



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*



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15th December 2024



In the gospel reading today, we hear that Christ is the joy we await. God will bring to completion the work he has begun in us. Our love for one another in the charitable and kind acts we do, will help us to be blameless when Christ will come again. Our lives on earth are a preparation for the day when the Lord comes and so we should be full of joy and expectancy

Preparation and waiting, these are the themes of Advent. Preparing and waiting for Christmas, and the return of Jesus and the End of time. *Come Lord Jesus, do not delay!*

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?

Do you remember the name of the person next to you at Mass?

Going away for Christmas? Plan where you will go for Mass. Make sure it's a proper Catholic ie *Roman* Catholic Church! Are you having friends and/or family coming? Bring them to Mass here at MPB, even if...especially if... they are not Catholic.

Midnight Mass will be at 11.30pm. Security is part of modern London Life, so volunteers are needed again. Please see FrC today.

Thank you to those who set up the Christmas things. The Crib is for the Catholic Children's Society It's beginning to feel a lot like....

Poinsettias needed for the Christmas Crib, bring one or three before Christmas.

Christmas Offering envelopes are at the back; thank you for your generosity.

Pope Francis has a birthday on Tuesday this week: he will be 88 years old. And his anniversary of ordination is today in 1969. *God bless the Pope!*

Preparation for the Year of Jubilee are well underway. *Pilgrims of Hope*. It begins on Christmas Day, with Pope Francis opening the Jubilee Door in Rome, and continues through 2025. More to follow...

Adoration each Friday here at MPB 19.00-20.00 Come to spend time with the Lord before the Most Blessed Sacrament. *O Come let us adore Him!*

Mass intentions can be requested using the envelopes or on-line. The earliest available now is mid-January.

Pray for Steve - he is the most excellent heating engineer who came back and forth spending four hours last Wednesday bringing the church boiler back to life. Church will be warm by Sunday.

Beware of scams! There are reports in the Archdiocese of parishioners being scammed by fraudsters. So:

- Never purchase gifts for the parish priest based on an email request, unless trusted.
- Double-check any suspicious email by directly contacting the parish or FrC
- Avoid sharing personal information or financial details with unsolicited emails.

Please report anything suspicious to FrC



Today is Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete means Rejoice. The third Sunday of Advent, is so called because of the Entrance Antiphon at Mass. At a Solemn Mass, an appropriate hymn replaces the Antiphon. Today we have: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of Saint Martin (12 Nov), then called "St. Martin's Lent"-- a name by which it was known as early as the fifth century.

The introduction of the Advent fast cannot be placed much earlier, because there is no evidence of Christmas being kept on 25 December before the end of the fourth century, and the preparation for the feast could not have been of earlier date than the feast itself. In the ninth century, Advent was reduced to four weeks, and by the twelfth century the fast had been replaced by simple abstinence.

St. Gregory the Great was the first to draw up an Office for the Advent season, and the Gregorian Sacramentary is the earliest to provide Mass for the Sundays of Advent. In both Office and Mass, provision is made for five Sundays, but by the tenth century four was the usual number, though some churches of France observed five as late as the thirteenth century. Advent still preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential seasons which made it a kind of counterpart to *Lent, the middle (or third) Sunday corresponding with Lae-*

tare or Mid-Lent Sunday when organ and flowers, were allowed (unlike the rest of Lent and Advent) and rose-coloured vestments were allowed instead of purple. All these distinguishing marks have continued in use, and are the present discipline of the Latin Church. Gaudete Sunday, therefore, makes a breaker like Laetare Sunday, about midway through a season which is otherwise of a sombre character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming.

In both Office and Mass throughout Advent continual reference is made to our Lord's second coming, and this is emphasised on the third Sunday by the additional signs of gladness permitted on that day.

Gaudete Sunday is further marked by a new Invitatory (the antiphon to the first prayer of of the day at Morning Prayer). The Church no longer inviting the faithful to adore merely "The Lord who is to come", but calling upon them to worship and hail with joy "The Lord who is nigh and close at hand".

The joy of expectation is emphasized by the constant Alleluias, which occur in both Office and Mass throughout the entire season. In the Mass, the Entrance Antiphon "Gaudete in Domino semper" strikes the same note, and gives its name to the day. The second reading incites us to rejoicing, and bids us prepare to meet the coming Saviour with prayers and supplication and thanksgiving, whilst the Gospel, the words of St. John Baptist, warns us that the Lamb of God is even now in our midst, though we appear to know Him not.

