



Ordinariate and Parish Church

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

a Catholic Parish in the Archdiocese of Southwark
in the Pastoral Care of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1st December 2024

In the gospel reading today, we hear that our liberation is near at hand. We have no reason to fear the second coming of Christ if we allow God to teach us how to grow in holiness. We ask him to help us in love towards one another with integrity and generosity. In this way we will be able to hold our heads high and have strength to survive all that might happen to us. We will be able to stand before Christ and his saints.



The Season of Advent begins today! It's the first day of the Church's year, and the start of a new Reading Cycle, year C, the year Luke. This is a time of preparation, of getting ready. Why not use it well and resist the temptation to celebrate Christmas too early!

Preparation and Waiting are the main themes of Advent. It's about preparing for Christmas, and the return of Jesus and the End; it's about waiting, waiting for, and waiting on God. Having to wait is not something we are good at these days. Maybe that's why we need Advent more!

Advent Answers. After the 11am Mass during Advent FrC will hold a Q&A, and give a brief talk on any subject of your choosing. Is there something you've never quite understood, or agreed with in the Catholic Church. Now's your chance.

The New English Version of the bible will be used for the first time today. We are encouraged to *proclaim* the Word of the Lord, rather than *read* it!

Read the readings for Mass before you come. You'll hear them so much more clearly.

New Lectionary are being used for the first time today. Thank you to: Pierre-Axel & Dominika, Beata, Kirsty, David & Richard who gave them. They have been inscribed as per your request.

Parish Finance Council members are reminded there's a meeting this week. See Chris, the chairman, for the papers, although they should have arrived by email.

Fr Luke (Anthony) Verhees may be remembered by some here at MPB, although you'd need to have been around for over forty years! He was an assistant at MPB with Mgr Reynolds and ordained seventy years ago next Sunday, here. Now 96, he still assists at Carshalton. Please pray for him this week.

Assisted Suicide Bill was passed on Friday last week. A sad day indeed for civilization! If you wrote to your MP and he or she voted against, write to them again, with a 'thank you'. If they voted the wrong way, you might want to remember that at the next general election!

Bishop John Hine died recently. Pray for him. He was an auxiliary bishop in this Archdiocese - a much loved and wise pastor. His Funeral Mass is on Tuesday 10th December at 14.00 in St George's Cathedral. *Lord, have mercy.*

Do you Gift Aid? Only 40pc of us do. It might be you *think* you Gift Aid, but in fact, don't. Use the Pay Station to make sure, and select the options 'past' and 'future'. It will double what we can claim!



Christmas is coming. And it should be more, much much more, than just an orgy of shopping and eating.

Here are some tips for a really happy Christmas - and it's important to get planning now.

★ Advent has its own special delight. Enjoy it. An Advent wreath, with four candles - one to be lit each week as Christmas gets nearer and nearer - is a lovely way to mark Advent.

★ Organise getting to Mass at Christmas. Check the timings. Midnight Mass is a must for teens and up - morning Mass at 11am works better with small children and with grandma or other elderly relations. Mass is the heart of Christmas - the whole thing makes no sense without it.

★ children can't enjoy unlimited amounts of plastic junk - they get bored and fractious. With gifts for children, less is often more. We all know that toddlers often prefer the paper that the gift is wrapped in to the gift itself! Don't spend money you haven't got by giving in to "pester power", only to find that Christmas isn't much fun after all.

★ make sure you give generously to charity. Think about how much you are spending on your family - and your favourite food and treats - and give a reasonable amount to people who will be enduring hardship, loneliness, or hunger this Christmas.

★ Choose some presents, and wrap them up to await Christmas morning. They should be hidden away, or put out of reach.

★ get a Nativity scene and make it the centre of your home at Christmas. You can get beautiful ones at Catholic shops, or via the internet, and they aren't expensive. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the angels...and get

the children busy making a stable scene out of some cardboard. Any supermarket will let you have a spare cardboard box - they have dozens of them.

★ Carol singing - we'll be at London Bridge station - come and join us!

★ Christmas dinner is a special meal. Make it special by saying Grace: easy to learn: "Bless us, O Lord, and these, Your Gifts, which we receive from your Bounty. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen."

★ There's more to life than the TV and the computer screen! With grandparents coming for Christmas, don't leave them lonely and forgotten while the kids sit at their computers. Get the children to sing/ act out/ tell about some of the things they've been doing at school to mark Christmas. Get singing together. Get some stories going about family Christmases in weird places or in wartime or whatever.

★ Pray. Make the effort and go to Confession in Advent to be ready to celebrate the feast joyfully. Drop in to church on a weekday to light a candle.

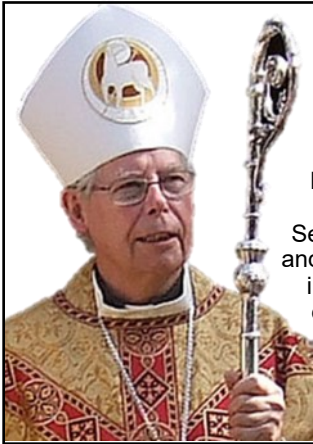
Have a glorious Advent!

