

## *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*20th December 2015*

### **Sacred Heart Church**

Essendene Road,  
Caterham, CR3 5PA

### **Parish Priest:**

**Fr Seán Finnegan**

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Psalter Week 4

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &  
Joseph  
Mic 5:1-4a  
Heb 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45

### **Gospel Reflection**

As we approach the feast of Christmas, it is not a bad idea that we should reflect a little on how we are going to receive our Lord.

We can learn something from today's Gospel, that of the Visitation. Mary, already expecting to give birth to our Lord, visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is already pregnant with St John the Baptist. As to where our Lady was living at this time, we do not know. Not Bethlehem, because Joseph and Mary had to journey to Bethlehem for the birth of our Lord. And nowhere nearby either, or else there would have been no need to seek somewhere to stay. Maybe they lived in Jerusalem, and Mary went from there.

Elizabeth greets our Lady with humility: why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? which is also a response of faith in just who this child is in her cousin's womb. And the unborn child leaps in her own womb, for joy, says St Elizabeth.

Humility, faith, joy. These are three excellent inspirations for us to have as we approach Christmas. Humility because of our unworthiness that God himself should take our human nature in order to save us. Faith, because that is the response to God's invitation, the thing that makes sense of all this. And joy because of the sheer wonder of the thing.

It is always said that children understand Christmas better than adults—though that is really when you can get their minds away from presents. It needs a simplicity, a faith, and a directness that is foreign to adult cynicism. To simply understand the goodness of God, his generosity and love—well perhaps this is what our Lord meant when he said that we must become like little children if we wish to see the Kingdom of God.

May God grant us all this faith and simplicity. Our children spend most of the year learning from us; perhaps just for now, we can learn from them, and gaze on the Christ Child with love and trust.

Of his love and mercy mild

This the Christmas story.

And O that Mary's gentle child

Might lead us up to glory!



### **O Antiphons for the last days of Advent**

*Sunday 20th: O clavis David: O key of David and sceptre of Israel, what you open no one else can close again; what you close, no one can open. O come and lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.*

*Monday 21st: O Oriens: O Rising Sun, you are the splendour of eternal light and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.*

*Tuesday 22nd: O Rex gentium: O King whom all the peoples desire, you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O come and save man, whom you made from clay.*

*Wednesday 23rd: O Emmanuel; O Emmanuel, you are our king and our judge, the One whom the peoples await and their Saviour. O come and save us, Lord our God.*

### **The Peace Light**

The Peace Light will be brought into our church at the 9.00a.m. Mass this Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> December. The flame starts its journey at the Grotto of Christ's birth where a Muslim Scout passes the flame to a Jewish Scout and then onto a Christian Scout for distribution around the world so that people can burn the flame in their homes and churches over Christmas as a symbol of peace.

Anyone who wants, can light their own light from it to take back home to burn over Christmas as a focus for prayer and a reminder of the need for peace, generosity and tolerance in our homes, in our country and throughout the world: something which is so necessary at the moment! Collect a prayer card with your light on Sunday.

Bring a jar for yourself – and a jar (or jars) for others next Sunday!

*(Safety Information: You will need a large candle which will burn for two or three days, and a large ceramic or Pyrex mixing bowl. Stick the candle onto a saucer, by dripping wax onto it and putting the candle into the molten wax and put the whole lot into the bowl so that if it should fall over it stays inside the bowl. Keep the lighted candle away from curtains or cards. Some people like to put it in the kitchen sink or a fireplace behind a fire guard overnight.)*

**Parish Office** - The Office will close at 12pm on Monday 21st and Wednesday 23rd December. The office will re open on Wednesday 6th January 2016.

**Ministers for the Christmas Services.** Readers and Ministers of Communion please sign the sheets in the porch if you are able to help at any of the Masses over Christmas.

**WINTER WALK AND PUB LUNCH** - The Catenians are organising a Walk from the Harrow, 235 Stanstead Rd, Caterham on the Hill, CR3 6AJ at 11.00am on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December. All welcome.

**Teenagers:** the famous former gangster John Pridmore will be coming to our parish on Sunday 10th January to speak about what his faith means to him. This is primarily intended for those preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, but all teens are very welcome.

**Carol Service.** This will be a service of readings and carols at 7.00 on 22nd December followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Centenary Hall. Everyone is welcome please invite family and friends to join us. If you would like to read just sign the sheet in the porch. You do not have to be on the reading rota.

**WELCOME.** With so many visitors at the Christmas masses we need a lot of people to help everyone to feel welcomed by the parish. If you are willing to help please leave your name and phone no in the porch and you will be contacted. The need is greatest at the 6.00pm, 9.00am and 10.45am Masses. This not an onerous task but is a very important one.



