

Sunday 11th December 2016  
Third (Gaudette) Sunday in Advent

**Sacred Heart Church**  
Essendene Road,  
Caterham, CR3 5PA

**Parish Priest:**  
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Psalter Week 3

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

4th Sunday in Advent

*Isaiah 7:10-14*

*Romans 1:1-7*

*Matthew 1:18-24*

## Gospel Reflection

In today's Gospel, St John the Baptist poses what seems to us to be a simple question. He asks our Lord whether or not he is the Messiah (the word 'Christ' is simply the Hebrew word 'Messiah' in Greek). In response, our Lord seems to pose a riddle. 'Seems' is the important word, because John would have understood perfectly well what our Lord meant, though others who may have intercepted the message (John's jailers, Herod Antipas and others), would probably not.

The reference in our Lord's riddle is to that passage from Isaiah that we heard in the first reading; 'Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped, then shall the lame leap like a hart and the tongues of the dumb shall sing'. This is a reference, not directly to the Messiah as such, but to the Kingdom of God which the Messiah shall usher in. In other words, our Lord is saying to John that the Kingdom of God has begun, from which John would infer that indeed the Messiah had come.

The good things that the Kingdom brings (healing &c) are not its only gift; indeed, they are not the point of the kingdom at all, but rather the fruits of what really matters: union with God. It was not so much the loss of the garden of Eden, or the difficulties of life, that were the disaster brought about by the fall, but rather the loss of God's presence and the increasing distance of one human being from another. Where the right relationship is restored, then the good things come about as natural and right fruits of them. Our Lord's healings in the Gospels, though sometimes spectacular, are not as frequent as one might reasonably expect them to be. This is because the real material of the Kingdom of God is our conversion; our loving God and our neighbour, and turning from evil to do good. The healing and life is something that belongs to the Kingdom of God in its fullness, and our Lord was performing these miracles as a sign of the Kingdom that was to come, and to give weight to his words.

## First Holy Communions



Don't forget to see your catechists to collect your badge at the start of Mass and return it afterwards. If you are late for Mass and miss the badges being handed out, please see a catechist at the end of Mass.

Parents don't forget to guide your child through the Mass to increase their understanding and preparation.

**Please remember that Children should now stay in Church for the whole Mass and not go out for Children's Liturgy.**  
fhc.sacredheart@gmail.com.

Today there will be a Second Collection for the Caterham Overseas Aid Trust (COAT). This is NOT eligible for Parish Gift Aid, however COAT will provide their own envelopes for you to use in the porch.

## Do you or does someone you know have a talent for managing people and a desire to help young people in your community?

5<sup>th</sup> Caterham Scout Group is a thriving, dynamic and very well-structured organisation of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, based at Sacred Heart Church in Caterham. The success of our group is thanks in no small part to the work of our late Group Scout Leader (GSL), Paul Lovell, whose passing has left a need for someone to help co-ordinate the volunteers who run the group's three sections. The voluntary role is highly flexible and requires someone, male or female, who can liaise with: the Scout Association at District level, the group's executive committee, the section leaders and with the church, which sponsors the group. The successful candidate would not need to attend the weekly Beaver, Cub and Scout meetings and would receive comprehensive support and training from the District. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Peter Lovat on 01883 345749 [peter\\_lovat@yahoo.com](mailto:peter_lovat@yahoo.com) or Tim Evans on [tim201@icloud.com](mailto:tim201@icloud.com)

## Parish Christmas Market - Grand Raffle winner

Please could Nuria Foxant or anyone that knows her please contact the office as soon as possible as the Large Hamper is still to be collected.

## New Years Eve Party 8.00pm - 1.30am

Bring your friends and family to celebrate the New Year

Professional DJ and finger buffet

£10.00 per adult, £5.00 per child (up to 14 years)

£25.00 family ticket (2 adults and 2 children)

£40.00 group ticket (5 adults)

Tickets available after 10.45am Sunday Mass or contact [sue.fanthome@gmail.com](mailto:sue.fanthome@gmail.com)



## Church Cleaners

Would you be willing to join the Church Cleaning rota? Only a couple of hours every few weeks would make a difference to our longstanding rota members.

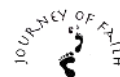
If you could get a few friends to join, it makes a nice social occasion while doing something helpful. Perhaps you could make it a family activity and work together for your Church.

Please contact the office if you can help.

## Health & Safety

- Please take extra care around the parish when frosty.
- Paths and the drive will have been gritted but still be aware it may be slippery.

