

A parishioner writes:

SUNDAY REFLECTION

In the first reading Isaiah relates the Magnificat, said by The Blessed Virgin prior to Jesus' birth. Mary was only in her mid-teens when Jesus was born, having agreed, from an Angel to accept God's plan for the world, being the birth of Jesus, becoming man on earth.

The second reading relates by St Paul, to always say 'thank you' to God, for whatever we receive. Sadly, through men and Woman's Wills, God acts, and how few of us say 'thank you'.

The Gospel shows St John the Baptist as a Prophet paving the way for Jesus' coming. It was St John who baptised Jesus in the Jordan. St John understood the role that Jesus was to play in the world, being God's plan for the human race.

Advent is a time of preparation for the feast of Christmas. We should put the festivities into perspective, and realise that the main aim at Christmas, is to celebrate Jesus' coming first and foremost. Parties and gifts should take second place, which sadly, sometimes do not in our secular world.

Advent is also a time for Peace and forgiveness in the world. Let us reach out to anyone we need to forgive, starting the New Year with a contrite heart.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday	8.30 am UCM (For the homeless)	Thursday	8.00 am Luknika Deimel <i>RIP</i>
	10.00 am John Conroy <i>RIP</i>		6.15 pm Assumption & P Silveira <i>RIP</i>
	11.15 am Lynette Gozmao <i>RIP</i>	Friday	8.00 am Jane Luton (Recovery)
	6.15 pm P Walsh&N McCafferty <i>RIP</i>		3.00 pm Holy Souls (Hospital)
Monday	8.00 am Liberata Cabral <i>RIP</i>		6.15 pm Felix Nunes <i>RIP</i>
	6.15pm M B Reilly <i>RIP</i>	Saturday	10.00 pm Joaquim Mendes <i>RIP</i>
Tuesday	8.00 am Philip Rebello <i>RIP</i>		6.15 pm Lynette Gozmao <i>RIP</i>
	10.00 am Req Mass J G Hook <i>RIP</i>	Sunday	8.30 am Pro Pop
	6.15 pm Joe Mendes <i>RIP</i>		10.00 am Ann Connolly <i>RIP</i>
Wednesday	10.00 am Req Mass AM Malone <i>RIP</i>		11.15 am Intention of Mr & Mrs Vaz
	6.15 pm Elizabeth McKenna <i>RIP</i>		6.15 pm Jerome, Agnes & Christy <i>RIP</i>

INTEGRITY AND FERTILITY

Talk by Veronica Pierson of the BOM Trust on the dignity of young people in terms of their relationships: Monday, 5 January from 7.00 – 8.30pm in the Lower New Hall; organised by Wandsworth SPUC.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Last week's collection: £1,301.00. Thank you.

ST ANSELM'S CHURCH

9 Tooting Bec Road, London SW17 8BS Telephone: 020 8672 2179
www.st-anselms-tooting-bec.org.uk

3rd Sunday of Advent 14th December 2008

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Parish Team:

Fr William Hebborn,

Fr Oliver Antao & Thelma Lewis

Messages for Fr Gary (resident) 07623 766194

Parish Sisters:

The Little Company of Mary

Mass Times: Saturday evening 6.15 pm,

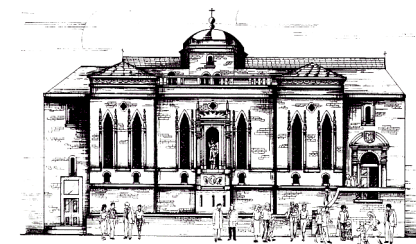
Sunday 8.30, 10.00, 11.15 am & 6.15 pm.

Mass times during the week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8.00 am & 6.15 pm.

Wednesday & Saturday 10.00 am & 6.15 pm. (No 8.00 am.)

Holydays: 8.00, 10.00 am & 6.15 pm & 8.00 pm

Confessions: Saturday 11.30 – 12.30 pm & 7.00 pm



WEEKDAY READINGS

Monday: Num 24:2-7.15-17; Ps 24; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zeph 3:1-2.9-13; Ps 33; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gen 49:2.8-10; Ps 71; Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 71; Mt 1:18-24

Friday: Judg 13:2-7.24-25; Ps 70; Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 23; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday: 2 Sam 7:1-16; Ps 88; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND OF THE PARISH

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

The prophet joyfully proclaims the Lord's jubilee, when good news and liberty are brought to those who are poor and those held captive.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

St Paul urges his readers to be always happy, to hold on to what is good and avoid evil, and to pray at all times. He hopes for their safety until the coming of the Lord.