### **A SIMPLE ACT:**

This advent the Justice and Peace Group invites you to support the work of Action for Christians Against Torture. You can write a card or letter to individuals or to organisations and details are on line (below) or see notices in the porch [http://www.acatuk.org.uk/Christmas\\_Greetings\\_Card\\_List\\_2015.pdf](http://www.acatuk.org.uk/Christmas_Greetings_Card_List_2015.pdf)

*"Whoever tortures a human being, Whoever abuses a human being, Whoever outrages a human being, Abuses God's image, And the church takes as its own, That cross, that martyrdom."*  
(Archbishop Romero of El Salvador, murdered in 1980 because of his support for the poor and suffering people of his country)

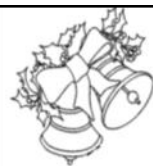
A number of parishioners asked for a copy of the talk on Canon Roe's ancestry. Ann Lardeur apologies for the delay, but owing to other commitments the final edit has yet to be done. If anyone would like an email copy then some of the illustrations from the exhibition can be included. Contact details for going on the list: email contact her on [adlann@furzebank.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:adlann@furzebank.eclipse.co.uk). For printed copy ring 01883 349762.

### **THE POSADA: Journey to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December -**

We wish to invite 10 families of the Parish to welcome in their homes just for one night the figures of Mary and Joseph to remember their journey to Bethlehem, seeking an Inn for the night. The Journey will start next Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm and will end at 7pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> December. If you wish to take part in the Journey please contact: Marcela Turpin on 07543 875 878, 01883 370 241 so that we can choose the most suitable night for you and your family.



Please remember in your prayers the soul of Sheila French RIP who passed away recently. Funeral details will follow.



We can arrange transport for you to attend and drop you home afterwards – just let us know.

Transport Queries Hilary Clark  
07795 573180  
[Hil.clark221@btinternet.com](mailto:Hil.clark221@btinternet.com)

A space for you to record your drivers details when you are told

**Christmas Day Contact Details**  
The Douglas Brunton Centre Park Rd,  
Caterham, Surrey County CR3 5TA  
01883 347 260



Caterham and District Churches Together  
invite you to join us for

### **Christmas Lunch**

the over 60's at  
The Douglas Brunton Centre  
Caterham

On Christmas Day 2015  
From 12 noon until 4pm

If you would like to attend please complete a form.

For general queries contact St Marys Church Office 01883 347230  
Invitations are available from the SVP, from the church porch, or from the office. Offers to help from volunteers would be gratefully received.

### **Offertory Collection**

Sincere thanks for your generosity last weekend:

Offertory: £817.82 (Gift Aid £391.74)

Second collection: £342.89 (Gift Aid £98.80)

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



Sun 20th: No Children's liturgy  
Tea & Coffee after 10:45am Mass  
Mon: Tea & Coffee after Mass (Old Hall)  
Tues: No Toddler Group.  
7pm Carol Service  
Wed: 30m Christingle service  
Thurs: 6pm, 9pm & 12am Christmas Eve Mass  
Fri: 9am & 10:45am Christmas Day Mass  
Sun 27th: No Children's liturgy at 9am & 10:45am Mass  
Tea & Coffee after 10:45am Mass



### 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; Rose Knight; Oliver Farrell; Seeta Pillay; Christopher Miles; Pat McCoy; John Dunlop, Elise O'Connor, Malcolm Bowen, John Gilford, Chris Norman, Bridget Crook, Baby Tabitha Harrison, Christine Vernon, Peggy Sisman, Maureen Kelly, Sheila French, Val Williams, Mary Wallace, Maria Saunders, Don Hancock, Gina Waiton & Joe Kelly.

### Christingle Service - Wednesday 23rd

#### December at 3.00pm

All children in the Parish will be welcome at this special Service, which celebrates the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World. There are simple instruction leaflets in the church porch, explaining how to make a Christingle. If any secondary aged young people would like to help at the Service, please telephone Biddy by Monday 21st Dec. (345749)



### Second Collections

on Friday there will be a second collection for your Christmas offering. This collection is eligible for Parish Gift Aid, please use your purple envelopes.

For Bletchingley parishioners: there will be a service of nine lessons and Carols Service today (Sunday Dec 20th) at 5:00 pm in the (Anglican) parish church. Catholics have had a close connection with the parish church in Bletchingley for many years. Deacon Tim from Redhill will be present.

### Sacraments for the Sick

If you know of anyone who through age or infirmity is unable to come to Mass but would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please would you let me or Eliz Wood know? Nobody should be deprived of the sacraments if it can be avoided.