The spirit of the Office and Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the Christmas feast as well as for the second coming of Christ. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, the sombre mood are nevertheless on Gaudete Sunday suspended, as were, for a while in order to symbolise that joy and gladness in the Promised Redemption which should never be absent from the heart of the faithful.

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, "Rejoice!"

An Advent Quiz

1. What does the word "Advent" mean?
2. Why are there four candles on the Advent wreath and why is one of them rose-coloured and the others purple?
3. What was the name of the angel who came to tell Mary that she was to bear the Saviour? Where was Mary living at the time?
4. Why don't we sing the *Gloria* at Mass in Advent?
5. Why did Joseph and Mary have to go to Bethlehem?
6. What does the name Bethlehem mean? Is there a link with the Eucharist?
7. What is a manger?
8. What are the traditional names given to the Three Wise men who came to honour the infant Jesus?
9. What was the name of the wicked king who tried to kill the infant Christ? What name do we give to the babies who were killed?
10. What does the word "Emmanuel" mean?
11. The day after Christmas Day is traditionally called Boxing Day in England. But it's also the feast-day of a saint. Which saint?
12. And fill in the gaps in these lines from well-known carols: *Once in Royal....city; Hark the herald...sing; Away in a ...;*

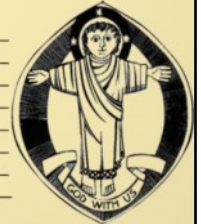


Blessing of Bambino.

Bring the figure of the Baby Jesus from your Crib at home to Mass next Sunday to be blessed ready to be placed in the Crib at Christmas.



Christmas Gift



Most Precious Blood, Borough SE1
preciousblood.org.uk

Fill in other side

Make candle donations at the device or the red box



Rejoice

Dates for Christmas

Christmas Eve 24th December
23.30 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 25th December
11.00 Mass of Christmas Day

Weekday Mass 26th Dec - 3rd Jan
 10.00m (ie not 13.05)

Answers: 1. It means "coming"; the word is Latin in origin. When we say the Our Father in Latin, we say "Adventat regnum tuum - "they kingdom come." Same word. 2. Advent if four weeks long; one candle for each Sunday. Advent is a time of penance, so the colour is purple. On the third Sunday, we take a break and look ahead to Christmas and rejoice, so the candle is rose-coloured. 3. Gabriel. Mary lives at Nazareth. 4. It is a hymn of rejoicing, and Advent is a time of penance. 5. There was a census and everyone had to go to his own city to be registered. 6. "The place of bread". Think about it. 7. The manger is the place where animals eat. Same word as "munch". 8. Casper, Melchior and Balthasar. 9. Herod. The Holy Innocents. 10. "God with us" 11. St Stephen. He was the first martyr. 12. David's Herald. Manger. Holy.

This Week: Mass & intentions

Day	Time	Intention
This Sunday THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	09.30 11.00	John Hine <i>priest</i> ✕ <i>recently</i> Parishioners
<i>Mon 16th feria of Advent</i>		
<i>Tue 17th O Sapientia</i>	13.05	Anthony Mascarenhas ✕
<i>Wed 18th O Adonai</i>	13.05	JG's family intentions & DG
<i>Thurs 19th O Radix</i>	13.05	A private intention (<i>PF</i>)
<i>Fri 20th O Clavis</i>	13.05	Laura McQuillin ✕ <i>recently</i>
<i>Sat 21st O Oriens</i>	10.30†	Alma Bird ✕ <i>years' mind</i>
Next Sunday <i>O Rex</i> FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	09.30 11.00	Thanksgiving (<i>DD</i>) Parishioners

Next Week's Readings Micah 5:1-4 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-44

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: £909.92 (*cash* £114.84; *card* £75.08; *standing orders* £720) \$20
Flowers £93.80 (*cash* £23.80; *card* £70.00) **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*, Giuseppina Torri

Find us on: *Facebook:* "preciousbloodSE1"

YouTube: youtube.com/preciousbloodlondonbridge

Fr Christopher Pearson OLW *Parish Priest*

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Donation
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