

Sunday 27th November 2016  
First Sunday of Advent

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

**Parish Priest:**  
**Fr Seán Finnegan**  
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Psalter Week 1

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

Second Sunday in Advent

*Isaiah 11:1-10*

*Romans 15:4-9*

*Matthew 3:1-12*

## Gospel Reflection

Many a novel and film has featured the classic scene of the death-bed conversion. The old rascal receiving absolution after a lifetime of dissipation makes for good drama.

Thanks be to God, such happy endings are not confined to fiction. It really is never too late, in this life, to repent, and the shadow of death does sometimes encourage people to respond to that Divine Grace which dissolves the bonds of a lifetime of sin in an instant. We should never begrudge such blessings. Each one of us is in such need of God's grace that we should rejoice whenever, and to whomever, it is given.

Deliberately to leave everything to the last minute, however, would be like playing Russian Roulette with our immortal souls. Our Lord reminds us over and over again that we do not know the day when we shall be called to account. The spectre of terrorism in the modern world should reinforce in us the realisation that death might overtake us at any moment.

Beginning Advent on such a note is not to cast a pall of gloom over the forthcoming celebration of Christmas. The coming of Our Lord into our hearts at Baptism means that we have the beginning of eternal life already within us. In this light, death becomes just the final bridge to be crossed before we find ourselves safely on terra firma, forever.

The message of today's Gospel is to "stand firm" in that baptismal grace. Advent is a time to reflect on how to readjust our priorities. If Our Lord were to return at this very moment, we should ask ourselves, how would He find us: totally lost in the pursuit of money and pleasure; or at least trying to make ourselves more faithful to His Gospel?

**Magnificat** - There are copies of Magnificat available for sale in the shop. This booklet contains all the mass readings and devotional readings for a month. It is pocket size and is very popular.

### 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.

The Art of Dying Well is a new website that offers a helping hand to those grappling with issues around death and dying. Based in the Catholic tradition but open to all, it features real-life stories about dealing with the journey through death to eternal life.

There are some prayer cards in the porch for you to take.

[www.artofdyingwell.org](http://www.artofdyingwell.org)

Today there will be a Second Collection for Prisoners Advice and Care Trust (PACT). This is NOT eligible for Parish Gift Aid, however PACT have provided their own envelopes for you to use in the porch.



Please pray for the soul of Paul Lovell RIP and Paul's family in your prayers. His remembrance service will be held here on Thursday 1st December 2016 at 2pm  
May he rest in peace.

### Saturday 31st December 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)

### COAT

#### Barn Dance with the Odd Sock Doo Dum Band

SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2016 7:15pm for 7:30pm



Tickets £12 (children £6) from 01883 380104 / 07905 718346 or Ann Walker 01883 624773.

Sausage and chips included (vegetarian option if booked in advance) and puddings! Bar in the hall



### 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.

### Parish Womens Group

Friday 9th December Business Meeting and Social 7.30pm - 10 pm Old Hall. All welcome.

Beginning on St Andrew's Day, 30 November, 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.

### SVP Film Club – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00pm in the Old Hall

This month's film will be 'Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'. An acclaimed cast, including Maggie Smith and Judi Dench, lights up this romantic comedy.



### Health & Safety

Following on from many previous notices about parking, parishioners are continuing to park too close to the entrance end exit of the drive and on grass verges. In the event of an emergency there is no vehicular access for emergency services due to parking on the yellow lines.

Please can we reiterate the importance of not blocking the drive in this way - it could be your life in danger.



What happens at Mass? Why?

Find out with an outline of the Mass.

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

**8.00p.m. Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November,  
in the Old Hall**

### Parish Christmas Market - Thank you!

A massive 'thank you' to all those who contributed to such a lovely Parish event last Sunday. The Christmas Market was a great fundraising success, with a final total of approximately £2,900. However, we all know that the true success of such an occasion goes well beyond this. It was such a joy to see the spirit of generosity, cooperation and mutual support of all those involved. There was a great feel of community coming together, which also seemed to draw in wider families and friends, indeed the whole Parish. CAFOD and the Society of St Vincent de Paul will each receive a third of the proceeds of the Market.

Well done and thank you, to everyone!

Well done to all our prize winners.

Ticket - Pink 777 - Nuria Foxant (please collect from the Office) - Large Hamper, Ticket - Yellow 784 - Paul Hooper - Wine Hamper, Ticket - Yellow 254 - Elizabeth Leake - Small Christmas Hamper, Ticket - Yellow 686 - Laura Webb - True Beauty Voucher, Ticket - Yellow 138 - Julia Periera - Family of Chumleys, Ticket - Pink 746 - Christophe Ciccardini - Bath robes & beauty products, Name the Teddy winner - 'Pooky' - Kiera Young, Cheesecake winner - Peggy Wheeldon, Guess the weight of the cake winner - Jim Waiton.