Gospel John 1:6-8. 19-28

John the Baptist is a witness to the coming of the Lord, the light of the world. He prepares the way, and acknowledges the true status of the one who is to come.

RECENTLY DECEASED Requiem Mass for Jacques Georgy Hook on **Tuesday 16th December at 10am** and for Anne Marie Malone on **Wednesday 17th December at 10am**. Please remember both families and friends in your prayers.

CENTENARY LAUNCH WEEKEND

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th January 2009

It is with great pleasure we invite you to attend an evening celebrating our past, embedding our present and shaping our future, including an exhibition of our past which will be part of our Centenary celebrations through the year of 2009.

We acknowledge our responsibilities with the Covenant with the Poor and the Parish has committed to supporting 'The Nest Children's Home' in Nairobi, where mothers and babies are cared for and rehabilitated back into normal life. For more information please visit their website:

<http://uhuru.de/thenesthome/the-childrens-home-das-kinderheim/>

This event will take place on **Saturday 17th January 2009** in the Crypt, Balham High Road entrance commencing with a Reception at **7.45pm**.

This is an adult only evening and limited tickets are available (first come, first served) for this 'Once in a Century Event'. **Parishioners are invited to purchase tickets from the parish office (Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday) at £15 per person.** All funds raised throughout this evening and Centenary Year will be used to provide necessary building projects equipment/general funding at the Nest Children's Home.

Sunday 18th January 2009 2.00-5.00pm

Families will be invited to view the exhibition of the history of our parish and enjoy some entertainment, music and tea! Full details to follow in the New Year.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Catholic clergy have very little income. They rely almost entirely on our Christmas & Easter offerings, so let's please be generous. If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme, please write your number or name on the reverse of the envelope. The tax reclaimed on Christmas/Easter offerings belongs to the parish, not the clergy, but it forms a very useful contribution to the general finances – and costs you nothing.

ST ANSELM'S CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS – Carol Service & Midnight Mass

Be a St A's Soprano, an Anselm Alto, a Tooting Tenor or a Bass in the Bec – join the choir as we prepare for the great feasts of the liturgical year. Rehearsals for Christmas: **Wednesday 17th (Amended from Tuesday 16th) & Monday 22nd December 7.45pm** upper new hall.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FILM We will be showing the film 'Scrooge' on **Saturday 20th December** in the upper new hall from 7.30pm. Refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies will be served. Please sign the sheet at the rear of the church to help us with numbers for the evening. Come along and be part of this year's Christmas Story. See posters at the rear of the church for full details

UCM CHRISTMAS TABLE DECORATION WORKSHOP Many apologies, but we have had to cancel the workshop on **Monday 15th December**.

ST ANSELM'S SHOP

Open as usual on Sunday mornings as well as the Saturdays leading up to Christmas. Come in and see our full range of Christmas cards, cribs and gifts. All welcome!

SHOP ROTA (Jan – Dec 2009) Now ready for collection from the shop or parish office (Tues/Wed/Fri) – would all volunteers collect their copy as soon as possible. Thank you.

PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Thursday 18th December at 8pm in the church. We encourage you to come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the great feast of Christmas 'A pure heart create in me, O God, and give me again the joy of your help'.

CHILDREN OF THE PARISH – 4th Sunday of Advent Holy Hour 21st December

The children of the parish will lead the Holy Hour 'The Christmas Story' a short play by mime with readings carols. If you would like to be involved, please come to the upper new hall at **3.45pm for a dress rehearsal prior to the service at 5pm**. This is a lovely service for all the family as we prepare for the great celebration of Christmas, so do come and join us. All welcome.

TUESDAY INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP will **NOT** meet until after Christmas, date to be confirmed in the New Year. Thank you.

LITTLE ANGELS TODDLER GROUP

The playgroup is now closed for the Christmas holidays. We shall re-open on Wednesday 28th January 2009 9-11am in the old hall, Balham High Road entrance.

SMOKED & BBQ SALMON ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS PLEASE COLLECT TODAY

Please collect your orders from outside the shop today between 8.45am-12.30pm.

WELCOME GROUP Come and join us in the lower new hall after the 10am Family Mass today and enjoy tea, coffee and hot mince pies and cream. We will meet again in the New Year (Sunday 11th January 2009).

PARISH CENTENARY

We are looking for the following items to borrow for an exhibition/display: Child of Mary cloak and veil. The Penny Catechism. An old Latin Missal with memorial cards. We would also like any photographic material dating from 1909 to 1933. Please contact Tom Gately on 07795 184056 if you can help. Thank you.

GREEN FOLIAGE to decorate the church for Christmas would be very welcome by **Friday 19th December**. Thank you.