Every Wednesday morning at 8.30am we will be joining together with our brothers and sisters from the other Christian communions in Caterham to pray for the town. The location will circulate through the participating churches, using their usual form of morning prayer; until the new year, we will meet at St Luke's Whyteleafe. Everyone is very welcome (in fact warmly encouraged) to come along.



Jesus – Nativity, Incarnation. No birth – no Jesus!

**Join us** for this and Advent thoughts with the readings for next Sunday **All welcome!**

**8.00p.m. Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December,  
in the Old Hall**

## St Lawrences Ecumenical Carols

Service at 8pm on Tuesday 13th December at 8pm. Refreshments and Salvation Army band. All welcome.

You are warmly invited to two events at St Augustine's Abbey, Chilworth. GU4 8QR.

A Study Day, on Saturday, December 17th, 2016, given by Fr John Seddon OSB, on the topic, '*How can I convince my atheist friend that the Bible is true?*' Mass is at 9.00am, with three talks, concluding at 3.00 pm. Come to all or part of the day, bring lunch and a friend, if possible.

A Monastic Carol Service, on Sunday, December 18th, 2016, at 3.00 pm. Carols, readings and plainsong sung by the monks, will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Cloisters.

See [chilworthbenedictines.com](http://chilworthbenedictines.com) for full details.

## APF Red Boxes

You may have seen requests for the return of the red APF boxes. Have you every wondered what this is? It is simply a money box that you keep at home for your odd small change you may have in your pocket or in the bottom of your bag. Once full you bring it back to Church for collection by our APF representative Moyra. The monies collected will then be sent to help support the Overseas Missions. It's easy to fill these boxes without realising it and it's not too intrusive. Please contact the office if you would like to have a box at home. Thank you.



## Offertory Collection

Sincere thanks for your generosity last weekend:

Offertory: 959.94 (Gift Aid: £404.60)

Fair Trade collection: £179.00

### WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK



Sun 11th: Children's liturgy at 9am Mass only  
10:45am Youth Mass  
Coffee and Tea after the 10:45am Mass

Mon: Teas & coffee after Mass

Tues: 9:15-11:15am toddler group (St T's Hall)

Wed: 8:30am Christian Community prayer group (St Luke's Church)  
8pm Journey of Faith (Old Hall)

Fri: 6pm Chill Club (St Thomas' Hall)

Sat: 1:30pm FHC session 2 group B

Sun 18th: Children's liturgy at 9am Mass only  
10:45am Youth Mass  
Coffee and Tea after the 10:45am Mass



#### Parish Shop

Please don't forget to come and have a look in our Parish Shop. We have a beautiful selection of Christmas Cards (as well as occasion cards) and lovely presents to purchase.

#### Double C Club

Well done to the winners of the Double C Club for the December Draw.

£70 Kathleen Saunders

£50 Julia Pereira

£30 Margaret Francis

#### Spiritual Gifts of Ageing from Friday 6th January 2017 to Sunday 8th January 2017

The actress Bette Davis famously said - ageing is not for sissies! But what is it for?

It's so easy to see growing older as simply a succession of losses: of the looks and strength of your youth; of the careers, roles, status that have defined our adult identities; of fitness, health, memory...a period of decay and decline. But this is a mistake! In fact, what we lose as we age are only the material things that so easily dominate busy lives. Psychological research identifies these losses as necessary, if we are to move from a focus on the material to the spiritual: things we must let go of if we are to complete the human development journey into the peace and joy, the serenity that is spiritual fulfilment.

This retreat explores the way in which ageing invites us to re-align from the material to the spiritual, and the ways in which human psychology can support that journey. And in the process, ageing is revealed as one of God's most wonderful gifts - if only we embrace it! £185.00 Residential / £98.00 Non Residential

For more information please contact St Cuthman's Retreat & Meeting Centre [enquiries@stcuthmans.org](mailto:enquiries@stcuthmans.org)



#### Your Prayers are requested for the following persons who are ill or housebound:

Pat Knight; Kathleen & John Saunders; Helen Keogh; Daisy Hill; Christopher Browne; Kit Monk; Krista Thompson; Jane Hill; Rosemary Whale; Pam Weaver; Jimmy Mullen; Bernie Horrocks; Margaret Robertson; Heather Tordimah; Jenny Rowen; Elizabeth Daley; Eileen, Mel & Rose Lattimore; Bryan Smith; Oliver Farrell; Seeta Pillay; Pat McCoy; John Dunlop, Elise O'Connor, John Gilford, Chris Norman, Baby Tabitha Harrison, Christine Vernon, Maureen Kelly, Mary Wallace, Don Hancock, Gina Waiton, Joe Kelly, Ian Lester, Fred Ardley, Cathy Linsell, Charmaine Wise & Breda Sharpe.

