

Our Lady & St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Sydenham

Parish Priest:

Fr Luke Marappillil (lukemarappillil@yahoo.co.uk)

Pastoral Assistant:

Sr Agnes O'Shea dmj

Parish Secretary:

Steve Pearce (secretary@olspn.church) (Monday to Friday, 9am - 12 noon)

208 Sydenham Road, Sydenham, London SE26 5SE

Tel: 020 8778 9460 stphilipneri@btinternet.comwww.rcchurch.org.uk/sydenham and www.olspn.church

Mass Times Saturdays: 9.30am, 6.30pm Sundays: 9.30am, 11.00am Weekdays: 9.30am Holy Days: 9.30am and 8pm Fridays: Mass followed by Exposition, Divine Mercy Devotion & Benediction	Confession: Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 9am, 5.45pm, Sun 8.45am and by appointment. Baptisms and Weddings: by arrangement (Weddings require 5/6 months' notice)
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Second Sunday of Advent (B) 10th December 2017
Mass Book Page 85
Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 ^{FIRST} | 2 Peter 3:8-14 ^{SECOND} | Mark 1:1-8 ^{GOSPEL}
2nd Collection This Week: Parish Development Fund | **Next Week:** Knights of St Columba Charities

Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Feast
Sat 9 th Dec	6.30pm	Nell Higgins Intention	First Mass of Sunday
Sun 10 th Dec	9.30am	Philip Snr & Philip Jnr Kiernan RIP - First Holy Communion: Sami & Issa Ali Mohamed	Second Sunday of Advent (B)
	11.00am	John McAuliffe RIP - Reception into Full Communion: Sarah & Taiwo	
Mon 11 th Dec	9.30am	Francis X Zahringe	Feria
Tue 12 th Dec	9.30am	Wlodek Janiszewski RIP	Feria
Wed 13 th Dec	9.30am	John Mc Auliffe	Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
	7.00pm	First Holy Communion Parents Meeting - Presbytery	
Thu 14 th Dec	9.30am	The Foreshaw Family's Intention	St John of the Cross, Priest & Dr of the Church
Fri 15 th Dec	9.30am	The marriage of Francesca Doran and James Fear	Feria
Sat 16 th Dec	9.30am	People of the Parish	Feria
	6.30pm	Margaret & Timothy Kelleher RIP	First Mass of Sunday
	7.00pm	A Christmas Chorus - Hall	
Sun 17 th Dec	9.30am	John Mc Auliffe	Third Sunday of Advent (B)
	11.00am	Rachael Matthews RIP	
	3.00pm	Christingle Service	
Thank you for last week's collection...		Cash Not Gift-aided: £322 Cash Gift-aided: £371	Standing Orders Gift-aided: £300 Parish Development Fund: £278

BAPTISM WITH WATER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Advent is a time of waiting when we are invited to examine our lives and repent of our sins as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' coming into the world. John the Baptist plays a crucial role in this preparation. As Fr Henry Wansbrough says in his Wednesday Word reflection, each Advent has two 'John the Baptist' Sundays: the second and the third Sunday of Advent – the former preparing people with the baptism of water through repentance and forgiveness of sins and the latter leading them to Jesus himself who baptises them with the Holy Spirit.

In today's gospel we find John preaching a baptism of repentance with water, appealing to them to turn with all their hearts to God, to re-order their lives in righteousness and to forsake everything contrary to pleasing God. True repentance has two aspects: sorrow for our offences/sins against God and his people and resolve to amend our lives. This is reconciliation with God and his people, which means forgiveness of sins and conversion of lives. Such was the baptism John offered to people before the coming of Jesus. With his coming they would be baptised with the Holy Spirit. This is the baptism we receive now to become members of the Mystical Body of Christ – the Church. In fact, into it is incorporated John's baptism as well, baptism with water leading us to repentance and forgiveness of sins and thus preparing us to receive the Holy Spirit as symbolised in the anointing with oil. This baptism is at the very heart of God's salvation. God wants to baptise us with the Holy Spirit in order that the Father and the Son can intimately be present to us, living in our hearts and in the depths of our being. That's what Jesus means when he says: 'My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him' – the one who receives baptism. At Baptism we receive the Holy Spirit, but it is brought to completion at the sacrament of Confirmation.