### Offertory Collection

Sincere thanks for your generosity last weekend:

Offertory: £901.51 (Gift Aid: £374.07)

Second collection (Cathedral Fund): £282.67 (£138.90)

## WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK



- Sun 27th: Children's liturgy at 9am & 10:45am Mass  
Coffee and Tea after the 10:45am Mass  
after 10:45am Mass Leaven group Meeting
- Mon: Teas & coffee after Mass  
2pm SVP Film afternoon (Old Hall)
- 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: 7:30pm Parishes for Peace talk (Old Hall)
- Sat: 12pm St Francis Christmas Fayre (School)
- Sun 4th: Children's liturgy at 9am & 10:45am Mass  
Coffee and Tea after the 10:45am Mass  
after both Masses Christmas Fairtrade stall



## 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.

**St. Francis' RC Primary School**  
**Christmas Fayre**  
**Saturday 3rd December**  
**12pm - 3pm**

**Park & Bailey**  
*All about people & property*

Cash raffle prizes £125, £75, £50 – donated by Park & Bailey  
Lots more prizes ★ Christmas shopping stalls ★ Bottle stall  
Christmas crafts ★ Mulled wine, Irish coffees & bar ★ Festive food  
Lots of fun games ★ Face painting ★ Santa's Grotto  
**Entry £1 per adult, children free**

St. Francis' RC Primary School, Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5ED

St Francis School raffle tickets will be sold after the 10:45am Mass during the teas and coffee.

The 10.45 Leaven Group will be meeting in the Old Hall after Mass on 27th November. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend or please pass any comments to a member of the group. Thank you.

Sunday 4th December The Justice and Peace Group will be holding a special Christmas Fairtrade stall in the Old Hall after the 9am and 10.45am Mass selling food and gifts please do come along. Thank you

**Justice & Peace** - The next meeting will be on Monday 5th December at 7:45pm in the Old Hall.

Parishes for Peace [www.parishesforpeace.com](http://www.parishesforpeace.com)



There will be a talk on behalf of **Parishes for Peace** given by Carmen Narbona from Weybridge Parish, supported by Aidan Cantwell from Arundel and Brighton Diocese in the Old Hall immediately following Mass on Friday Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

The objective of Parishes for Peace is to link parishes in the UK with Catholic parishes in Jordan who are giving shelter and support to about 7000 Christian refugees ejected from Mosul in Iraq by Isis.

Christians were given as little as 2 hours to convert, leave Mosul or die. After abandoning their homes they were given sanctuary by the King of Jordan. At first they were housed in portakabins in church car parks. Now they are living in cramped accommodation in Amman and other Jordanian towns in Catholic parishes. Refugee camps are not considered safe for them so they fall through the net of the large charities.

**Parishes for Peace** is trying to link Jordanian parishes directly with UK parishes. The Iraqis are not allowed to work so parishes here raise funds for food, personal expenses, electricity, water and English lessons.

"Just to know that there are Christians in the UK who pray for them is a great consolation."

There is more detailed information on the website

[www.parishesforpeace.com](http://www.parishesforpeace.com). **Please join us on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

## 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!

## **The John Fisher School - Vacancy**



**Clerk to the Governing Body** - Required as soon as possible closing date Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016. Interviews will be held week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**SCIENCE TECHNICIAN** - closing date Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016. Interviews will be held week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016. See notice board for full details.

## **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**

<b>Sunday 27th</b>	<i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>
9:00am Mass	Con McCarthy RIP (B McCarthy)
10:45am Mass	Florence Flaherty (Flaherty family)
5:15pm Mass	People of the Parish
<b>Monday 28th</b>	
10am Mass	John Doyle November list of the dead
<b>Tuesday 29th</b>	
10am Mass	Michael Haugh RIP (Haugh family)
<b>Wednesday 30th</b>	<i>St Andrew</i>
10am Mass	For the intentions within the Book of the Dead
<b>Thursday 1st</b>	
2pm Funeral	Service for Paul Lovell RIP
<b>Friday 2nd</b>	
7pm Mass	Marriage Thanksgiving (Famori family)
<b>Saturday 3rd</b>	<i>St Francis Xavier</i>
10am Mass	Pat & Bill Webber RIP (Kelly family)
<b>Sunday 4th</b>	<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>
9:00am Mass	Madge Burke RIP (Jones & Crispin family)
10:45am Mass	People of the Parish
5:15pm Mass	Palma Ferri Hilton RIP

**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