#### Carol service 21st December

A number of readers are needed for the service. If you would like to read please leave your details on the sheet in the porch. It is always good to have different ages represented. This is for everyone - you do not need to be a regular reader just willing and able. contact Eliz - [elizabeth.wood11@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabeth.wood11@btinternet.com) /01883 348081

#### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

If you are a reader or Minister of Communion please sign the sheet in the porch if you are coming to one of the Christmas Services. With 5 Masses and a number of visitors your services are in demand.

#### St Bede's prayer meeting

We will be praying on the second Tuesday of each month. Dates for the remainder of the year will be:

Tuesday 13 December

Tuesday 10 January

Tuesday 7 February

Tuesday 14 March

Tuesday 9 May

Tuesday 13 June

Tuesday 11 July

Please make a note in your diary!

We would love to invite anyone with a heart for prayer to our community here at Saint Bede's and a passion for developing the Christian Ethos to join us from 18:00 to 19:00. Refreshments available from 17.30.

Listening with the Ear of the Heart Retreat led by Bishop Richard Moth from 2pm on Monday 16th January 2017 to 2pm on Tuesday 17th January 2017  
The retreat will focus on teaching and practical experience of Lectio Divina. £110.00 Residential

#### Christmas is coming!

#### SIGN-UP NOW!!

A great way of preparing spiritually for the great feast of Christmas is to use the diocesan Advent booklet - either alone, or better still with other members of the parish. Booklets can be bought from the repository at the back of the church, and there are a number of venues and times which can be found on the sheets at the back of the church. Find a friend and sign up today!

## CONTACTS

**Parish Office:** (Mon, Wed 9:30am to 12:30pm)  
Leila Merrett  
info@sacred-heart.co.uk 01883 343241

**Centenary Hall Hire**  
07724 613407  
thecenthall@gmail.com

**Baptism Preparation:**  
John Baron 0208 763 2144

**Marriage Preparation:**  
(6 months notice required) - Fr Seán

**Journey of Faith (RCIA):**  
Peter Lovat 01883 345749  
peter\_lovat@yahoo.com

**Chair of Liturgy Group:**  
Eliz Wood  
elizabeth.wood11@btinternet.com

**First Holy Communion**  
fhc.sacredheart@gmail.com

**Confirmation**  
Allison Pullin 01883 382506  
al.pullin@ntlworld.com

**Safeguarding:**  
Jacqui Mullin  
e-mail: safeguardingreps@gmail.com

**Gift Aid:**  
Peter Kelly 01883 330684  
peterfkelly67@gmail.com

**Chair of Parish Finance:**  
Geoff Walker - ghw360@gmail.com

**Health and Safety**  
Dominique Sturgess  
dominquesturgess@gmail.com

**Tuesday Toddlers 9.30am-11.00am:**  
Kelly Coyne: 07921 030991  
kelly.coyne@btinternet.com

**Parish Youth Clubs:**  
(First Friday during school term 7pm)  
Mel Flaherty  
youthclubsacredheart@gmail.com

**St. Francis Primary School:**  
Head teacher: Maria Wheeler  
01883 342005

## THIS WEEK—SERVICES, MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 11th	<i>3rd 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent</i>
9:00am Mass	Jenny Searle RIP (B&T Searle)
10:45am Mass	Glyn Jones RIP (P Jones)
5:15pm Mass	People of the Parish
Monday 12th	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>
10am Mass	Martina & Ken (Peggy)
Tuesday 13th	St Lucy
10am Mass	Noël & Bernadette Kinsella RIP (J Watts)
Wednesday 14th	<i>St John of the Cross</i>
NO MASS	-----
Thursday 15th	
10am Mass	Private Intentions (T Hanley)
Friday 16th	
7pm Mass	Séamus & Enid Quinn RIP
Saturday 17th	
10am Mass	Joan Borrás RIP
Sunday 18th	<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>
9:00am Mass	Eileen Lattimore Ints (Jimmy & Sue)
10:45am Mass	Rosaleen Walker Ints (G Walker)
5:15pm Mass	People of the Parish

**Morning Prayer** every Monday 9:40am  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** every Tuesday 9am to 10am  
**Rosary** every Wednesday & Thursday 9:40am  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** Saturdays: 9am – 10am  
**Confessions** every Saturday 10:30am – 11:00am  
**Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour** after Saturday Mass  
**Benediction** every Sunday 4:45pm