Fr Luke

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The sick & the housebound: George Abeydeera, Lina Ade, Sr Agnes, Gloria Arenaslondono, Sonny Caldinez, Thomas Carabine, Seelan Chetty, Diren Chetty, Keisha Dyer, Madeline Edwards, Christine Falvey, Anthony Fernandez, Joe Flynn, Margie George, Giovanna Ghezzi, Pat Griffin, Joseph & Charlotte Hadji, Rebekah Hall, Barbara Harte, Zofia Jazyk, Kitty Keeffe, Antoni Kowal, Peggy Connelly-McCarthy, Mary McDonagh, Greta Murray, Joe Murray, Stephen Murray, Ilse Muscio, Stephen Ofieyo, Antoinette Remice, Teresa Riley, Michael Sharp, Ann Sheehan, Noah Solarin, Genevieve Stanislaus, Elizabeth Turner, Thomas Mitchell, Mike Sharpe, Rafael Jimenez, Kim Thompson, Kathy Camp.

Those recently deceased: Kathy Camp, Jane Neylon, May MacCarthy, John Mc Auliffe, Mark Dyer (13/11), Stephen Ochieng **and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** 9/12: Cecilia Cameron. 10/12: Cyril Muscio, Ruth Kadoko. 11/12: Margaret Quinn, Elizabeth Canning, Mary Wheeler, Leo Ring. 12/12: James McDaid, Seamus Laverty. 13/12: Esther Reynolds. 14/12: Rachel Matthews. 15/12: Sheila McGarry. 16/12: Thomas Murtagh, Jozef Pokorny. 17/12: Mollie Coote, Arthur Cordrey.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Saturday 23 rd December:	<i>No Mass in the Morning</i>	
	6:30pm	First Mass of Sunday
Sunday 24 th December:	10.30am	Mass
	<i>Only one Mass in the morning</i>	
	6.30pm	Christmas Vigil Mass
	11.30pm	Carol Service
	12.00	Midnight Mass
Monday 25 th December:	10.30am	Christmas Day Mass

CHURCH NOTICES**FR LUKE**

Last weekend Fr Luke announced that he will be leaving our Parish early in the new year.

Starting with a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Fr Luke will be taking a sabbatical year before moving onto another parish. So, with effect from Monday 8th January, Fr Regis Rubaya, will become our new Parish priest.

The Sabbath falls on seventh day,
To be with God in prayer and rest!
Sabbatical leave in seventh year,
The work routine to rest a year!

A pilgrim's search for truth in life,
A myst'ry steeped in ups and downs,
Has brought him down to earth at last
To delve in depth on diff'rent plane!

A hopeful Sabbath knocks at door,
When the pilgrim's run his race
For forty years in God's own field,
To change the route of pilgrim's way!

A time to see the world serene,
In milieu calm and quiet in peace,
A time to be with God in prayer,
And go to where He leads him thence!

Surprise, surprise is God's design!
And so is true of King divine,
Who sends his own to Sydenham now
To tend the flock he knows so well;
Yes, myst'ry shrouds in God's design!

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS 7th – 9th SEPTEMBER 2018

A Eucharistic Congress is a gathering of clergy, religious, and laity to bear witness to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The Bishops of England and Wales are planning one to take place in Liverpool on the 7th to the 9th of September 2018, and our parish has been asked to send two delegates. Please see the attached sheet for more details.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH

It is the custom of this parish to donate money for the flowers and decorations of the Church at Christmas in memory of the 'faithful departed'. A Mass will be offered for them after Christmas.

