



Sunday 08 December 2024

NEWSLETTER

2nd Sunday of Advent

KT2 7LX. Tel: 020 8546 8732, Email: kingstonhill@caos.org.uk

'God will guide you in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and integrity for escort.' (Baruch 5:9)

Dear Parishioner,

This Sunday, 8th December, will be a radiant day for our parish as we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent—a time to reflect on God's promise of peace, light, and salvation.

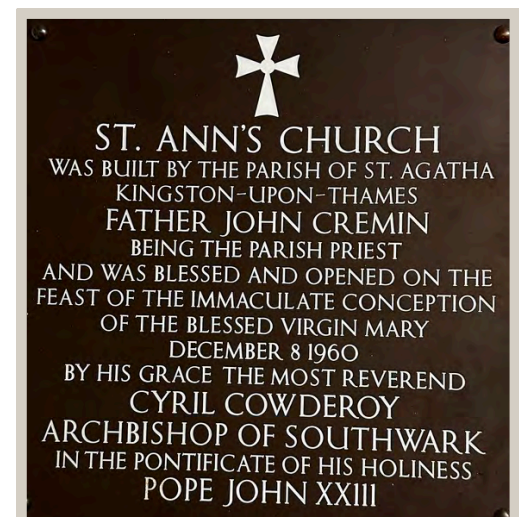
The prophet Baruch calls us to hope: "Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God forever... God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and integrity for escort." Advent invites us to prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, the Light of the World.

Our celebration this Sunday will highlight three special moments:

- The Lighting of the Christmas Lights: During Mass, we will illuminate our indoor decorations, symbolising Christ's light. After Mass, we'll hold a joyful outdoor lighting ceremony, welcoming Father Christmas to spread cheer.
- The Procession of the New Lectionary: Before the proclamation of the Word, the new Lectionary, recently approved by the Bishops of England and Wales, will be brought in procession, marking a fresh chapter in proclaiming God's Word.
- The Church Anniversary: We commemorate 64 years since the blessing and opening of St. Ann's in 1960, giving thanks for our shared journey of faith.

As John the Baptist calls in the Gospel: "Prepare the way of the Lord." Let us come together in prayer, song, and celebration, embracing the joy and hope of Advent.

Fr James Raj, Parish Priest, (jamesraj@caos.org.uk)



2nd Sunday of Advent

Celebration of the Christmas Lights

A G E N D A

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (522)

Penitential Rite

Lighting of the Indoor Christmas Lights: 8 members & Altar servers

Hymn: "Christ, Be Our Light" (Bernadette Farrell)

Lighting of the Advent Candles: Lit by Holy Cross School members

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Procession of the Lectionary

Mass Readings

Bidding Prayers: Led by Children.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn: "Blest Are You, Lord God of All Creation" (90)

Communion Hymns: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" (478) & "Soul of My Saviour" (663)

Recessional Hymn: "Holy Virgin, by God's Decree" (263)

LIGHTING OF THE OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Lit in Two phases.

Songs Played: "**Joy to the World**" and Christmas instrumentals over the speaker.

Arrival of Father Christmas

Refreshments in the Hall

(Pre-Christmas celebration)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION

Indoor Lighting Ceremony: During the Mass, we will symbolically light up our church to reflect the light of Christ that dispels all darkness. People sitting at the side of the pews will first light the candles along the pews and windows, filling the church with a warm and inviting glow. Designated individuals with remotes will then illuminate the Christmas tree, Nativity crib, and Jesse tree. Let this lighting lead us to a deeper reflection on the hope and joy of Advent.

Lectionary Procession: To honour the introduction of the new translation of the Lectionary, we will have a solemn procession before the first reading. Representatives from our parish community—a child, a youth, an elder, and a teacher—will carry the four volumes of the Lectionary into the sanctuary. This act symbolises the shared responsibility of all generations in embracing and proclaiming the Word of God. It marks a meaningful step in our liturgical journey, inviting us to engage with Scripture with renewed reverence and understanding.

Outdoor Lighting Ceremony: After the Mass, we invite everyone to step outside for the grand outdoor illumination of the church and its surroundings. The outdoor lighting will occur in three distinct phases, highlighting different areas of the church and grounds. Each phase will be accompanied by a collective countdown from 5 to 1, inviting everyone to participate in this joyous and festive moment. Volunteers will oversee the process, ensuring a smooth and memorable experience for all.

Special Gifts for the Kids: All children attending the Mass will receive an RGB-coloured Christmas ring light after the announcements are over. These vibrant lights are a small token of joy to mark this festive season. Additionally, children who have drawn Jesse Tree pictures and submitted them will receive an extra ring light as a special recognition of their creativity and effort.

Wine, Tea and Coffee after Sunday 4 pm Mass

Everyone is warmly invited to join us for wine, refreshments, tea, and coffee after the outdoor lights are switched on. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect, share, and get to know one another better. Children can enjoy the Kids' Corner, a fun space to make new friends.

ST ANN'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH, KINGSTON HILL - KT2 7LX

1 JANUARY 2025 TO
31 DECEMBER 2025

CREATING FAITH FAMILY



ANNUAL PLANNER & VOLUNTEERS GUIDE

PARISH PRIEST: REV FR JAMES RAJ

WWW.STANNSKINGSTONHILL.ORG.UK

Next Sunday Release

Annual Parish Planner and Volunteer Guide

St. Ann's Annual Parish Planner and Volunteer Guide for the coming liturgical year, covering all major parish events and activities will be officially released on **Gaudete Sunday, 15th December, during the 10:30 AM Mass**, with Canon Gerald Bradley as our main celebrant. The planner is designed to help us stay connected and actively engaged in our parish life, while the Volunteer Guide highlights various ways to serve within our community.

