressed their thanks for all your cards and your wishes of support, and being present at the reception and requiem Mass of our dear Gill.

Christmas Cards: There are a selection of Christmas cards available in the church repository if you would like to buy them. Please leave your donations in the black box by the light switches near the church door.



To all who were so kind in giving up your time to get the church ready for the funeral celebrations of our beloved John and Gill. Thanks to Liz and Richard for cleaning the church and attending to the flowers, and for getting the wonderful wreaths from our parish to the families and cleaning the sanctuary area. Thanks for Jane who helped with hoovering the church. Thanks to Cathy McCann for all your help in cleaning the church. Thanks also to John and Marta Kennett for bringing freshly laundered and ironed linen so that the altar would look all the more magnificent. If I haven't mentioned anyone thanks to everyone for all your help to keep our church clean and presentable.

Decorating the Church for Christmas: There will be a team gathering here in church from 11:00am on Saturday the 12th of December to assemble the crib and put up the Christmas trees. If you would like to help please turn up on the day. Please let Fr Neil know that you will be coming. Thank you.

Bishop Pat Lynch: The pope has accepted the early retirement of Bishop Lynch on health grounds. He is our auxiliary bishop responsible for the South East London parishes in Southwark. I hope you will keep bishop Lynch in your prayers. Regarding him Archbishop John writes: *"Bishop Pat has served the Archdiocese with distinction and generosity as a true shepherd to clergy, religious, and laity alike. His pastoral mission here for the past twenty-two years, the last fourteen of those as an Auxiliary Bishop, has been marked by passion for the Gospel, deep sensitivity, and a special care for migrants and ethnic chaplaincies and communities. Along with pastoral responsibility for the parishes of South East London, Bishop Pat has also exercised oversight of Catholic education, working faithfully with four Archbishops. Added to this has been his important collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and the Holy See, in working to combat human slavery and trafficking."*