Please mark your envelope 'Christmas Flowers' – writing the name(s) of those being remembered in block capitals - and pop it in through the presbytery letterbox. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION – 2018

If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please pick up the application form at the back of the church (Church of the Resurrection of Our Lord, Kirkdale), complete all sections of this leaflet and return it, together with your Baptism and First Holy Communion certificates, to Father Alfred Osamor, C.Ss.R. on any Sunday Mass. All leaflets and certificates must be returned on or before 14th January 2018. Registration of candidates will be on Sunday 28th January 2018 at 12.45pm during the “getting to know you” session, after which the candidate will be issued with a Confirmation Passport with full details of dates and time of the programme. This Passport must be signed every Sunday to indicate the candidate has been to Mass. The programme will commence on Tuesday 30th January 2018. The first parents’ evening will be on Tuesday 23rd January 2018 at 8:00pm.

PARISH EVENTS**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Thu	14 th Dec	8pm	Knights of St Columba (Hall)
Mon	18 th Dec	6pm	Jane Neylon’s body being received into Church
Tue	19 th Dec	11am	Funeral Mass of Jane Neylon

REGULAR EVENTS

Sun	9.30am 11am 12.15pm 12.30pm	Children’s Liturgy (Presbytery-term time only) for children who haven’t made their First Holy Communion. Coffee morning (Hall) after Mass. The Legion of Mary (Hall) after Mass. New members welcome. Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Prayer Group (Presbytery) 3 rd Sunday of the month. New member’s Welcome
Mon	3 - 7pm 7.30pm	Fr Luke’s Open House (Presbytery) for parishioners to discuss any issues they may have. Parish Council (Presbytery) 1 st Monday of every month.
Tue	9.15-11.15am	Parent Carer & Toddler Group (Hall-term time only). Call Paula (07761 530739) for more info.
Wed	9.30am 7.30pm	Coffee morning (Hall) after Mass. Light of Christ Prayer Group (Hall) New members welcome.
Thu	7.30pm 8pm	Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Prayer Group (Presbytery) New members welcome. Women’s Group (Presbytery) 1 st Thursday of the month.
Fri	8pm 9.15-11.15am	Knights of St Columba (Hall) 3 rd Thursday of the month. New members welcome. Parent Carer & Toddler Group (Hall-term time only). Call Paula (07761 530739) for more info.

CATHOLIC CLUB & PRIVATE FUNCTION HIRING

Sydenham Catholic Club (Watlington Grove) - Sky sports, darts, pool table and BIG screen showing Premiership and GAA games. Families and new members welcome. Club available for private functions and funeral receptions. Opening Times Thu 8.30pm, Fri 6.30pm, Sat 2pm, Sun Noon. Thursday night’s Quiz is in aid of St. Christopher’s Hospice.

Parishioner Church Hall Hire – please call Steve, Mon – Fri, 9am to noon, on 0208 778 9460.

NOTICES**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS, READERS AND WELCOMERS**

The new Rota which includes Christmas is now available in the Church porch for those who have not received one via email.

SR AGNES

Sr. Agnes would like to thank most sincerely the parishioners who attended the excellent function in the Catholic Club, which Mags and Kate arranged, last Wednesday. £500 was raised and she is very grateful for it.

WOMEN'S GROUP CHRISTMAS MEAL - CHANGE OF DATE

This will now take place at 7.30pm on 14th December at Raffaele's Italian Restaurant in Sydenham.

A CHRISTMAS CHORUS - SATURDAY 16th DECEMBER - 7PM IN THE PARISH HALL.

Pipe Dreams presents an evening of sing-along musical entertainment.

Carols and favourite songs to get you in the festive spirit and raise funds to restore our unique Church organ.

Mince Pies and Mulled Wine. Raffle.

Family ticket £5 (admits 4) or £2 Per head on the door. Contact Robert Hero.

Our Lady and St. Philip Neri Parish Church

 **PIPE DREAMS**
Christmas Chorus
Singalong

Saturday 16 December

Doors open 7.00pm

Family ticket (family of 4)

2 mince pies each/ mulled wine or soft drink

Proceeds in aid of Pipe Dreams (organ restoration fund)

PANTOMINE TICKETS – SNOW WHITE – FRIDAY 15th DECEMBER AT 1.30PM

The Parent, Carer & Toddler Group are going to see the pantomime Snow White at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley, and have some tickets available. The tickets are £10 each. Please contact Paula on 0776 153 0739.