An Advent Prayer:

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love. Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail. Amen.



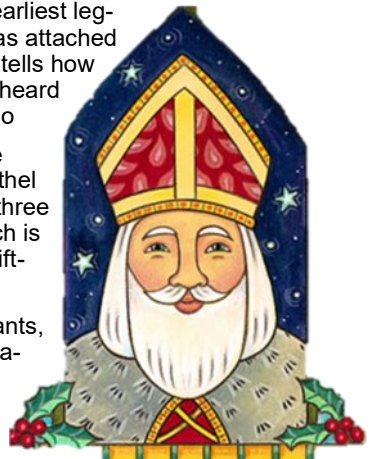
Pray for
Bishop John Hine
 Ordained priest 1962
 bishop 2001 to the titular
 See of Beverley and auxiliary here
 in Southwark d.16 Nov 24

Lord have mercy




St Nicholas, aka Santa Claus or Father Christmas, was born a Greek in Asia Mino during the third century at a port on the Mediterranean Sea, and lived in Myra, Lycia (part of modern Turkey), at a time when the region was Greek in its heritage, culture, and outlook and politically part of the Roman diocese of Asia. He was the only son of wealthy Christian parents. He was very religious from an early age and according to legend, Nicholas was said to have rigorously observed the canonical fasts of Wednesdays and Fridays. His wealthy parents died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young and he was raised by his uncle—also named Nicholas—who was the bishop of Patara. He tonsured the young Nicholas as a reader and later ordained him a priest. In 325, he was one of many bishops to answer the request of Constantine and appear at the First Council of Nicaea. There, Nicholas was a staunch anti-Arian and defender of the Orthodox Christian position, and one of the bishops who signed the Nicene Creed.

One of the earliest legends that was attached to his name tells how St Nicholas heard of a man who



FEAST FACTS ABOUT ST AMBROSE
 (337-397)

- 1 HE'S A DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, A BISHOP OF MILAN AND IMPORTANT THEOLOGICAL FIGURE
- 2 ST AMBROSE WAS AN UNBAPTISED CATECHUMEN WHEN ASKED TO BE BISHOP, HE WAS FORCED OUT OF HIDING TO BE ORDAINED



Make candle donations at the device or the red box



could not afford the dowries for his three daughters, with the result that he intended - regretfully - to send them to the brothel to work. St Nicholas saves them from this fate by throwing three bags of gold through their window at night: it is this tale which is often identified as the root of St Nicholas's reputation as a gift-giver.

He is patron of children, coopers, sailors, fishermen, merchants, broadcasters, the falsely accused, repentant thieves, pharmacists, archers, and pawnbrokers, to name but a few!

His feast day is Friday this week.

This Week: Mass & intentions

Day	Time	Intention
This Sunday FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	09.30 11.00	Dead parishioners <i>foundation</i> ✕ Parishioners
<i>Mon 2nd feria of Advent</i>		
<i>Tue 3rd St Francis Xavier</i>	13.05	Deceased clergy of the parish ✕ <i>fm</i>
<i>Wed 4th (St John Damascene)</i>	13.05	Barbara <i>birthday</i>
<i>Thurs 5th feria of Advent</i>	13.05	Anthony Nazareth ✕
<i>Fri 6th (St Nicholas)</i>	13.05	David Pierson ✕ <i>d 2019</i>
<i>Sat 7th St Ambrose</i>	10.30†	Margaret Banister ✕ <i>d2012</i>
Next Sunday SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	09.30 11.00	Fr Luke (<i>70 years a priest today</i>) Parishioners

Next Week's Readings Baruch 5:1-9 Philipians 1:3-6.8-11 Luke 3:1-6

Sacrament of Confession. Tue-Fri 12.30-12.55; Sat 10.00-10.25; or *by appointment*

† **Mass in the Ordinarate Use** of the Roman Rite

Last week: £902.13 (*cash £80.13; card £102.00; standing orders £720*);

Youth Service £62.00 (*cash £2.00; card £60.00*)

Thank you!

Safeguarding. The parish is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding Officers: Richard Hughes, Justina Onuorah. 03330 509296

Holy Father's Intention for December 2024: *For pilgrims of hope*

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope. .

Live-streaming is done regularly for the Solemn Mass. The earlier Mass on Sunday and weekdays are not live-streamed.

For your prayers:

In priestly formation: Br Philip OP (Jeff Gerlomes) .

Peace: In Ukraine, in the Holy Land, Syria

Those who are Sick: Mary, Chi Chi, Anne Marie, Rita, Hermon, Amaogechi,

Recently Departed: Jake Dicto *priest*, Michael Kiernan, John Templeton,
John Hine *priest*, Jim Shearhan *deacon*

Find us on: *Facebook:* "preciousbloodSE1"

YouTube: [youtube.com/preciousbloodlondonbridge](https://www.youtube.com/preciousbloodlondonbridge)

Fr Christopher Pearson OLW *Parish Priest*

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