Jesse Tree at St Ann's

A big thank you to our wonderful children for enhancing the Jesse Tree with their beautiful drawings, telling the stories of the Old Testament. Your creativity brings joy and meaning to our Advent journey.

We invite everyone to continue engaging with the Jesse Tree by placing your prayers and intentions in the box provided. Let us place our hopes and faith in God as we prepare for Christmas. These prayers will be offered at the Christmas Vigil Mass and placed at the crib, symbolising our shared trust in God's promises. Thank you all for making this tradition so special.





Invitation from Holy Cross School For Christmas Mass

Holy Cross Preparatory School has extended a warm invitation to all St. Ann's parishioners for **their end-of-term Christmas Mass on Friday, 13th December, at 10:30 AM.** We encourage you to attend this special celebration and join the school community in joyful worship. Fr James Raj will be the celebrant.

Thank you St Ann's Youth

A heartfelt thank you to all our youth who participated in last week's activities and the official installation of St. Ann's Youth Group. We are especially grateful for their wonderful contribution in installing the bird feeder in front of the church. This thoughtful act reflects their care for creation and our shared commitment to nurturing both community and nature. May this be the beginning of many inspiring initiatives from our youth. Let us continue to encourage and support them as they grow in faith, fellowship, and service within our parish.

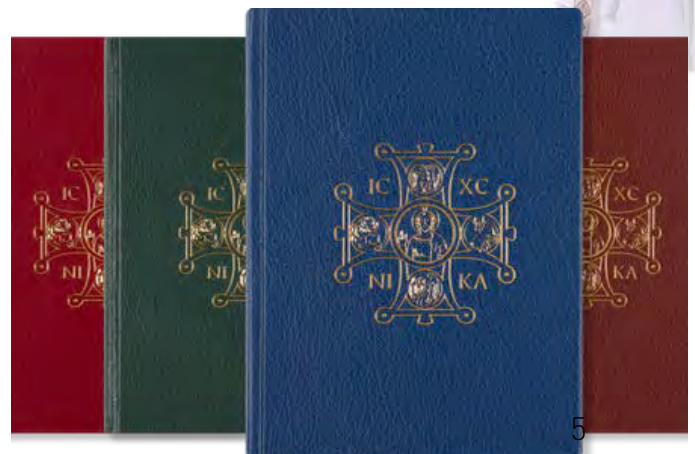


You Are Welcome to Sponsor

We invite parishioners to consider sponsoring the following items recently acquired for the church:

- **New Lectionary (4 volumes)
£695 (£176 each volume)**
- **Altar Servers' Albs (14)
£700 (£50 each alb)**

You can choose to sponsor an item entirely or contribute partially. Your generosity ensures we can continue to enhance our liturgical celebrations and parish resources.





Christmas Preparations



1. **Recent Developments at St. Ann's:** We are pleased to share some recent updates at St. Ann's:
 - Digital Display: A new digital news board has been installed in the porch for parish updates.
 - Safety Improvements: Radiator pipes have been boxed for children's safety.
 - Refurbished Toilets: Our toilets have been upgraded for greater comfort.
 - New Sound System: Cardless, handheld, and readers' microphones have been installed to enhance audio during Mass.
2. **Christmas season at St. Ann's** is filled with many meaningful events:
 - a. **Third Week:** Releasing our annual planner and volunteer's guide, fostering shared commitment to our parish mission.
 - b. **Fourth Week Saturday:** A time for reconciliation and spiritual preparation, readying us for Christmas joy.
 - c. On **Christmas Eve**, we will gather for carol singing by our parishioners, followed by a heartwarming nativity play by our children, bringing the story of Christ's birth to life.
3. **Blessing of Homes for Christmas:** If you would like your home to be blessed for the Christmas season, please let me know. I will be happy to visit and bless your household.
4. **Sick and Housebound Parishioners:** If you know of any parishioners who are housebound or unwell—whether a family member, friend, or neighbour—please share their details with us. You may leave the information in the designated box at the back of the church or email.
5. **Carol Singing:** We are welcoming new singers to join our carol singing. If you're interested, please add your name to the sign-up list provided. Carol singing will take place before the Mass at 6:30 pm on Christmas Eve.
6. **Children's Crib Competition:** Children aged 15 and under are invited to create a Christmas crib at home. Homemade designs will be given special consideration. Submit pictures via email to kingstonhill@rcaos.org.uk by 22nd December, 7:00 PM. The top three will win prizes, and the winner's name will be inscribed on the Rolling Trophy. We look forward to your creative entries.



*Thank you for joining in our Christmas preparations
and preparing to celebrate the season with us.*



Mass Timing

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday - 10 am, Tuesday - 7 Pm, Saturday - 6 pm (Vigil Mass) & Sunday - 10.30 am
Thursday: Day off



Support during Christmas “Bethlehem Box”

This Christmas, let’s bring joy to the less fortunate with gifts that embody the festive spirit. We warmly welcome contributions of **wine, chocolates, and gift vouchers**. Please place your donations in the “Bethlehem Box” placed near Mother Mary’s Chapel. These gifts will be distributed to the poor, needy and deserving, helping everyone feel the warmth and joy of the season.



Christmas Preparation Donation

Please use the QR code to donate for the preparation for the Christmas especially for decoration indoor and outdoor, gifts for the poor and needy and gifts for the kids and altar servers of the church



Donate - St Ann's

For St Ann’s Church Offering
Account Name: RCAS Kingston Hill
Account Number: 79124429
Sort Code: 60-50-01, Bank: NatWest

Thank you for being part of our St. Ann's family.
Let's pray for one another and for the growth of our parish family.