



Sacred Heart, Teddington

www.sacredheartteddington.org.uk

Parish Newsletter

25TH DECEMBER 2022

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

SOLEMNITY

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



May the Peace, Joy and Love of the infant Jesus be with you this Christmas and throughout 2023.

Fr. Stephen

Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.' (Acts 13:16-17; 22-25.) How fascinating is our faith history with its roots in the Jewish faith and customs, culminating with Jesus' death on a cross. The Jews were slaves in Egypt and then they returned to Israel. Protagonists are Abraham, David, and a time of exile in Babylon and return to Israel. All the while people's sins have been the cause of their downfall and have followed them. Their infidelity has always been met by mercy, justice and love – Salvation for God's people. God saved his people from their sins. Jesus came to save us from ours and continues to do so daily. Thank you Lord for saving us through the forgiveness of our sins. My prayer option: a) thank you for the joy and peace I experience in being freed from my sins; b) give me the strength and courage to confess my sins. LOVE, HOPE, PEACE, JOY fused in one. Let my Advent journey culminate in FAITH IN ACTION: LOVING SERVICE FOR MY NEIGHBOUR.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for December: VOLUNTEER NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

CHRISTMAS AT SACRED HEART

SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

6pm; 9.30pm Carols before 10pm Mass

Christmas Day

10am only

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE – To Sacred Heart parishioners, your families, friends and to our visitors and those who follow the newsletters on-line. A special prayer for any who are bereaved or housebound. A prayer of thanksgiving for the faith journey of 2022. There have been joys and sorrows, ups and downs, worries and reassurances. We have revived the sacraments and reopened doors, even though the church building is closed.

Thanks to all our volunteers including regulars and newcomers. Next year we will face difficulties together as we look to see how to move forward with fundraising and repairs. Please think of ways to support us, looking at home for initiatives and further afield for grants.

Let us pray for each other. Let us pray to God-with-us for individuals and families struggling with the financial crisis and other worries.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Wishing you faith, peace, joy and love from all of the pupils and staff of Sacred Heart school.

Illustrated by Sammy, Year 2, 2022.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, St Mark's Road, Teddington, TW11 9DD



ARE YOU A VISITOR OR NEWCOMER TO OUR PARISH THIS CHRISTMAS? LEARN ABOUT US!

About us

We are a warm, welcoming Catholic community serving the people of Teddington, Hampton Wick and beyond. We hope you will enjoy your time in our company and that you will find opportunities to return.

Construction and repair work means we cannot use our church building this Christmas but the atmosphere when we meet to pray and celebrate the Mass in our parish rooms is just as prayerful and profound. We have music groups at both Sunday Masses, a weekday congregation and many other welcoming groups within the parish community. We welcome non-Catholics keen to explore their faith.

Sons of Divine Providence

The parish is under the stewardship of Fr Stephen Beale FDP of the Sons of Divine Providence, a religious congregation with a special devotion to its founder, St Luigi Orione. We give thanks for their involvement in our parish's life and welcome Fr. Fernando Fornero FDP who will be visiting the Sons of Divine Providence's UK community until 8 January. See the community's magazine, "The Bridge", online at www.sonsofdivineprovidence.org.uk – click on Support Us, and then Publications.

If you feel able, please support the work of the Sons of Divine Providence and Don Orione Sisters who are working on the ground in Ukraine. They ask for our prayers and, if possible, donations to support their work. Donations buy food, medicine and clothing for the needy. Bank transfer reference: "Ukraine Emergency" Payee: Don Orione Onlus Foundation To: BANK: Sanpaolo Spa, Milano; IBAN: IT57 030 6909 6061 0000 0001 484; BIC / SWIFT CODE: BCITITMMXXX. Thank you.

Fundraising

We are fundraising to contribute to the significant costs of repairing and restoring our beautiful church for worship. If you feel able to contribute, our bank account is: HSBC Bank plc. Account no. 21094548 Sort Code 40-05-20, Account name: WRCDT Teddington (& Hampton Wick). Please mark your payment "Repair donation" and email us to ask for a gift aid form to increase the donation at no cost to you. Thank you.

School

Sacred Heart has a wonderful parish school, which serves children of Catholic and non-Catholic families alike. "Our mission is to create a harmonious Catholic community, where each one of us is a valued member who can 'grow in love', guided by the teaching of the Catholic Church." Admissions for Reception in 2023 close on 15 January, and tours of the school are available before the deadline. Call 020 8977 6591 to book a place on the tour.

Sacraments

Families who wish their children to make their Baptism, Holy Communion or Confirmation in 2023 should email as follows: Baptism teddington@rcdow.org.uk; Holy Communion teddingtoncat1@rcdow.org.uk; Confirmation teddingtoncat2@rcdow.org.uk. Those wishing to marry or prepare for marriage in the parish should email teddington@rcdow.org.uk.

Safeguarding

Our parish safeguarding representative is Estella Weston, who can be contacted on teddingtonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk.

Finances

Our grateful thanks to all parishioners who continue to support the parish financially. November: Standing Orders: **£2,189** Last Sunday loose plate collection **£178.79**. Standing Order forms are available by emailing teddington@rcdow.org.uk. Gift aided contributions will raise an extra 25% to boost the parish finances at no extra cost to you. Thank you.

Warm spaces in Teddington

Everyone should have a warm and welcoming space to go this winter, so Teddington's churches and halls are opening our doors to provide free and cosy places for anyone that would like to come along. You can pop in for a hot drink and a chat, stay as long as you like, charge your phone or play with your kids. Everyone is welcome at all venues, no need to be a churchgoer. These spaces are free, warm, welcoming and safe. Richmond Council's website has a full list of warm welcome sites, or ask at Teddington Library for further details. **Please note that Sacred Heart hall's warm space will be opened once we have extra heating in place.**

Weekend and Weekday Masses

Day	Date	Mass Details	Time	Notes
Saturday	24 th Dec	Christmas Eve Mass Carols and Christmas Night Mass	6pm 9.30pm	Parishioners Fr. Stephen's intentions
Sunday	25 th Dec	The Nativity of the Lord	10am	Family return to faith
Monday	26 th Dec	St Stephen, the first Martyr	10am	Special intention
Tuesday	27 th Dec	St John, Apostle, Evangelist	9.30am	Sick and deceased
Wednesday	28 th Dec	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	9.30am	Holy Communion Service
Thursday	29 th Dec	5 th day of Christmas Octave St Thomas à Becket, Bishop, Martyr	No Mass	Thanksgiving for '22, Rosary at home & pray for 2023
Friday	30 th Dec	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	9.30am	Fr. Lawlor RIP & Fr. William RIP
Saturday	31 st Dec	7 th day of Christmas Octave St Sylvester, Pope	9.30–11am 6pm	Prayer: Thanksgiving for '22; pray for 2023 Patrick John Noonan RIP
Sunday	1 st Jan	Mary, the Holy Mother of God	9.30am 11.15am	Parishioners Ellen Tuck RIP