COFFEE MORNING – CHRISTMAS EVE

There will be no Coffee Morning on Christmas Eve - Sunday 24th December.

PARISH NEW YEARS EVE PARTY – 8.30PM TO 12.30PM – SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER

This is a ticket entry only party, open to all parishioners. Admission is free, but please bring your own food and drink. Music will be provided. One ticket is required per person whether they are an adult or child. For tickets and further information please contact Paula on 0776 153 0739.

PIANIST NEEDED – 11AM MASS

If any pianists in the parish would like to join us, please come and have a chat after Mass, or contact Barbara on 07711 872336.

THE LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary is an International Association of practising members of the Catholic Church who serve the Church on a voluntary basis, under the powerful leadership of our mother Mary, the Immaculate Mediatrix of all Graces, in union with Christ.

The purpose of the Legion of Mary is to help the Church in bringing all souls closer to God. Active members attend weekly meetings for 1½ hours and work in pairs for 2 hours a week. Auxiliary members are those that are inactive but undertake a service of prayer in the name of the Legion.

Some of the Legion work involves: Home to Home visitations, which helps us to have closer contact with people of various faiths, including non-believers and lapsed Catholics; we also visit the sick, the elderly, the housebound, the lonely and deprived, hospitals, care homes and mental homes. We also do crowd contact and recruit people to join the Legion.

Our weekly meeting starts at 12:15pm every Sunday in the Parish Hall. Thank you.

HALL SUPERVISORS/CLEANERS REQUIRED (SALARIED POSITIONS)

In June of this year we started to work with a Catholic based company called Praetorium who specialise in hiring Church halls. As a result, the number bookings we've received has significantly increased, becoming an important extra source of income for the parish. However, presently these bookings are run by two people so we need to create a team and employ more people. The bookings are predominately for Saturday night. We will create a rota, so the more people we have the longer each person will have between bookings. For more details please contact Steve Pearce, Monday to Friday, 9am to Noon on 0208 778 9460 or email: secretary@olspn.church.

Please do not park in the Church grounds,

this is reserved for blue badge holders, or those who need to drop off those with ability considerations. Thank you.

During Mass, please keep your children with you at all times, and accompany small children to the toilet.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS 7th – 9th SEPTEMBER 2018

A Eucharistic Congress is a gathering of clergy, religious, and laity to bear witness to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The Bishops of England and Wales are planning one to take place in Liverpool on the 7th to the 9th of September 2018. The congress will focus on Scripture, Ecclesiology (the church), Catholic education, Music and Mission. During the congress there will be workshops for catechists (especially for those involved in First Holy communion). The last Eucharistic Congress in England took place in 1908. Every parish is asked to send two delegates to the congress. We are also asked to form a team of people in the parish who will support the delegates in their task.

The parish will sponsor the two delegates it sends to the Congress, and we are all asked to pray for the success of the Congress, and for the delegates. If you are interested in being a delegate at the conference please indicate your interest by the 15th January 2018. Expressions of interest are to be given to the Parish Council c/o Steve the parish Secretary. Selection is open to all members of the parish however to assist the parish in selecting the two delegates please tell us if you are already involved in any parish organisation. The two delegates selected to represent the parish will be expected to feed back information from the congress to the parish and take the lead in developing any initiatives from the congress in the parish.

There is further information on the Congress at the back of the church or you can read about it online at: Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress "Adoremus" - Liverpool 2018.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2018

Expressions of interest can be given in by hand or by email to the Parish Council c/o secretary@olspn.church by the 15th January 2018.

Please mark emails or envelopes **Eucharistic Congress**.

Name: _____ Phone number or email: _____

I am interested in being considered as a delegate to represent Our Lady and St Philip Neri Parish at the Eucharistic Congress 7th to 9th September 2018.

If you are currently involved in any parish organisation please name them: _____