On a similar theme, should you be seriously ill, please do ask me for the Sacrament of the Sick. I would be happy to come out and administer it, or if you are able to come to Mass, you can ask afterwards and we can do it there and then. This also applies if you are going to have a general anaesthetic. Please don't be shy about it: I have seen great things result from this sacrament.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2015 /2016

During the festive period, please remember that all candidates need to collect a badge from a catechist **before** Mass and **return** it after Mass. **If you are late for Mass** and are unable to get a badge please find a catechist at the end of Mass.

You will have received your First Holy Communion dates via email - if you haven't received your notification please let us know.

If you haven't already signed up for your sessions please email [fhc.sacredheart@gmail.com](mailto:fhc.sacredheart@gmail.com) with your preferred dates.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 30th January 2016, 3:45pm - Parent & Child session 4A  
Sunday 31st January 2016, 3:45pm - Parent & Child session 4B  
Saturday 27th February 2016, 3:45pm - Parent & Child session 5A  
Sunday 28th February 2016, 3:45pm - Parent & Child session 5B  
Saturday 19th March 2016, 3:45pm - Parent & Child session 6A  
Sunday 20th March 2016, 3:45pm - Parent & Child session 6B  
Thursday 14th April 2016, 8pm - 9pm - Parent Session (Old Hall)  
Saturday 23rd April 2016, 3:45pm - Parent & Child session 7A  
Sunday 24th April 2016, 3:45pm - Parent & Child session 7B

If you have any questions, please contact Anne Marie Young via email on [fhc.sacredheart@gmail.com](mailto:fhc.sacredheart@gmail.com).



### Youth Club - Friday 8th January

The first Youth Club session of 2016 will be a film night in the Old Hall at 7pm on Friday 8th January.

Entry £1 including film (tbc), popcorn and drinks. Youth Club is open to all children in the juniors at primary school, ie years 3 to 6 inclusive. If you are interested in registering your child, please contact Mel Flaherty at [youthclubsacredheart@gmail.com](mailto:youthclubsacredheart@gmail.com)

### New Year's Eve Party

We are going to have a New Year's Party in the Centenary Hall. Tickets will go on sale after each Sunday Mass. If you would like to volunteer to help please contact Mark on 07736750085.



## CONTACTS

### Parish Office:

Leila Merrett  
info@sacred-heart.co.uk  
01883 343241

### Centenary Hall Hire

Anne Marie Young  
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

Anne Marie Young  
07949 938984  
fhc.sacredheart@gmail.com

### Confirmation

Allison Pullin 01883 382506  
al.pullin@ntlworld.com

### Safeguarding:

Dee Hall and 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

### Tuesday Toddlers 9.30-11.00:

Kelly Coyne: 07921 030991  
kelly.coyne@btinternet.com

### Parish Youth Clubs:

(First Friday during school term. 7pm)  
Mel Flaherty  
youthclubsacredheart@gmail.com

### 5th Caterham Scouts

Paul Lovell: 07712 436591  
paul\_lovell@rocketmail.com

### Chill Club

(Last Friday during school term. 7pm)  
Veronique Wood

### St. Francis Primary School:

Head teacher: Maria Wheeler  
01883 342005

## THIS WEEK—SERVICES, MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### Sunday 20th

*Fourth Sunday in Advent 'O Clavis David'*

9:00am Mass

People of the Parish

10:45am Mass

Ebenezer Moses RIP (M Aranda)

5:15pm Mass

Winston Edward (AR Edward)

### Monday 21st

*Weekday in Greater Advent commemoration of  
St Peter Canisius 'O Oriens'*

10:00am Mass

Col. McCarthy RIP (B McCarthy)

### Tuesday 22nd

*Weekday in Greater Advent 'O Rex Gentium'*

10:00am Mass

All those affected by Abortion (A Pullin)

### Wednesday 23rd

*Weekday in Greater Advent 'O Emmanuel'*

10:00am Latin Mass

Connie Cronin RIP (Family)

### Thursday 24th

*Christmas Eve*

6pm Mass

Secular Priests' Common Fund

9pm Mass

Bridie Mullen (Neary Family)

Midnight Mass

People of the Parish

### Friday 25th

*The Nativity of The Lord*

9am Mass

People of the Parish

10:45am Mass

Manuel Christiansen Jamulis Ints (AR Edward)

### Saturday 26th

10:00am Mass

Thanksgiving (C&R Sowa)

### Sunday 27th

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

9:00am Mass

People of the Parish

10:45am Mass

Hilda & Rodney Peck RIP (Wood Family)

5:15pm Mass

Seamus Horrocks RIP (Bernie)

*Father Seán & the Office would like to  
wish you all a Merry Christmas and a  
very Prosperous & Happy New Year!*

